*Sharing solutions
for better regional policies*

# Webinar on designing action plans Welcome!

22 September 2020

# Webinar agenda

**10:00  Introduction**
>      **Verena Priem**
>
>      Joint Secretariat, Policy Officer

**10:10   Programme expectations for action plans**
>      **Nicolas Singer**
>
>      Joint Secretariat, Head of Unit – Projects & Platform

**10:30   Project testimony**
>      **Lorenzo Sabatini**
>
>      Agency for the development of the Empolese Valdelsa, Italy
>
>      NMP-REG, TANIA and 40Ready project

**10:50   Q&A**

**11:30   End of the webinar**

# Action plans: programme's expectations

**Nicolas Singer**

Head of Unit – Projects & Platform, Interreg Europe JS

n.singer@interregeurope.eu

# Summary

1. Context & definition

2. Action Plan template

3. Recommendations

# 1. CONTEXT & DEFINITION

# Context: growing experience

**July 2018: first action plans submitted**

- Recurring issues related to design and content

- Further guidance provided

  Articles & publications, midterm reviews, webinar

**As of September 2020**

- **866** action plans validated from 140 projects



**As of March 2020, COVID-19 crisis: impact?**

# What is an action plan?

"Produced by **each region**, a document providing details on how the **lessons learnt** from the **cooperation** will be **implemented** in order to improve the **policy instrument** addressed within the region."

"Specifies the **nature of the actions** to be implemented, their **timeframe**, the **stakeholders** involved, the **costs** and **funding** sources."

Definition from the programme manual, section 4.1.

# What is an action plan?

In each participating region, the action plan specifies **concrete measure(s)**:

- from the *interregional* exchange of experience

  transforming learning into actions
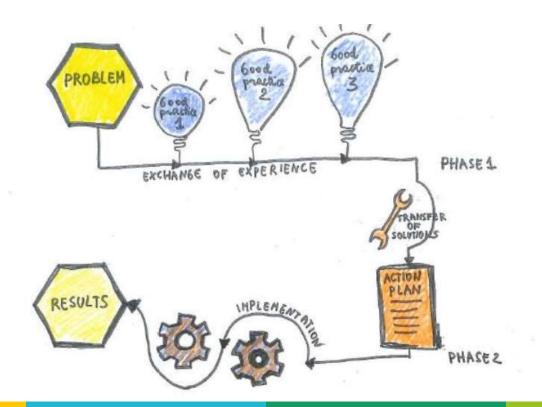
- implemented during phase 2

  with own funds

# What is an action plan?

It can also:

- include possible actions / results from phase 1

- refer to other relevant policy instrument(s) if needed

# 2. ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

# Programme template

# Part I – General information

Project:_____

Partner organisation(s) concerned:_____


Country:_____

NUTS2 region:_____

Contact person:_____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

# Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- ☐ Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- ☐ European Territorial Cooperation programme
- ☐ Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed:_____

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instrument:

_____
_____
_____
_____

# Part III – Details on the actions

**ACTION 1:**

Name of the action: _____

1. **Relevance to the project** *(please describe how this action derives from the project and in particular from the interregional exchange of experience. Where does the inspiration for this action come from?)*

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. **Nature of the action** *(please describe precisely the content of action 1. What are the specific activities to be implemented?)*

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

# Part III – Details on the actions

3. **Stakeholders involved** *(please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the implementation of the action 1 and explain their role)*

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

4. **Timeframe** *(please specify the timing envisaged for action 1)*

_____
_____
_____

5. **Indicative costs** *(please estimate the costs related to the implementation of action 1)*

_____
_____

6. **Indicative funding sources** *(please describe how action 1 will be financed. Is it through the policy instrument(s) indicated in part II):*

_____
_____

# Endorsement

Date:_____

Name of the organisation(s) : :

_____

_____

Signature(s) of representative of the relevant organisation(s): _____

# 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

# Make it your own

- Adapt the template to your region
  use project & partner logos



- Use language convenient for the partner and stakeholders
- If not English, make a comprehensive **summary in English**

# Be clear and precise

- Relevance of the actions to the **policy instrument(s)**

- Min. level of information required for each action: **core features** indicated in the template

- Define each action precisely and focus on **implementation-related** actions (no more learning)

- Small is beautiful: **one** or two actions can be enough if clear and relevant

- Policy endorsement of the plan

# Ensure clear link with project

**Rationale of action plan:** to ensure that inspiration coming from project is not lost

- Each action should clearly derive from the cooperation, Clarify the link with the *interregional* exchange of experience (beyond the stakeholder group activities)

- Think about it from the start of the project / ongoing process

# Make it useful for you!

- Even if it is a requirement, Action Plan is not produced to 'please' the programme but because it is **useful** for region

- Ultimate objective: new solutions are finally implemented in the region

- So it should be **adapted** to the need of each region (e.g. possibility to change policy instrument addressed, possibility to focus on 2021-2027 period)
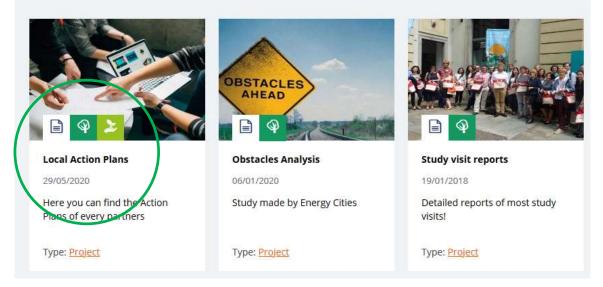
# Get inspiration from others

- Over 800 Action Plans available on project websites (all 1$^{st}$ and 2$^{nd}$ call projects)
  *www.interregeurope/acronym/library*



- Ask your Policy Officer for good examples

# How to face COVID-19 crisis?

Severe impact on interregional activities but:

- Check new support **measures** (e.g. extension of duration)

- (Virtual) interregional exchange remains important:

  Access to practices of other regions more challenging but still possible for other regions to **review** your own policies, practices and actions

- Reinforcement of stakeholders activities?

- Source of opportunities?

  In time of crisis: finding new solutions is more important then ever

Good practices to help with the recovery

Are you looking for solutions that can support the COVID-19 recovery in your region?

Search

# Conclusion

## A good action plan

- Includes all **features** indicated in the template

- Clearly **links** each action to the project activities

- Ensures the **nature of each action** is precisely defined

- Focuses on **implementation related** actions

- Is **endorsed** (by stakeholders and / or policy-responsible body)

- **Is useful for you…..and will therefore be implemented!**

# Further information needed?

- **Dedicated article** on programme website

    "On the road to implementation. Tips for the action plans."

    (24.10.2018)

- **Programme manual**

    "Project development"

    (Section 4)

**Discuss with your JS Policy Officer** ☺

European Union | European Regional Development Fund

*Sharing solutions
for better regional policies*

# Questions welcome!

**Interregeurope**

European Union | European Regional Development Fund

*Sharing solutions
for better regional policies*

# Project testimony

**Lorenzo Sabatini**

*Head of RTD and EU project area / Coordination of the Regional Technological
District for Advanced Materials*

Agency for the development of the Empolese Valdelsa, Italy

# Action Plan – Theory

*Sharing solutions for better regional policies*

Learn about a useful Good Practice from a 40ready partner

Include it in your Action Plan, adapting it to your region

Change your policy instrument

**EASY**

# Action Plan – Reality

All the funds from the ERDF / ESF calls have been allocated, there is nothing i can do

I can't find a relevant / interesting Good Practice from other partners

My Action Plan is so clear…and yet nobody understands it

The last ERDF / ESF calls are coming up now! Do I have time? How can I link them to 40Ready?

I will improve post 2020 programmes

Not that easy

Questions welcome!

# Upcoming events

## Policy Learning Platform webinars:

- 25 September, **Centres of Competence** (TO1)
- 28 September, **Improving the energy performance of social housing** (TO4)

## Participation in EU events:

- 13 October, EURegionsWeek, online participatory lab **'Reuse and repair'** (TO3&6)
- 14 October, EURegionsWeek, online Q&A **'E-buses: from procurement to deployment'** (TO1&4)
- 20 October, EUGreenWeek, webinar **'Better regional policies to protect and restore nature'** (TO6)

# Thank you!

- **Dedicated article**

  "On the road to implementation. Tips for the action plans."

  (24.10.2018)

- **Programme manual**

  "Project development"

  (Section 4)

- **Projects website (library)**

  (www.interregeurope.eu/*acronym/library*)