COMODALCE FINAL CONFERENCE

Giuseppe Di Paola – DG REGIO, D1

Regional Policy

- **4 distinct strands: (A) cross-border, (B) transnational, (C) inter-regional and (D) outermost (new)**
- External cooperation is now fully integrated
- 96 Programmes for 10 billion (incl OP's on hold with RU/BY)

73 cross-border, including 24 external (10 IPA & 14 NEXT) and 1 hybrid PEACE+ €6,7 bn

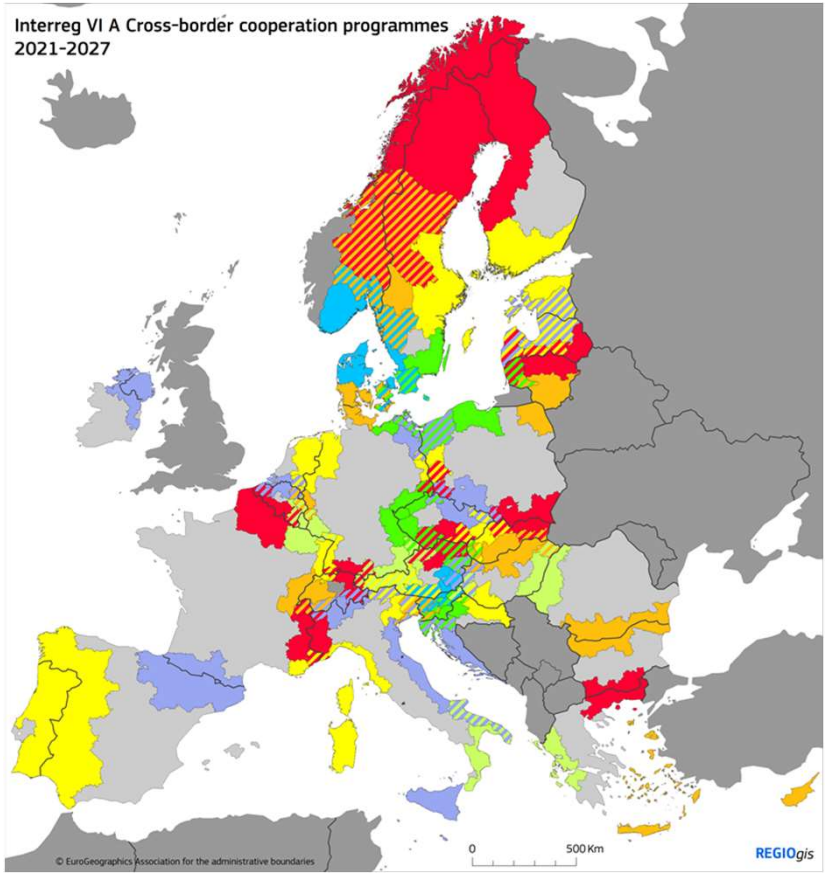
14 trans-national, incl. 3 external €2,3 bn

4 inter-regional €0,56 bn

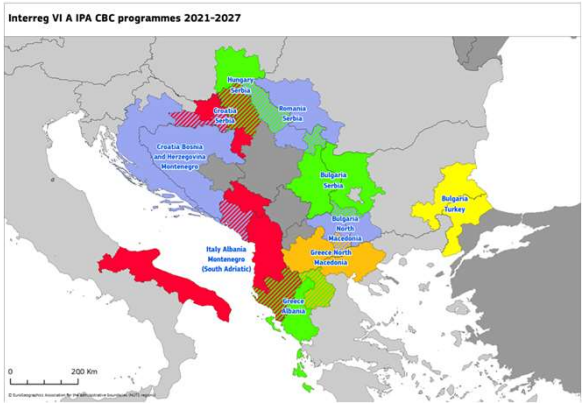
5 Outermost regions €0,33 bn

STRAND A – Cross-Border Cooperation

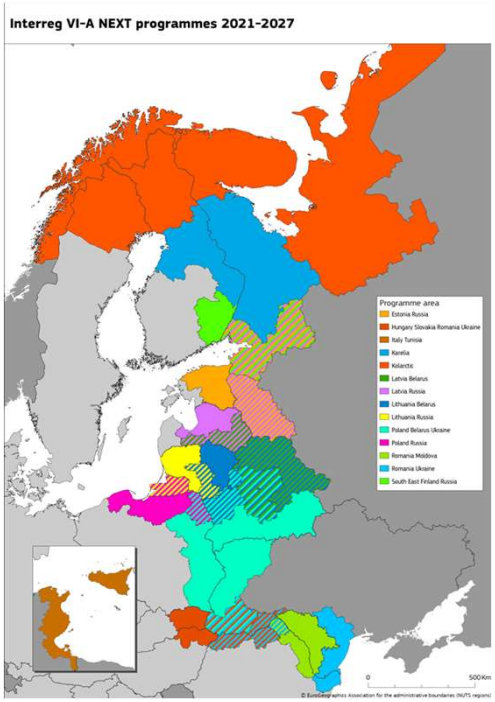
48 internal CBC and PEACE+



10 IPA CBC

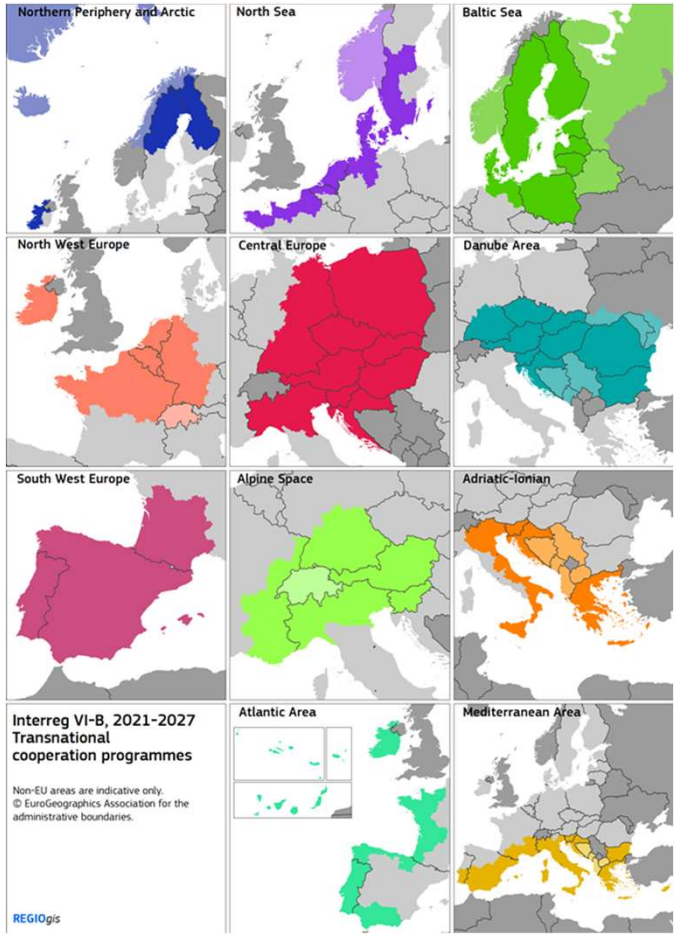


14 NEXT CBC, of which 7 with Russia (SUSPENDED)



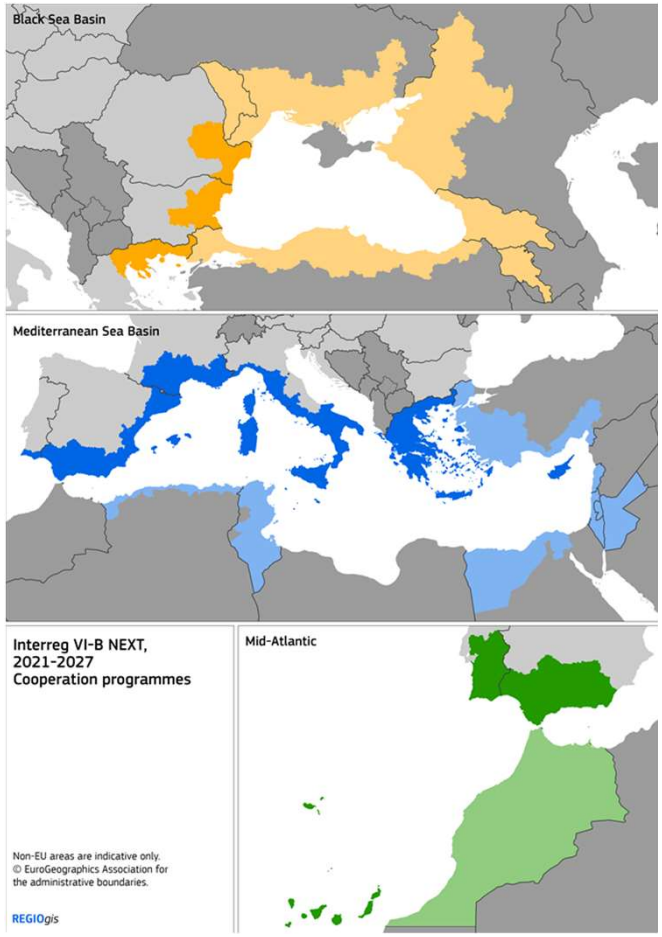
STRAND B - Transnational Cooperation

11 INTERNAL TN



[INTERREG MED.mp4 on Vimeo]

3 EXTERNAL TN



Regional Policy

STRAND C - interregional cooperation 4 programmes

Improves Interreg programmes implementation

Inspires policy-making by territorial evidence

Fosters integrated urban development

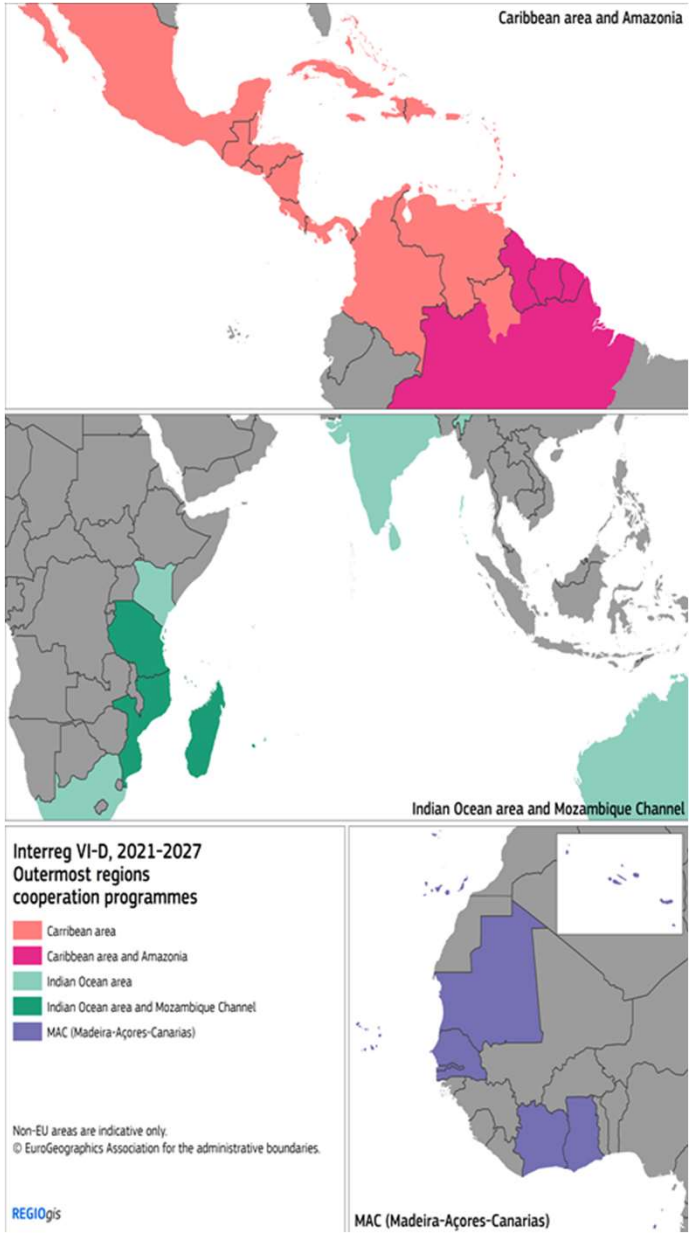
Capacity building programme to improve regional development policies

European Commission

STRAND D – Outermost Cooperation

5 programmes covering 9 outermost regions in 3 MS

- **Caribbean area**
- **Caribbean and Amazonia**
- **Indian Ocean area**
- **Indian Ocean and Mozambique Channel**
- **Madeira-Azores-Canaries**



State of progress formal negotiations

Formal submission of 36 out of 96 Interreg programmes (10/3/2022)

- 22 Cross-Border Cooperation internal borders programmes
- 3 IPA Cross-Border Cooperation programme
- 7 Transnational Cooperation programmes
- 4 Interregional Cooperation programmes : ESPON, Interreg Europe, Interact and Urbact
- Deadline for submission is 2 April 2022 (for internal programmes)

Two new Interreg specific objectives

Next to five CPR policy objectives:

- **ISO1: Better cooperation governance**
  Objective: to facilitate cross-border cooperation/governance (see experience pandemic)
  - Institutional capacity of public authorities
  - Legal and administrative cooperation
  - People-to-people actions for increased trust
  - Institutional capacity to manage macro-regional strategies
  - Support to democracy and civil society

- **ISO2: Safer and more secure Europe**
  Objective: protection and economic and social integration of third country nationals including migrants and beneficiaries of international organisations

Territorial dimension of Interreg

- **Focus on functional areas**

✓ administrative boundaries do not define a functional area. Interactions and interdependencies based on functions define such areas.
✓ in the context of Interreg: concept of (potential) functional areas introduced in orientation papers: cross-border conurbations or different functional areas for health, education, public transport

- **Flexibility for support outside programme areas** (also outside MS)

- **Policy objective "Europe closer to citizens" (PO5)**: rather limited take up by programmes, but concept of functional areas is widely integrated

Coordination and embedding of cooperation

Interreg programmes do not operate in isolation

✓ **Seek better coordination and complementarities**

- Link with Macro Regional Strategies
- Link between different Interreg strands (examples of Mediterranean, Adriatic Ionian, Baltic Sea)

✓ **Cooperation is not the sole responsibility of Interreg**

- Embedding of cooperation in mainstream programmes
- Benefits: more ambitious projects, new partners, good project pipeline, visibility

Actions for citizens: local development

- ✓ **People-to-people**
  - Directly between citizens
  - Trust-building (people know each other) as a basis for cooperation
  - Europe closer to citizens
  - Explore possibilities for extension of CLLD type of actions

- ✓ **Small Projects Fund**
  - Simpler (less administrative burden for the programme authorities)
  - More targeted assistance to the small projects
  - Simplified procedures and requirements for final recipients

External dimension of Interreg

Interreg IPA, Interreg NEXT and strand D (outermost) programmes:

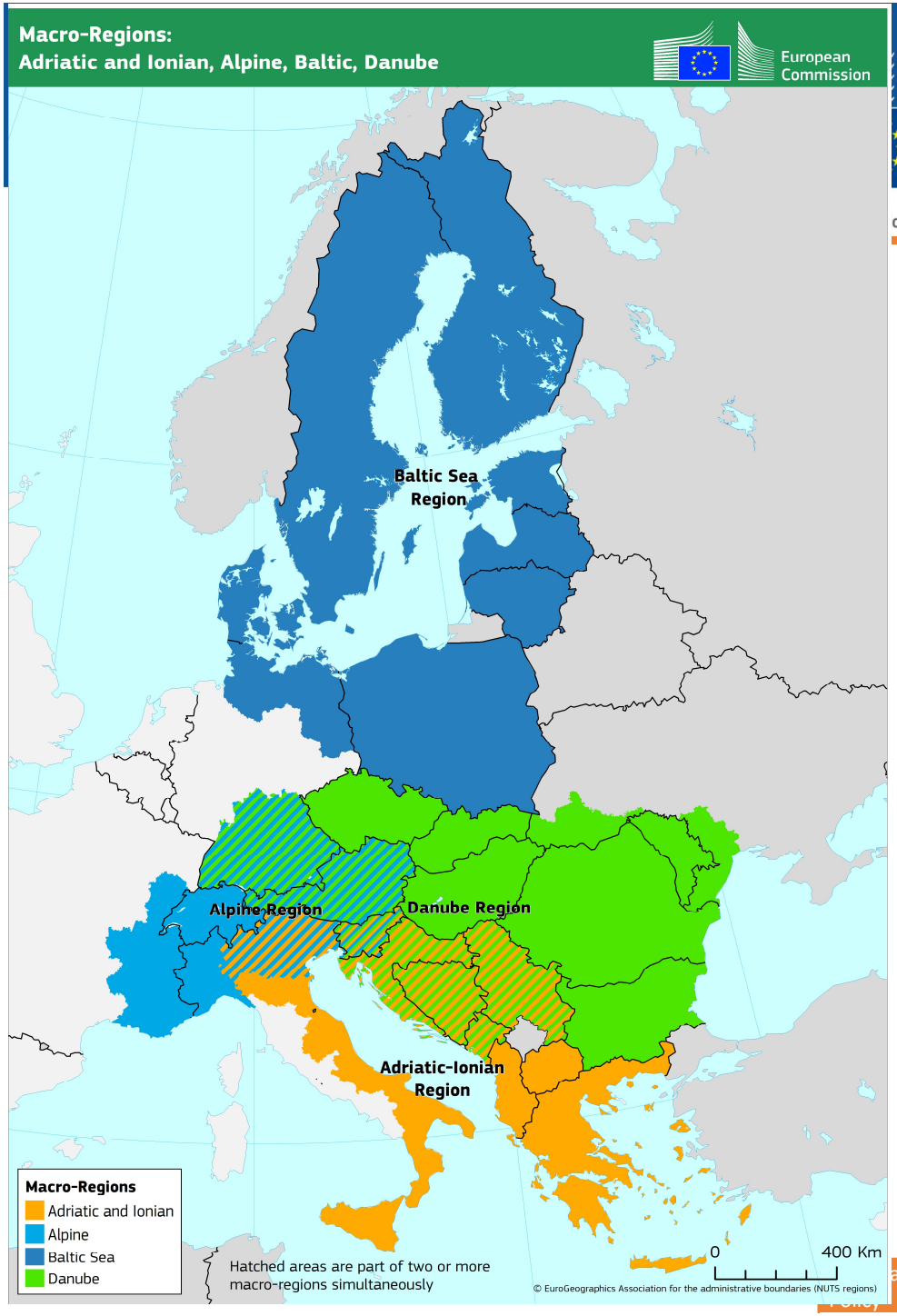
- Funding both from ERDF and external funds (IPA and NDICI)
- Contributing both to Cohesion policy and to enlargement and neighbourhood policies.
- Fully integrated in Interreg family and mostly under cohesion policy
- Some specificities due to external dimension (financial management, financing agreements, political dimension…)
- Politically sensitive environment (coordination with SG, EEAS, NEAR, INTPA)
- Some CPs strongly impacted by regional conflicts, but also enabling unique cooperation between e.g. Lebanon/Palestine/Israel or Greece/Turkey/Armenia
- Links with macro-regional strategies (third countries as partner countries in MRS)
- *Because neighbours matter*

External dimension of Interreg

Impact of Russian invasion of Ukraine on programmes

- 7 cross border programmes with Russia suspended
- 2 cross border programmes with Belarus suspended
- 1 cross border programme Poland/Belarus/Ukraine: refocus of funds on Ukraine
- 3 cross border programmes involving Ukraine and Moldova: refocus of funds

- Participation of Russia and Belarus in transnational programmes suspended (Black Sea Basin, Baltic sea)



Cooperation beyond funding
The 4 macro-regional Strategies

Political dialogue for strategic cooperation actions

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

Supported by 4 transnational programmes

- Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme
- Interreg Danube Region Programme
- Interreg ADRION Programme
- Interreg Alpine Space Programme

2 specific objectives for Policy Objective 3

'a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility'

SO 3(i) developing a climate resilient, intelligent, secure, sustainable and intermodal TEN-T;

SO 3(ii) developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, **regional and local mobility**, including improved access to TEN-T and **cross-border** mobility;

PO2: Specific objective SO 2(viii)

Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, ***as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy****;*

Cities are home to over 70% of population; account for over 80% of EU GDP

800 cities over 50,000. 400 cities over 100,000. Thousands of smaller towns and cities

Well-functioning and sustainable urban transport system key for high quality of life and competitiveness

Many urban areas struggling with congestion and externalities (air quality, noise, congestion, accidents)

- **Integrated approach** is needed (functional urban area)
- **Urban development strategy**

Specific objective SO 2(viii)

Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, ***as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy****;*

Priorities:

- Addressing the negative **externalities**
- **Shift to sustainable and accessible** public transport and active modes (cycling, walking)
- Deployment of **ITS solutions** (better infrastructure use and better and new mobility services)
- In the less developed regions*, support for major investments in backbone infrastructure (metro, trams, …)
- In the more developed and transition regions* , focus on advancing state-of-the art and innovation (e.g. new technologies and services)

Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, ***as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy****;*

Not priorities:

- ❑ Urban ~~**roads**~~: exceptions for road upgrades to address road safety, facilitate public transport, active modes

Excluded:

- ❑ Investment related to production, processing, distribution, storage or combustion of ~~**fossil fuels**~~ (diesel buses) with the exception of investment related to clean vehicles or vehicles, aircraft and vessels designed and constructed or adapted for use by civil protection and fire services; *

Opportunities of INTERREG for transport

Developing the transport **strategies**

Joint comprehensive transport **plans**

Feasibility **studies**

Encouraging the **embedding cooperation**

Missing rail and public transport links (identification/promotion)

In some cases: infrastructure / equipment / innovative transport solutions

Funding Support

- Interreg 2021-2027:
  - PO3
  - PO2 - SOviii
  - Support to overcome obstacles – Better Cooperation Governance objective (ISO1)
- Embedding cooperation in mainstream ERDF programmes
- Other funding sources: CEF; RRF; EIB

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