

INTERACT Point Viborg Newsletter



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INTERACT Point Viborg www.interact-eu.net/qt
ip.viborg@interact-eu.net

Jernbanegade 22
DK - 8800 Viborg

t: +45-87 28 80 55
f: +45-87 66 01 680

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ONLINE AGAIN!

With well over half of the new programmes already submitted, we hope that many of you will be able to let European Territorial Cooperation settle for a week or two and make a new start in September. Some programmes should already be approved by then but in order to let everyone get on top of the latest developments and issues, the European Commission will again be available on the **INTERACT Forum** all day on **14 September**. The Commission will answer all questions about INTERREG III and IV, and in order to allow as many people as possible to participate, you will be able to type in questions already on the 13 September. Commission answers from the two previous sessions are now available in one single document on the forum. If you have any problems logging in or connecting please send an e-mail to: guillaume.terrien@interact-eu.net.

14 September — <http://forum.interact-eu.net>

Trainings

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

We will soon be celebrating the twentieth run of this popular seminar! This autumn there will be further seminars in Poland, Paris (run in French) and Barcelona. The content is constantly updated with the latest information on the new Territorial Cooperation objective, and includes presentations and case studies together with an extensive handbook. An experienced finance manager participates in every seminar to provide additional practical advice. These seminars are targeted at programme staff wanting to develop their knowledge of financial management in the programmes. The seminars are not suitable for project staff. Provisional dates and venues for future seminars are listed below. Registration will soon be opened online on our website. Contact us for more details.

17 and 18 October - Paris (in French) 

12-13 November - Barcelona 

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

As thoughts turn to filling the project pipeline, this strongly rated 2-day seminar addresses regulatory requirements and general project management skills but focuses on

practical experiences in making cooperation projects work. The content builds on the experiences of over 100 projects from across Europe throughout the project life-cycle from project idea and partnership development to final reporting and closure. Case studies and practical examples provide a platform to share experiences and gain new ideas for supporting and advising project managers to develop sound projects and implement them successfully. Priority is given to programme level staff involved in project generation, development and implementation. Registration will soon be opened online with provisional dates and venues as follows:

8 and 9 October - London

11 and 12 October - Tallinn

19 and 20 November - Valencia



STRATEGIC PROJECT GENERATION

This training and networking session, targeted at programme officers, will address the following questions:

- What is a strategic project?
- How to generate strategic projects?
- How to generate quality projects?

The seminar will include presentations, exchange of experience and group work.

17 and 18 October - Venice 

15 and 16 November - Vienna

29 and 30 November - Luxembourg

COMMUNICATION

“Communicating in the new Territorial Cooperation programmes”

This training and networking session, targeted at programme communication officers, will address the following questions: How to develop a communication strategy and draft the communication plan? How to disseminate information on the programme and projects? Etc. Existing tools, solutions and good practices will be discussed, accompanied by methodological exercises and presentations.

23 and 24 October - Prague 

Trainings



EGTC

European Grouping of Territorial cooperation

For the first time, INTERACT is organising a seminar on the new Community Instrument: the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, as created by Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006.

The Seminar will aim at supporting the use of this instrument in the INTERREG community, both for programme and project management. Participants will be invited to share information, questions and first experiences of the EGTC, from a legal but also practical point of view.

25 and 26 November - Vienna [📍](#)

INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION

This is the third and last of a series of seminars introducing the

“European Territorial Cooperation” programme

25 and 26 September - Brussels [📍](#)

TRAININGS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

CLOSURE

New Commission guidelines on the closure of INTERREG programmes are expected before the end of the year. This seminar will develop on the content of the two events already held in Copenhagen to discuss project closure, dealing with irregularities, the completion of control and audit work and preparation of the winding up declaration. Tim-

ing is dependent on the release date of the Commission guidelines.

FIRST LEVEL CONTROL

The new regulations for the 2007 – 2013 funding period require a number of changes to management and control systems in every Member State. Each one will develop a slightly different control system adapted to its own requirements and it will not be possible to give a detailed overview of all these systems. The content focuses instead on a sample of tools and procedures of the control process, allowing discussion and comparison. The event is intended for staff responsible for setting up control systems and/or involved in carrying out First Level Control.

Agenda and practical details will be available soon on our [website](#). Please check for regular updates.

Note that the training seminars presented above have limited number of places. Registration will soon be available online. Every participant will receive a confirmation and please don't make any travel arrangement before you have received one. Questions and provisional registration should be sent to: ip.viborg@interact-eu.net

RECAP

SEPTEMBER

25-26 Introduction to the European Territorial Cooperation Programme - Brussels

OCTOBER

8-9 Project Management - London
11-12 Project Management - Tallinn
17-18 Financial Management - Paris (in French)
17-18 Strategic project generation - Venice
23-24 Communication in the new Territorial Cooperation programmes - Prague

NOVEMBER

12-13 Financial Management - Barcelona
15-16 Strategic project generation - Vienna
19-20 Project Management - Valencia
25-26 European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation - Vienna
29-30 Strategic project generation - Luxembourg



Tailor-made events !

INTERACT also regularly organises one-off events for different programmes and countries and can provide contributions and/or support for your own events. Please contact us to hear more.



Documentation

Description of management and control systems for Territorial Cooperation programmes originally released at the INTERACT conference in Budapest in March, this guide has been updated in light of Commission comments. Offers practical advice on all aspects of the systems description and can be read with the Commission's checklists on compliance assessment checks.

Financial Management Handbook 2007 offering guidance on a wide range of project and programme finance issues. The handbook has once again been extensively updated to cover the latest developments.

Project Management Handbook is being launched to accompany the new seminar. It is accompanied by examples of successful projects and a CD-ROM of useful project documents.

The INTERACT-ESPON synthesis report, **Territorial evidence and cooperation: linking analysis and action** is available in hard copy (upon request) and through our website ("Publication and tools" section). The report brings together relevant ESPON research with an overview of programme and project activities in the current period in order to provide an analysis on some of the main European territorial developments and the most appropriate responses available through Territorial Cooperation. A good starting point for anyone interested in the wider European context of individual projects and programmes.

Latest developments in rules and regulations

The Commission has recently issued or updated several papers in preparation for the next stages of the programming process. These will soon be available on a new section of the INTERACT Website together with older papers that are still relevant.

Corrigendum to Article 46 of the General Regulation 1083/2006 – Confirming that the programme's Technical Assistance is calculated on

6% of the total ERDF rather than 6% of the total budget.

Working Document No 5 'Indicative Guidelines on Evaluation Methods' – Updated to cover the more flexible ongoing evaluations envisaged for the new period.

Vademecum Community Rules on State Aid – An overview of the main State Aid rules relevant to Structural Funds implementation.

Upcoming – Advanced drafts are already available of guidance on the new programme audit strategies (the most recent versions have several additions specifically targeting Territorial Cooperation programmes) and Article 71 compliance assessment. Final versions should be ready soon. Also expected before the end of the year are INTERREG specific closure guidelines for the current period.

ALSO AVAILABLE NOW

A range of other publications have now been finalised or are under development. Check the website regularly for final versions or contact us for a copy. These publications include:

- Memorandum of Understanding between Member State and programme
- Updated! Partnership agreement between project partners
- Updated! Subsidy contract between the Managing Authority and the project lead partner.

To contact us: jp.viborg@interact-eu.net

Towards INTERACT II

New objectives, new programmes, new INTERACT. The final touches are being put to the INTERACT Programme has already been submitted and implementation will start on 2 January 2008. As announced before, the main change will be to develop an approach based on geographical zones – with each INTERACT Point closer to the needs of the programmes in its zone. INTERACT Point Qualification and Transfer is renamed INTERACT Point Viborg and will be the contact point for cross-border programmes in the north west of Europe and the transnational programmes (final maps etc will be released after approval of the programme). Every programme will have one INTERACT Point as its first contact but all programmes are still welcome to participate in any INTERACT activity anywhere in Europe. This will allow us to improve the services we can offer to each of the programmes while ensuring that you still have the flexibility you need. If you have any questions about this re-organisation, please don't hesitate to contact us: jp.viborg@interact-eu.net

New Commission guidance section on INTERACT Website

In order to ensure wider access to the guidelines, working papers and other documents issued by the Commission, a new section is being established on the INTERACT Website, which aims to bring together all these documents in one place for the first time. The latest documents will soon be available on our website. Please contact us if you are aware of documents that should be included.

INTERACT POINT VIBORG 'S TEAM

Matt NICHOLS

Coordinator of IP Viborg since its opening in 2004. British national, speaks Danish, English, French and basic German. Has worked with INTERREG IIC and IIIB North Sea programme. Over ten years experience in the private sector as a trainer. Oxford University graduate in Literature and Language. matt.nichols@interact-eu.net



Britta ZIEMANN

Event development Officer since Dec. 2005. German national, speaks English, German and basic French. Has worked as consultant for regional and economic development in the UK and EU and with organisational development. Graduated in Social science and Regional development. britta.ziemann@interact-eu.net



Katarzyna PELC

Event development Officer since Feb. 2006. Polish national, speaks English, Polish and basic Italian. Previously lecturer in mathematics at Aalborg University. Graduated in Business management and European studies. katarzyna.pelc@interact-eu.net



Guillaume TERRIEN

Event Manager and Communication Officer since May. 2006. French national, speaks English, French, Portuguese and basic Danish and Italian. Has worked in European cultural cooperation and language policy in Brussels. Also worked as cartographer. Graduated in Geography, Language and European studies. guillaume.terrien@interact-eu.net



Katerina STANEVA

Event development Officer since Sept. 2006. Bulgarian national, speaks English, Bulgarian, Danish and basic Russian. Has worked with INTERREG IIIB North Sea programme and previously with PHARE. Graduated in Environment management and policy and in International tourism. katerina.staneva@interact-eu.net



Tatiana CHEMI (replacing Anja NEDERGAARD on maternity leave)

Event Coordinator and Office Administrator Italian national, speaks English, Italian, Danish and basic French and Spanish. Graduated in Modern literature and Philosophy. Also works as free lance consultant introducing art-based approaches to innovation in business. tatiana.chemi@interact-eu.net



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