

## Post 2027 | Consultation Report

### 2a. Capitalisation

14 January 2025

#### Capitalisation in Interreg – towards greater impact

This subject specific report is an annex to the Synergies and cooperation subject report (Improving synergies among Interreg and other funds and policies), and is part of Interact's [Post 2027 Consultation reports](#)

##### Overview

The term “capitalisation” has made an appearance in the 2021-2027 Interreg regulation, and Interact has been taking to heart its role to support programmes in the reflection on how they can capitalise on their results. Indeed, be it through structured governance approaches, dedicated calls or visibility actions, most Interreg programmes are making capitalisation a reality, in one way or another.

As such it was broadly accepted that capitalisation in Interreg refers to the transfer and reuse of knowledge generated by Interreg projects, encompassing various definitions such as valorisation, knowledge management, building on results, reaching policy and achieving impact. It involves a systematic process to support the uptake of programme results, ensuring a lasting effect on programme areas. Capitalisation also means to build on existing achievements and push boundaries further. This approach is essential as Interreg programmes become increasingly result-oriented, focusing on high-quality projects and their impact. With financial resources growing scarcer, it is crucial to optimise public funding and focus on delivering tangible benefits for territories. Given Interreg's long history and extensive portfolio of already financed initiatives, capitalisation ensures that past efforts are leveraged effectively to drive future success and legacy of Interreg programmes.

This document highlights the key messages and reflections regarding the place and potential of capitalisation in Interreg programmes and projects, to be considered in the next programming period. It has been established based on discussions and feedback from Interreg programmes collected during 2023 and 2024, through several workshops organised by Interact dedicated to capitalisation, events organised by national authorities (France, Italy) as well as a written consultation (part of the Synergies survey).

### **What is working – highlight of programmes' key achievements**

- Capitalisation integrated and structured at programme level, e.g. capitalisation plan guiding programme bodies and beneficiaries. Governance approach to manage and enhance knowledge and results.
- Timely action plan of concrete activities aligned with call schedule.
- Targeted capitalisation action in practice, e.g. capitalisation calls, thematic communities/clusters, use of small-scale projects...
- Trust in project partnerships with extended experience and drivers in implementing capitalisation.
- Dedicated resources within programme teams (JS officers/group for capitalisation).
- Emphasise the link between communication and capitalisation, supporting each other (e.g. embedded communication and capitalisation strategies, working group at JS level...).
- Commitment and support for capitalisation from Monitoring Committee members, e.g. National Authorities.
- Coordination of capitalisation efforts among Interreg programmes at national level.

### **What should be improved? Building on experiences by programmes – some recommendations**

- Capitalisation to be integrated at every stage of programme and project implementation (in the same way as it has been done for other aspects e.g. communication, evaluation...).
- Commitment towards capitalisation from all programmes.
- Supporting programmes in changing the mindset - long-term effort making sure all stakeholders and programme bodies are on board, and understand their role in implementing capitalisation.
- Reinforce governance capacity by considering applying Interreg Specific Objective.
- Improve capacity building towards partnerships and beneficiaries.
  - Reinforce the meaning of capitalisation – impact, building on results. Help them contextualise, making sense in their action.
  - Improve the transfer of practical concepts/practices/examples of capitalisation to beneficiaries.
  - Enhance opportunities for beneficiaries to meet and discuss thematic results.

- Improve beneficiaries' abilities to promote their results.
- Improve tools for searching/consulting existing outputs.
- Improve inter-programme communication of results.
- Greater sharing among programmes of capitalisation tools.

### What is missing?

- Mention of capitalisation in regulation for all programmes (Interreg and whole cohesion policy) – more importantly, provide incentives and encourage having capitalisation integrated into the programme and project operating structure and mindset.
  - Opportunity – a mention would highlight the importance of integrating capitalisation in programme/project management process and encourage synergies, without constraining it in predetermined frameworks that might limit beneficiaries or programme approaches.
  - Agreeing on capitalisation being a key principle of Interreg, helping specify its meaning and relevance (focus on impact, reuse/transfer of results), and acting as guidance. This should support links with other EU funds, provided that the capitalisation effort is shared by all.
  - It would also help secure commitment towards capitalisation from all programmes, in particular in terms of resource allocation, and foster the development of inter-programme mechanisms.
  - Needs to be sufficiently flexible to take into account the specificities of each programme.

### Please note

There is no unanimous consensus on a mandatory character for capitalisation, but it is important to recognise that a majority of programmes have already experienced capitalisation in some form, from building on results (application form sections, selection criteria, project databases, visibility), operational actions (capitalisation calls, focus on transfer of results) to more advanced mechanisms (capitalisation strategy, governance approach, thematic communities/platforms).

Programmes need more incentives to develop and structure such initiatives. A mention of capitalisation in future regulation would help programmes and stakeholders take more brave and serious steps towards making it happen.

### What would be your vision for the future? Key messages

- Recognising capitalisation as a key principle of Interreg
- Formal and structural integration of capitalisation in programme and project management lifecycle
- Improved coordination among Interreg programmes at European level regarding capitalisation. Increased sharing of capitalisation practices among various types of Interreg programmes (transnational/cross-border)
- Enhanced national-level coordination, in particular with mainstream programmes, to facilitate possible embedding processes

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**Publisher** Interact Programme

**Date** 14.01.2025

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This report is part of Interact's [Post 2027 Consultation reports](#)

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**Co-funded by  
the European Union**  
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