

# NEWSLETTER

## INTERREG IPA ROMANIA–SERBIA PROGRAMME



Decorative photo: past, present, future.

### Capitalisation in Interreg, **page 2**

The management structures for Interreg IPA Romania – Serbia Programmes have identified projects with potential for capitalisation from both the 2007–2013 and 2014–2020 programming periods and elaborated a synthetic individual fiche for each such project.

More information on these projects and their fiche can be found at:

<https://romania-serbia.net/capitalization/capitalization-2007-2013/> and/or  
<https://romania-serbia.net/capitalization-2020/>



Decorative photo: Cooperation&Teams



Decorative photo: industrial landscape

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# Capitalisation in Interreg

## Transfer and reuse of knowledge generated by Interreg projects

On 15th – 16th of May 2024 Interact organized in Prague the event dedicated to **Cap-Com: Capitalisation towards a greater project impact**. The information presented below was provided during or inspired by this or previous similar events or directly from the Interact web page.[1]

### What capitalisation IS and IS NOT?

Some facts related to capitalisation spot out that there is no legal definition of this concept in the European Territorial Cooperation/ Interreg context. However, the **Interreg** logic rests mainly on the exchange of experience and the dissemination of results; most project beneficiaries already undertake some form of capitalisation.



Decorative photo: planning.

### What is usually heard from the Interreg community on capitalisation?

- Communication is a tool / a means for capitalisation,
- Capitalisation is sometimes over-used / «fashion» way of doing dissemination,
- Capitalisation is considered by many ETC programmes as a marketing process to enhance the visibility of projects' achievements,
  - » Need to clarify what is capitalisation, transfer and mainstreaming...

### What is capitalisation from a project implementation perspective:

- A means towards the sustainability of projects and durability of results,
- It has to do not only with results but also knowledge,
- A way for projects to get resources beyond the initial financing,
- A marketing process to „sell” projects results through communication,
- A way to improve coordination and to find synergies among projects,
- A way to promote and integrate results of national and local policies.

[1] Interact / Capitalisation ([interact-eu.net](http://interact-eu.net))

# Capitalisation in Interreg

**Thematic capitalisation** is an ambitious objective based on the re-use of European Territorial Cooperation project output to change things at the operational, strategic or European level. The process implies several tasks:

- Translation of key documents,
- Well-evidenced and expert-validated repository of good practices,
- Writing of study synthesis and thematic cross-analysis,
- Creation of a structured library to gather and organise all projects' deliverables.

**Methodological capitalisation:** there are different ways to apply the approach in the application and selection process:

- Methodological factsheets or study cases,
- Creation of a methodological toolbox,
- Thematic and project communities.

## Why does capitalisation of experience matter?

First of all, capitalization of experience matters because programmes are more result-oriented, and consequently, there is a stronger focus on the quality of projects. Also, since financial resources become scarce, there is an increasing need to maximize public funding for high-quality results for other actors/territories or replicate those results in another territory and/ or in a different partnership. Moreover, due to the long history of financial support from **Interreg**, a large number of initiatives have already been co-financed.

## Three main goals for capitalisation were identified in ETC programmes 2014-2020:

- **enhancing the visibility of projects /programmes achievements (communication-oriented)...being rather the «dissemination of in-depth analysis»;**
- **identifying good practices and promoting the transfer of projects' results (or even management practices) (knowledge reuse-oriented);**
- **enhancing programmes' impact and future positioning (results/impact evaluation-oriented).**

## How capitalisation helps

The expected results from the reuse and transfer of knowledge mainly refers to capacity building at individual and/or organisational levels, improved governance, improved modalities for implementing a public policy.

What can you gain from participating in this process?

- More visibility given to the PROVIDERS' actions and results,
- Enhancement of the transferability of innovations and the 'clustering' of results,
- More and fast-track possibilities for RECEIVERS to test pilot solutions by saving money and time,
- Participation in the building of win-win "learning communities".



Decorative photos: Ideas, results, networking, capitalisation.

Not all projects' results need/can be capitalized and there is a need to reflect upon what deserves to be capitalised considering, for example, strong potential for re-use/replication, interest from potential re-users, the operational dimension of the project/output (capacity to be re-used, developed by other stakeholders), the innovation dimension / added value of the project and output as compared to existing deliverables (knowledge management...), etc.

The reuse and transfer of knowledge should be the cornerstone of capitalising on experiences in Interreg programmes over 2021-2027. The main question about post-2027 capitalisation is whether or not it should be introduced in future regulations. If, following the consultation process in 2024, it becomes an instrument through the post-2027 Regulations, it is important to see if there will be a mandatory or an optional horizontal principle. Also, this (2024) is a period in which the role of capitalization is debated from the perspective of aspects that have worked and should be preserved/developed/expanded and those that need improvement.



# The Importance of Protecting and Leveraging Landscapes in Cross-Border Cooperation Projects

## The Role of Landscapes in Europe's Cross-Border Conservation Efforts

Landscapes are a crucial component of Europe's heritage, serving as vital elements of its cultural, ecological, and economic fabric. Protecting and sustainably managing these landscapes is essential for environmental resilience and cultural continuity, particularly within the context of cross-border cooperation projects. These projects, which span across national boundaries, present unique opportunities and challenges for conservation and sustainable use.

This article explores the importance of landscape protection in cross-border projects, examines notable examples, references to key European strategic documents, and provides recommendations for project partners.

## The European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention (ELC), also known as the Florence Convention, was adopted in Florence, Italy, on October 20, 2000, and came into force on March 1, 2004. It is the first international treaty dedicated exclusively to the protection, management, and planning of all landscapes in Europe, encompassing exceptional, everyday, and degraded landscapes. The Convention defines a landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors." This broad definition underscores the intrinsic value of all landscapes and the necessity of their protection.

## Significance of Landscape Protection

Protecting landscapes is essential for several reasons:

- **Environmental sustainability** is one of the most critical aspects of landscape protection. Landscapes provide crucial ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality regulation, and climate stabilization. Preserving natural landscapes helps mitigate the effects of climate change and supports biodiversity.
- **Cultural heritage** is deeply embedded in landscapes, as they are repositories of cultural identity. They embody the historical interactions between humans and their environment, reflected in agricultural practices, architectural styles, and local traditions. Landscapes offer a sense of place and continuity, preserving the stories of past generations.
- **Economic benefits** from well-managed landscapes can significantly boost local economies. Through sustainable tourism, agriculture, and other land-based industries, landscapes offer opportunities for economic development that harmonize with environmental conservation. These economic activities can provide jobs, support local businesses, and stimulate regional growth.
- **Social well-being** is enhanced by access to natural and well-preserved landscapes. Green spaces contribute to the health and well-being of local communities, offering recreational opportunities and enhancing the quality of life. They provide areas for physical activity, relaxation, and social interaction, contributing to a healthier and more cohesive society.

# The Importance of Protecting and Leveraging Landscapes in Cross-Border Cooperation Projects

**Industrial landscapes**, often overlooked in conservation efforts, are also crucial for comprehensive landscape protection. These areas, shaped by historical industrial activities, hold significant cultural and historical value. They reflect the industrial heritage and technological progress of a region.

Efforts to preserve industrial landscapes include converting old and derelict industrial sites, which pose also significant environmental concerns, into cultural centers, museums, and recreational areas, thus integrating them into the broader landscape conservation strategy and giving them back to their communities.

Examples of Cross-Border Landscape Cooperation Projects in this field include efforts to preserve natural heritage, promote sustainable tourism, and enhance biodiversity, such as "AlpBioEco" (project financed by Alpine Space Programme), which focuses on bioeconomy strategies that capitalize on regional natural resources while ensuring environmental sustainability.



# The Importance of Protecting and Leveraging Landscapes in Cross-Border Cooperation Projects

For the successful implementation of cross-border landscape protection projects, several key recommendations should be considered:

- ✔ **Stakeholder engagement** is essential. Involving local communities, governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders from the outset ensures that the projects are grounded in local knowledge and have the necessary support for success and sustainability. Their input and cooperation are vital for tailoring conservation efforts to the specific needs and characteristics of the landscape.
- ✔ Adopting an **integrated planning approach** is crucial. This approach should consider environmental, cultural, economic, and social dimensions. Landscape character assessments can guide planning and management decisions, ensuring that all aspects of the landscape are considered and that interventions are holistic and effective.
- ✔ **Building capacity among local authorities and communities** is another vital aspect. Providing training and resources enhances their ability to manage and conserve landscapes effectively. This empowerment ensures that local stakeholders can continue to protect and manage landscapes long after initial projects are completed.
- ✔ **Promoting sustainable practices** that balance conservation with economic development is key. Encouraging sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, and renewable energy use can help achieve this balance. These practices ensure that economic activities do not degrade the landscape but instead support its health and resilience.
- ✔ **Establishing robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks** is essential to track the progress and impact of landscape projects. This data can inform adaptive management strategies, allowing for continuous improvement and ensuring that projects remain effective over time.
- ✔ **Policy integration** is also critical. Ensuring that landscape protection objectives are embedded in national and regional policies aligns the project goals with broader policy frameworks, such as the European Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. This alignment ensures consistency and support at all governance levels. Nevertheless, European non-refundable grants, such as those provided by the INTERREG programme, are vital for the implementation of cross-border landscape protection projects. These grants support a wide range of activities, including research, capacity building, infrastructure development, and community engagement.

By providing financial **resources** and fostering **collaboration**, these funding mechanisms help to ensure the **sustainability** and **effectiveness** of **landscape conservation efforts**.

# The Importance of Protecting and Leveraging Landscapes in Cross-Border Cooperation Projects

## Conclusion

**Protecting and leveraging landscapes** in cross-border cooperation projects is **essential** for **preserving Europe’s natural and cultural heritage**.

The European Landscape Convention provides a robust framework for these efforts, emphasizing the value of all landscapes and the need for their sustainable management. By leveraging non-refundable grants, fostering community involvement, and adopting integrated planning approaches, cross-border projects can achieve significant environmental, economic, and social benefits, ensuring the long-term preservation and appreciation of Europe’s diverse landscapes. Through these efforts, **landscapes** can continue to provide **vital ecosystem services, cultural heritage, economic opportunities, and social well-being** for current and future generations.



## Interreg Slam Event, timetable for 2024–2025





# Projects in focus



Project RORS-279 **Cross-border network for education and research of natural resources**

1. Taking care of our natural resources and nature is a moral imperative. Our dedication and commitment to a **Greener Europe** reflects our deep understanding that the well-being of our citizens, the health of our ecosystems, and the stability of our economies are inextricably linked. Together, we are forging a path towards a sustainable, resilient, and thriving border region.
2. **Environmental protection** – preserving the environment and ensuring its sustainability for future generations. **Knowledge-sharing** – highlights the value of collaboration, transparency and education in addressing environmental issues and fostering sustainable practices.
3. **Collaboration opportunities** – stakeholders have the opportunity to collaborate with counterparts from different regions, sharing knowledge, best practices and resources to address common environmental challenges effectively. **Environmental stewardship** – prioritizing the protection and sustainable use of environmental resources aligns with the values and goals of *shared commitment to environmental sustainability*.
4. EU investments in projects aimed at environmental protection and sustainable agriculture benefit European citizens by promoting environmental sustainability, safeguarding public health, fostering economic growth, encouraging cross-border collaboration, and **enhancing the overall quality of life**.

## HERE ARE THE ANSWERED QUESTIONS:

1. **EU Vision – what will be the desired ultimate status? At local/national/European level.**
2. **What is the value of this priority to be communicated in our messages?**
3. **What is the benefit of this priority in the lead target group?**
4. **Why is the EU investing in this area/how will each European benefit?**



Photo taken at the presentation of the results of the project at the 33rd International Conference on Studies in Chemical, Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between 31.05-02.06.2023

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Photo of the Danube between Romania and Serbia.

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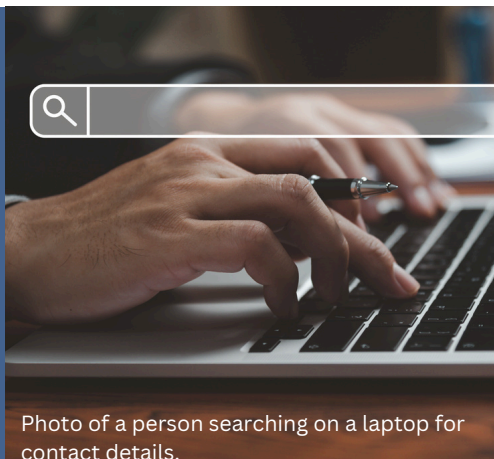


Photo of a person searching on a laptop for contact details.

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