

**Interreg
Europe**



Co-funded by
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Interreg Europe

Europaweites Lernen für eine bessere Lokal- und Regionalpolitik

Thorsten Kohlisch

Project Manager/ Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

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ETZ Informationsveranstaltung Nordrhein-Westfalen

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Sharing solutions for better regional policy



Interreg Europe **objective**

To improve **regional development policy instruments** (including Investment for jobs and growth goal programmes)

How?

Through exchange of experience, innovative approaches and capacity building (in relation to the identification & transfer of good practices)

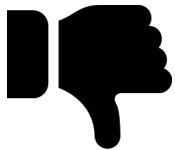
- Primarily dedicated to **policymakers**
- Focus on **exchange of experience**



Different from cross-border or transnational cooperation

WHY TO COOPERATE ACROSS

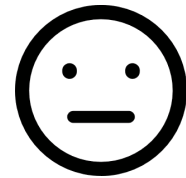
EUROPE?



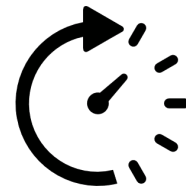
Administrative burden



Administrative tourism



Nice but not concrete enough



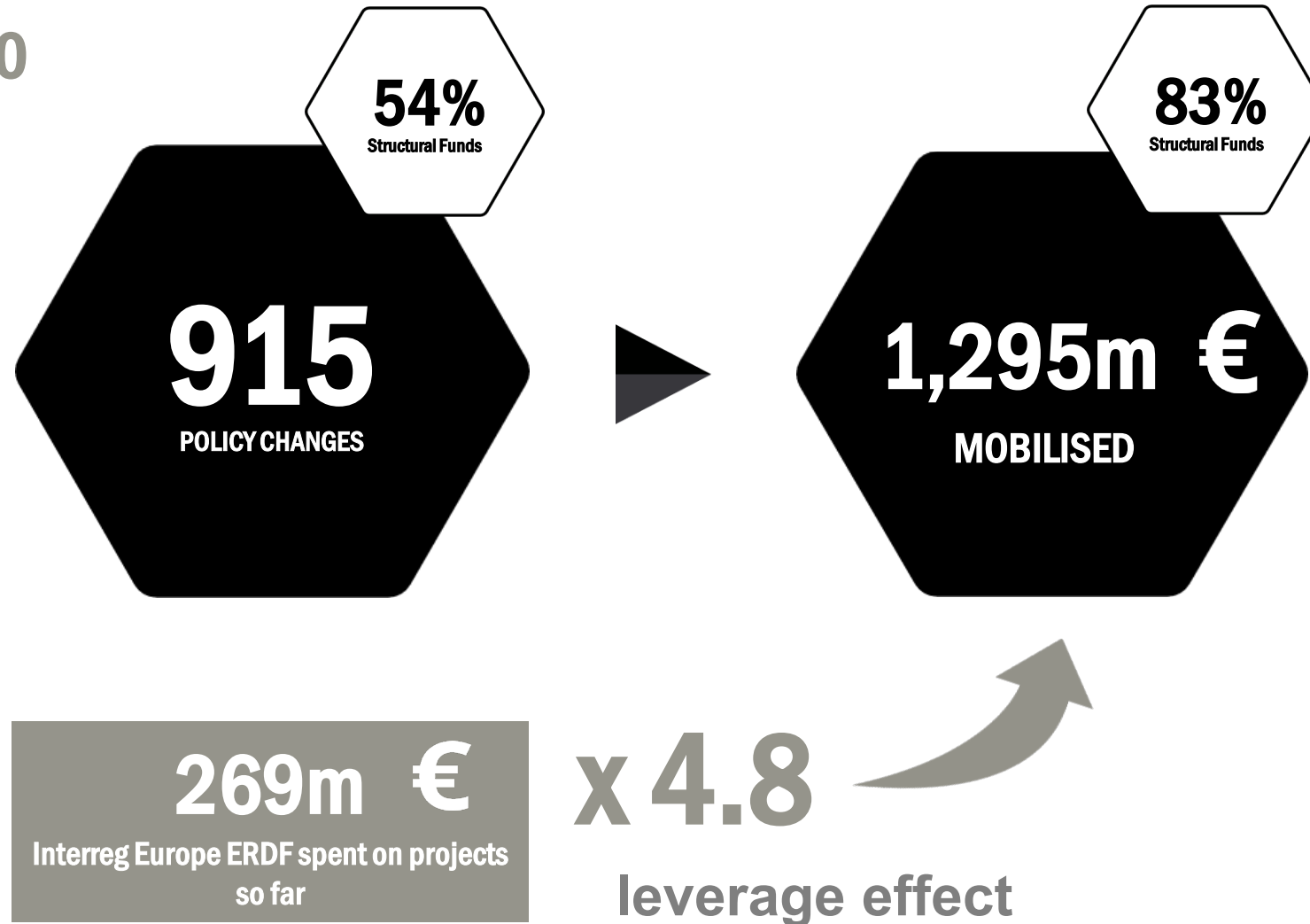
Something we can do if we have time



What should we learn from others?

Results achieved* by projects

2014 - 2020



*Validated as of September 2022

Project results from Germany

New service for innovative SMEs

More than 66 innovative SMEs and start-ups in Baden-Württemberg in Germany have received cost-free and tailored consultation on EU funding for their projects. This consultation has been available since December 2019 thanks to a new service **innocheck-bw**, inspired by a good practice from Spain.

www.interregeurope.eu/upgradesme



Calls for project proposals

Second call from 15 March to 9 June 2023 – Open to all topics

- **Pre-call online networking events (Nov – Dec 2022)**
 - 15 Nov: **Smart**
 - 17 Nov: **Social**
 - 29 Nov: **Green**
 - 1 Dec: **Connected, Citizens, Governance**
 - 5 Dec: **Policy Learning Platform event**
- **The call launch event**
 - 15 Mar 2023, Stockholm (SE): **Europe, let's cooperate!**

Project development assistance during call

Discover the programme

Look for funding

Approved projects

Get policy advice

Find policy

Next call for projects

Discover our terms of reference



1. Check project relevance

Use our self-assessment tool



2. Get inspired

See approved projects and project ideas



3. Share your project idea

Explain what you want to do with your project



4. Find partners

Look for relevant organisations



5. Ask for feedback

Get guidance before applying



6. Apply for the call

Submit your project proposal

Available during calls

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/apply-for-the-call>

Two actions



Projects

Limited number of regions exchanging and transferring experience on a shared regional development issue



Policy Learning Platform

Opening up the programme benefits **to all** and providing new, **easily accessible formats** for interregional learning

Example of peer review



For the **Hessen Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing, Germany**

Challenge

Shaping the digital transformation support landscape

Team

Peers from Estonia, Spain, Hungary, and Ireland

Recommendations

- Create one-stop shop approach to integrate support offers of different organisations
- Identify which offers are missing that specifically target companies new to digitization



Our team



**Marc
Pattinson**



**Amault
Morisson**



**Rene
Tönnisson**



**Luc
Schmerber**



**Mart
Veliste**



**Katharina
Krell**



**Simon
Hunkin**



**Astrid
Severin**



**Magda
Michaliková**



**Thorsten
Kohlisch**



**Elena
Ferrario**



**Raluca
Toma**



**Karine
Gevorgyan**



**Lotte
Van Meijel**



**Eugénie
Suplisson**



**Soroush
Brandenburg**



Online **learning possibilities**



Relevant good practices – concrete and up-to-date

-
-
-
-
-
-

Upcoming events

Webinars

- 18, 25/10 and 3/11: **Cultural routes** (webinar series)

Thematic workshops

- 18/10: **Innovation ecosystems**, Brno (CZ)
- 27/10: **Cultural and natural heritage in coastal areas**, Cagnes s/Mer (FR)
- 22/11: **Digital Innovation Hubs**, Espoo (FI)

Peer reviews


- 5-6/10: Environmental permits for the Region of Andalusia (ES)
- 13-14/10: Digitalisation strategy for the City of Tallinn (EE)
- 21-22/10: Green bonds for the City of Prague (CZ)
- 8-9/11: RES + hydrogen for regional value creation for the County Administration of Barnim (DE)
- 9-10/11: Diversification of the economic sectors in the Island of Korčula (HR)



Peer learning in practice



Expert support services for free

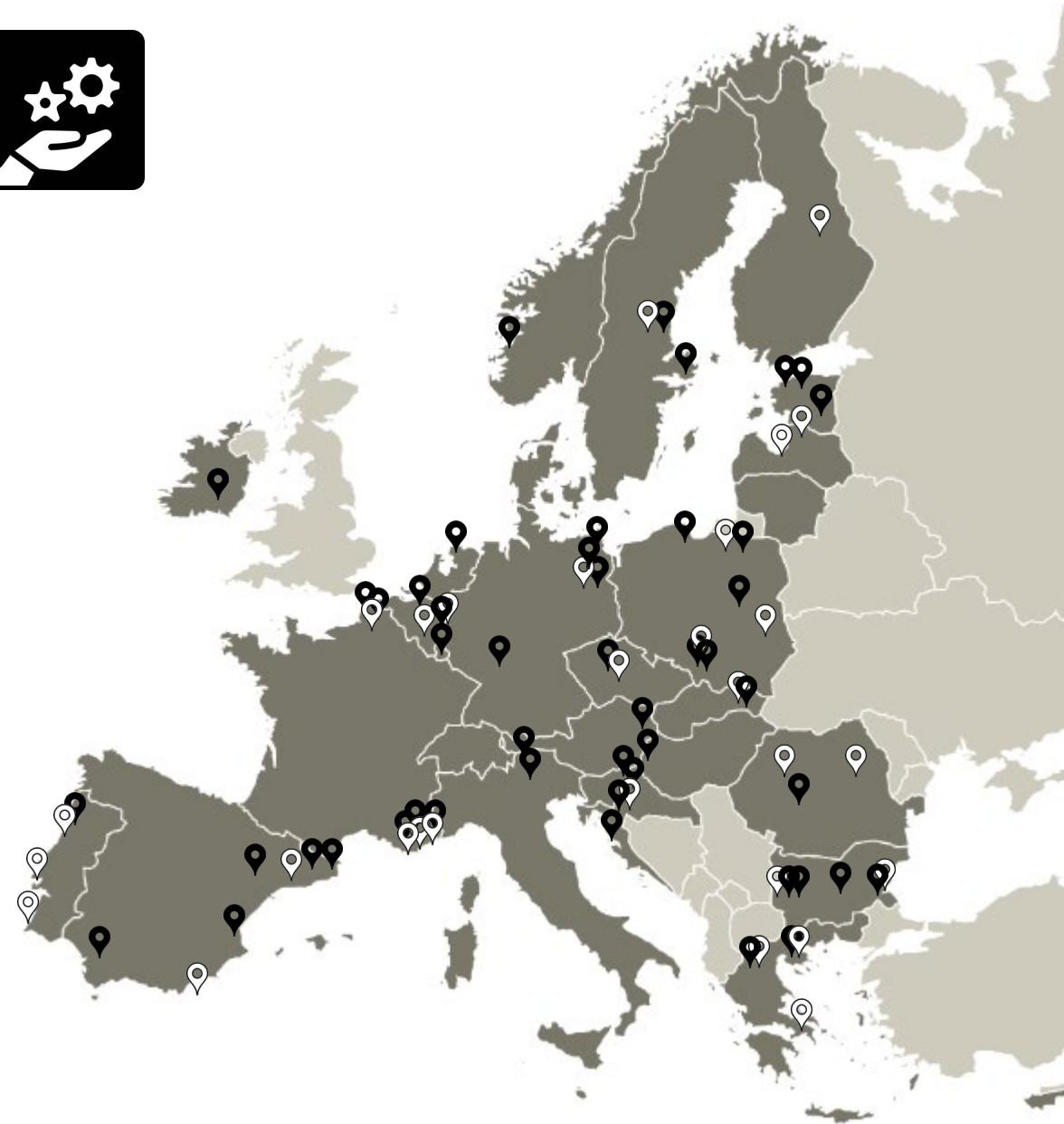
 44 peer reviews implemented
4 peer reviews in the pipeline

 28 matchmaking sessions
1 matchmaking in the pipeline

... and policy helpdesks

Apply to benefit from expert support any time

www.interregeurope.eu/get-policy-advice



Example of a **peer review**



For Fryslân Province (The Netherlands)

Challenge

Boosting *community resilience* by small scale funding

Team

Peers from Belgium, Denmark, Slovenia, the Netherlands

Topics addressed:

- Reaching and approaching difficult target groups
- Monitoring the success of the Community Fund

The spirit of interregional peer learning

Peer Review for the Province of Fryslân



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Sprechen wir miteinander!

Follow us on social media:



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www.interregeurope.eu



Project **activities**

- Learning by **exchanging experience** (e.g., workshop, seminars, study visits, peer reviews) – **good practices** identification & transfer
- Learning by **doing: pilot actions** from the start of the project or at mid-term (max one per region)

➔ **increased capacity** of people and organisations

Project **objective**

Improve the **policy instruments** of the participating regions

- Public interventions at local, regional or even national levels can be addressed
- At least **one** policy instrument per project must be an **Investment for jobs and growth goal programme**



Implementation of activities

2 phases over 4-year implementation

CORE	FOLLOW UP
3 years	1 year
Exchange of experience to achieve policy improvements	Monitor policy improvements

Who is **eligible**?

- **Public authorities**
- **Public law bodies** (bodies governed by public law)
- **Private non-profit bodies**



Policy relevance of partnership

Policy responsible authorities must be involved in the project

- **As partners for at least 50% of the policy instruments addressed**
- **As ‘associated policy authorities’ for the remaining policy instruments**

Creation of a **stakeholder group** in each region

What is an **'associated policy authority'**



Main features:

- Officially included in the application form
- No budget - travel & accommodation costs covered by relevant project partner
- Declaration provided at the application stage
- Involvement regularly monitored during project implementation

Innovative character

What is the **added value** of your project?

Remember to check:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects>



Co-financing rates

Co-financing rates	According to legal status or location
80% ERDF*	Public or public equivalent from the EU
70% ERDF*	Private non-profit from the EU
50% Norwegian funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Norway (NO)
Swiss funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Switzerland (CH)

* ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

Simplified financial rules

Cost categories	Simplification
Preparation costs	Lump sum €17,500
Staff	Fixed % of the real gross employment cost
Office & administration	Flat rate of 15% of staff costs
Travel & accommodation	Flat rate of 15% of staff costs (real cost reporting only in specific justified cases)
External Expertise and Services	
Equipment	
Infrastructure and Works	For pilots only

Programme **scope**

1 cross-cutting priority on capacity building

Strategic topics

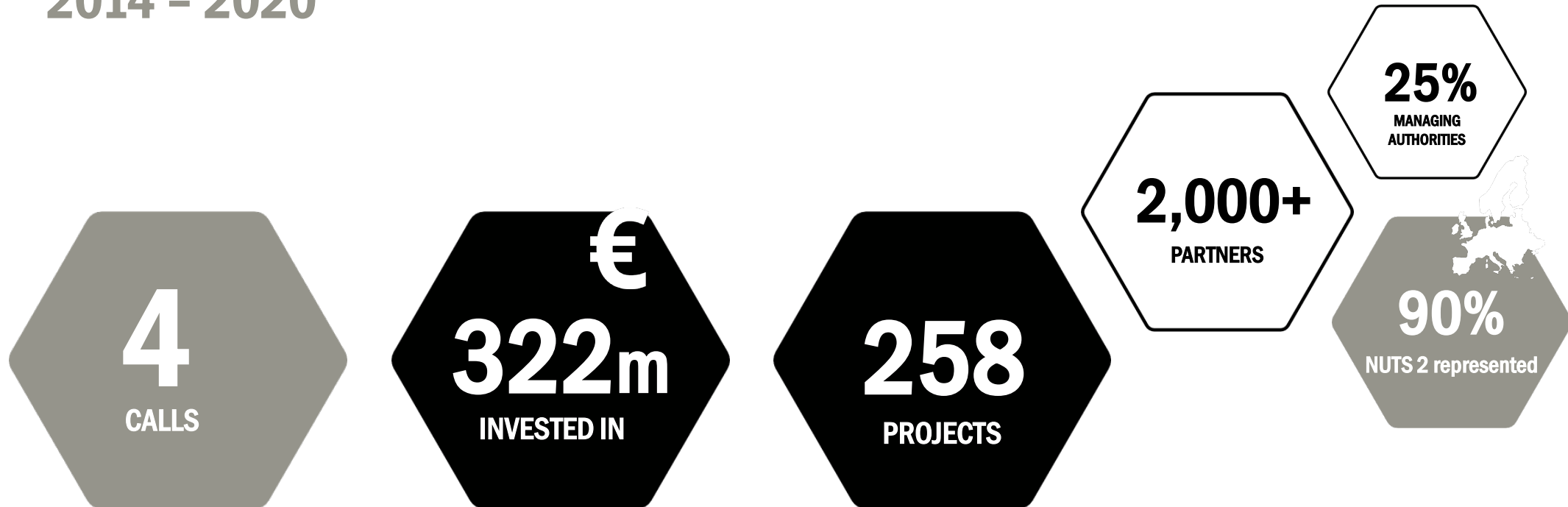


Concentration principle (80%)



Interregional cooperation **projects**

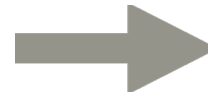
2014 – 2020



Calls for project proposals

First call closed on 31 May 2022

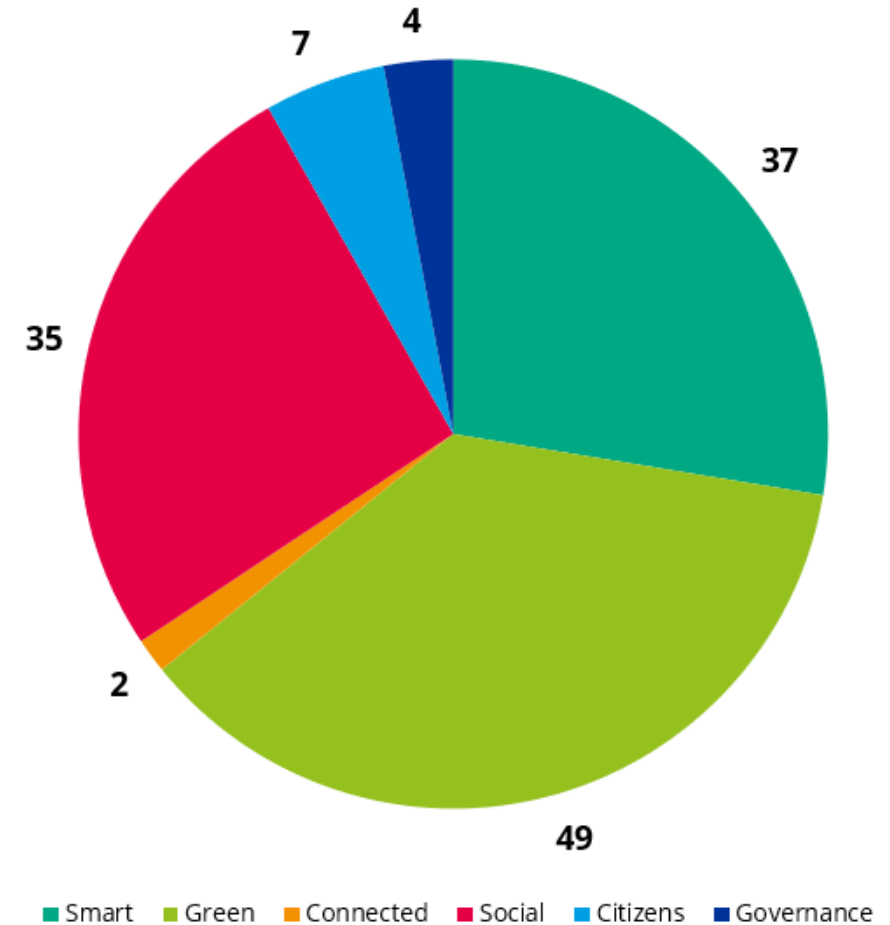
134	project proposals
1,073	partners coming from all partner states
EUR 1.4 million	average budget per project proposal
EUR 192 million	total ERDF budget requested



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Platform in a nutshell



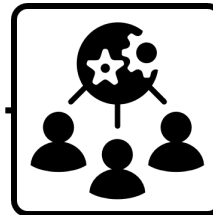
Provides **continuous policy-learning** opportunities

through access to:

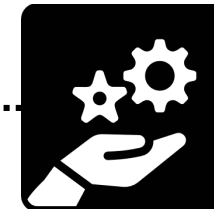
Knowledge



People

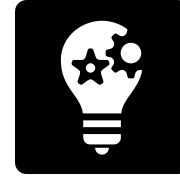


Expert support



#policylearning

Access to **knowledge**



- **Wealth of policy solutions available**

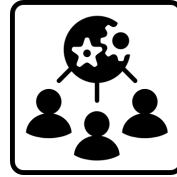


**Database of good practices
from all EU**



**Analytical policy briefs, news
and publications**

Access to **people**



- **Policy inspiration from practitioner to practitioner**



**Community of 25,000+
practitioners**



**Networking and policy-
learning events**

Because cooperation brings concrete benefits



Thank you for some really informative, interactive, substantive and **truly enriching peer review sessions**. Thank you for a wonderful atmosphere you created - of cooperation, reflection and engagement. I hope that with your assistance we will be able to build in Pomorskie a truly integrated support system for the participation of local and regional entities in EU-funded innovation and research projects! I look forward to our cooperation in the future, which we will appreciate greatly! It was a real pleasure to host you in our beautiful city of Gdańsk!

Magdalena Skulimowska, Poland

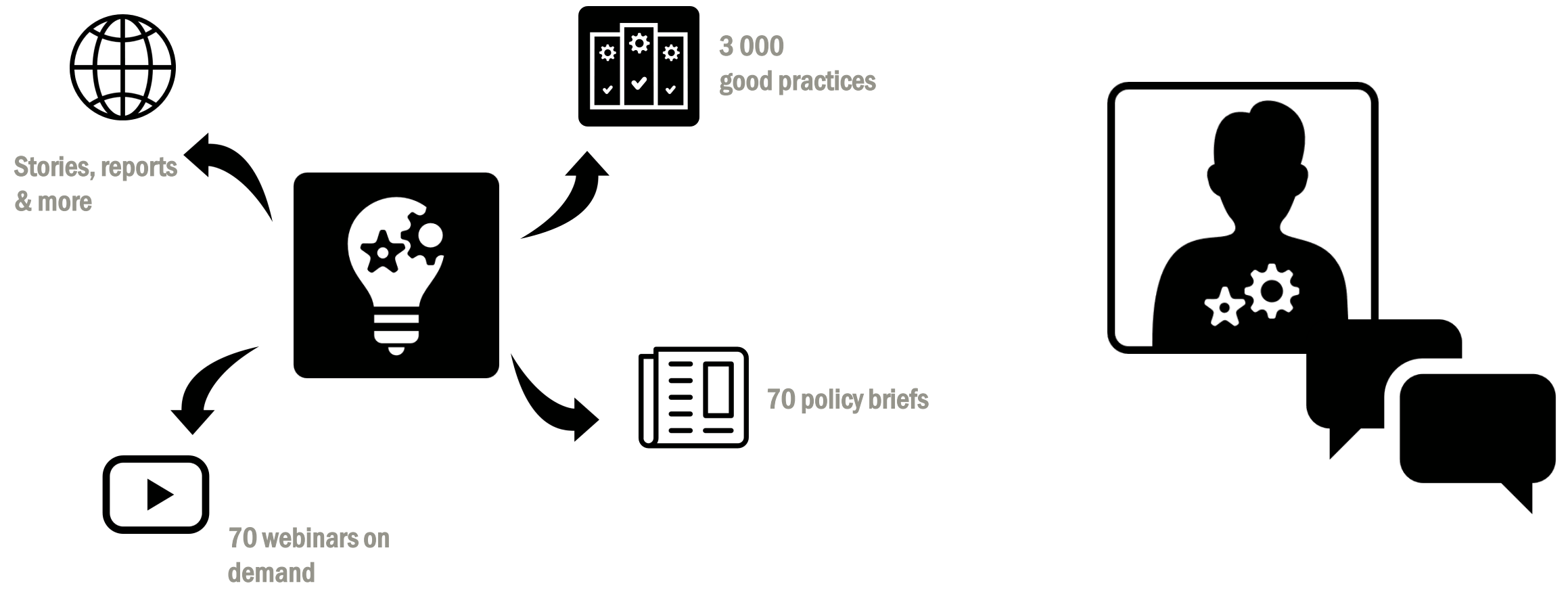


The peer review has proved to be a strong instrument to convince regional leadership and policymakers to foster changes and innovations proven successful in other regions.

Jan Nylander

 Sverige

Policy helpdesk: personalised feedback for our audience



<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policy-solutions>

What you can get

- Interreg Europe's wealth of **policy solutions at hand**
- Hands-on **advice and inspiration** from practitioners to practitioners
- Easily accessible **expert support**
- An active and committed **team of experts at your disposal**
- An active voice to **co-shape the Platform's agenda**



www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning