

Europe, let's cooperate!

Third interregional forum on environment and resource efficiency, low carbon economy, SMEs competitiveness and research and innovation

22-23 Mar 2017 | Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta

#europecooperates

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09:30 - Plenary on interregional cooperation

11:30 - Parallel workshops I

12:45 - Lunch

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17:30 - Meet and greet cocktail



WIFI - MCC GO

Interregional cooperation and EU priorities



Dr. Ian Borg

**Parliamentary Secretary for
the EU Presidency 2017 and
EU Funds**

Valletta, Malta



Dr. Joanna Drake

**Deputy Director General
Directorate-General for
Environment**

Brussels, Belgium



Mr. Jean-Marc Venineaux

Quality Management Officer -
Macroregional strategies,
Directorate-General for
Regional and Urban Policy

Brussels, Belgium

Interregional cooperation and EU priorities



Ms. Valérie Létard

Vice - President,
Hauts-de-France Region

Lille, France

Video message

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Panorama on interregional cooperation



Mr. Erwin Siweris
Director, Interreg Europe



Ms. Petra Geitner
Head of Unit, Finance
and Audit, Interreg Europe

Interreg Europe: what you need to know



Interreg
Europe



European Union | European Regional Development Fund



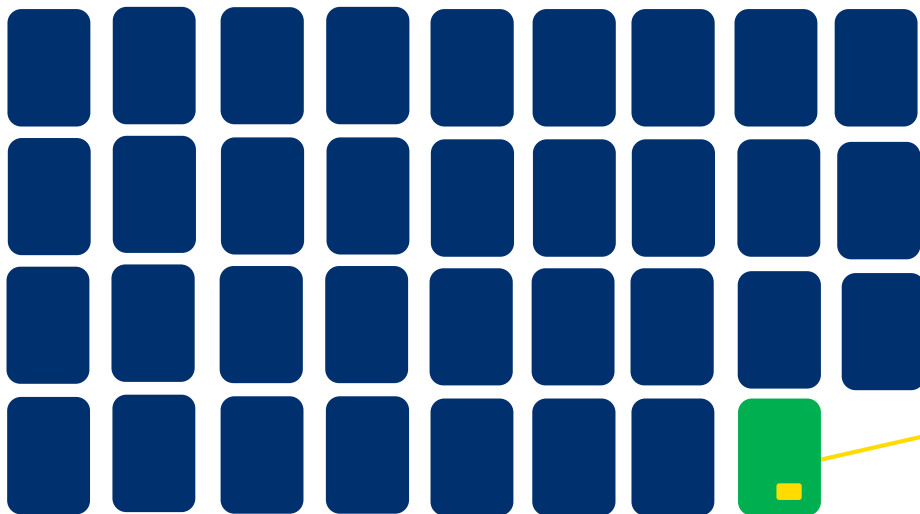
Exchange of experience to improve regional development policies, in particular **Structural Funds (SF)** programmes

Where does the programme fit in?



Interreg Europe: a programme for the programmes

EU Cohesion policy



Goal 1:

Investment for growth & jobs

EUR 340 billion

Goal 2:

European Territorial Cooperation

EUR 10.2 billion

INTERREG EUROPE

EUR 359 m

How to improve a policy instrument?

1. Implement **new projects**
2. Change programme **governance***
3. Change programme **content ***

* May not require funding!

Means of public intervention

- policy
- strategy
- law

developed by public authorities!



Pan European programme



A THEMATIC PROGRAMME



Research and
innovation



SME
competitiveness



Low-carbon
economy



Environment and
resource efficiency



A programme for policy makers

Managing authorities

Regional / local authorities

Agencies, institutes, private non-profits

Learn from each other to **improve policies**



2

actions

PROJECTS

**POLICY LEARNING
PLATFORM**

PROJECTS



What is a project?

Definition

Partners from **different countries** working together on a **shared regional policy issue**

Objective

To improve the **effectiveness of policy instruments**
(Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes in particular)



Project implementation

Phase 1

Exchange of experience (2 to 3 years) resulting in 1 **action plan** per region

Phase 2

Monitoring of action plan implementation (2 years) + possible pilot actions

Focus on Structural Funds (SF)

At least half of policy instruments addressed must be SF



Partnership requirements

- At least 3 countries represented
- Recommended size: 5 to 10 partners
- **Involvement of policy responsible organisations**
 - Directly as partners
 - Indirectly through **letter of support** (and through participation in stakeholder groups)
- Creation of stakeholder groups
 - Contribute to success of learning process by involving all relevant organisations

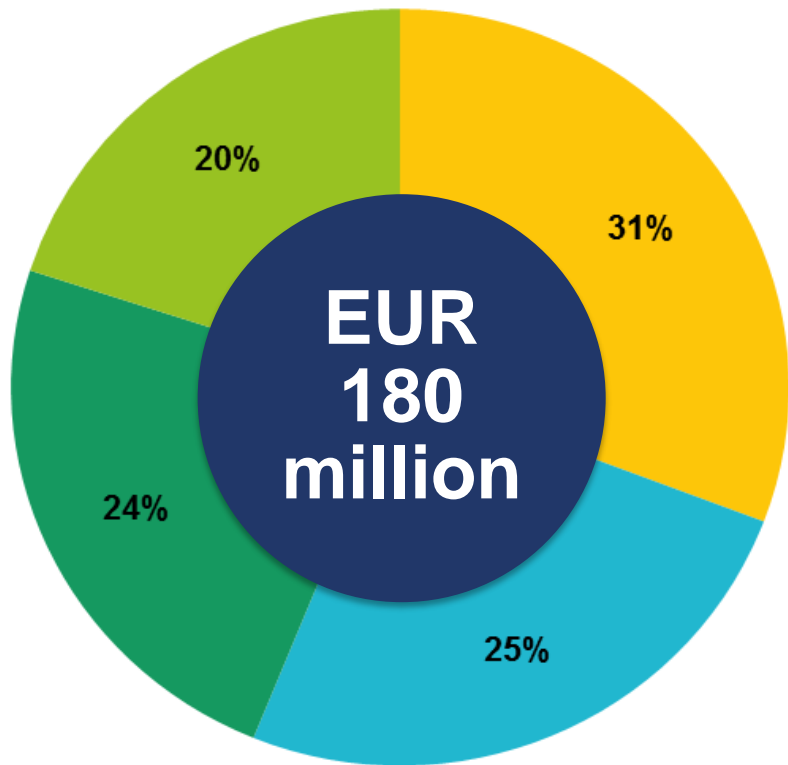


Who is eligible?

- Public bodies main → main target group (e.g. local, regional, national authorities)
- Bodies governed by public law
- Private non-profit bodies

Co-financing rates	According to legal status or location
85% ERDF	Public or public equivalent from EU
75% ERDF	Private non-profit from EU
50% Norwegian funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from NO
Swiss funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from CH

Projects overview



- Innovation
- SMEs
- Low carbon
- Environment

2
calls

472
applications

130
27.5 %
Projects approved

Projects geographic coverage



100% partner
countries

78%
NUTS 2
regions

POLICY LEARNING PLATFORM

#policylearning



Research and
innovation



SME
competitiveness



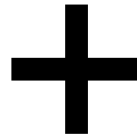
Low-carbon
economy



Environment and
resource efficiency

Online collaborative tool

With relevant functionalities



Expert team

Content and coordination role

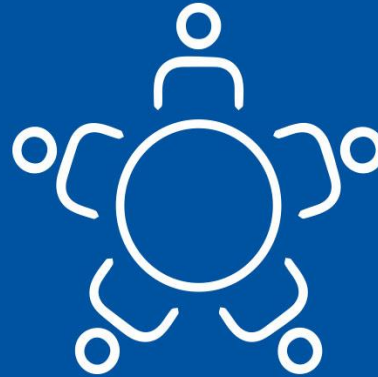
#policylearning



**Knowledge
bank**



Networking



**Expert
support**



**Expert
helpdesk**

Interreg Europe

=

**accelerator for regional
development**

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**Get ready for
the third call!**



Overview

- Terms of reference
- Recommendations



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Deadline for submission



12:00 (CEST time)

Procedure: Online system



www.iolf.eu



Thematic scope

All investment priorities open

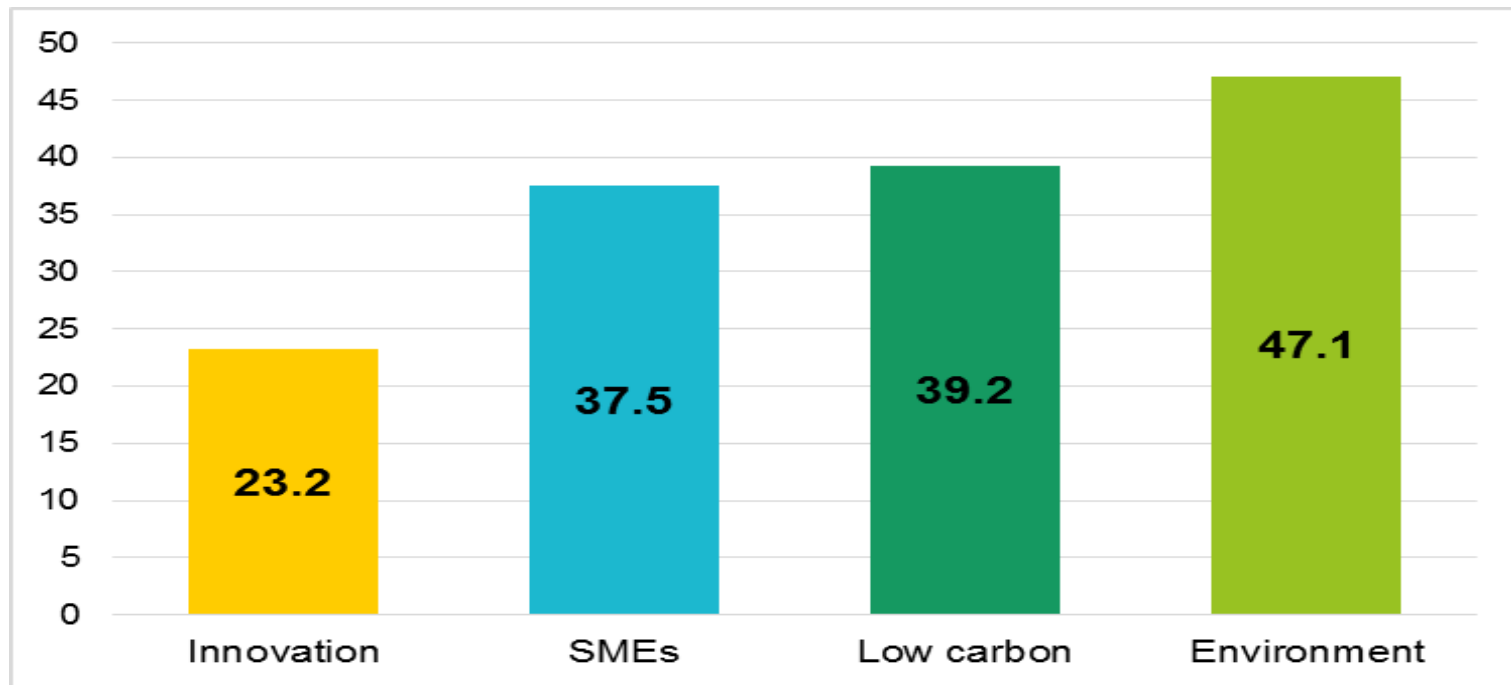


Projects on environment and resource efficiency encouraged

Budget available



EUR 147 million





Most covered topics so far

- Governance of RIS3
- Clusters within RIS3

- Internationalisation
- Innovation capacity

- Circular economy

- Urban mobility
- Energy efficiency in buildings

Encouraged topics



Financial instruments



Renewable energy



Water management



Regions not involved





RECOMMENDATIONS

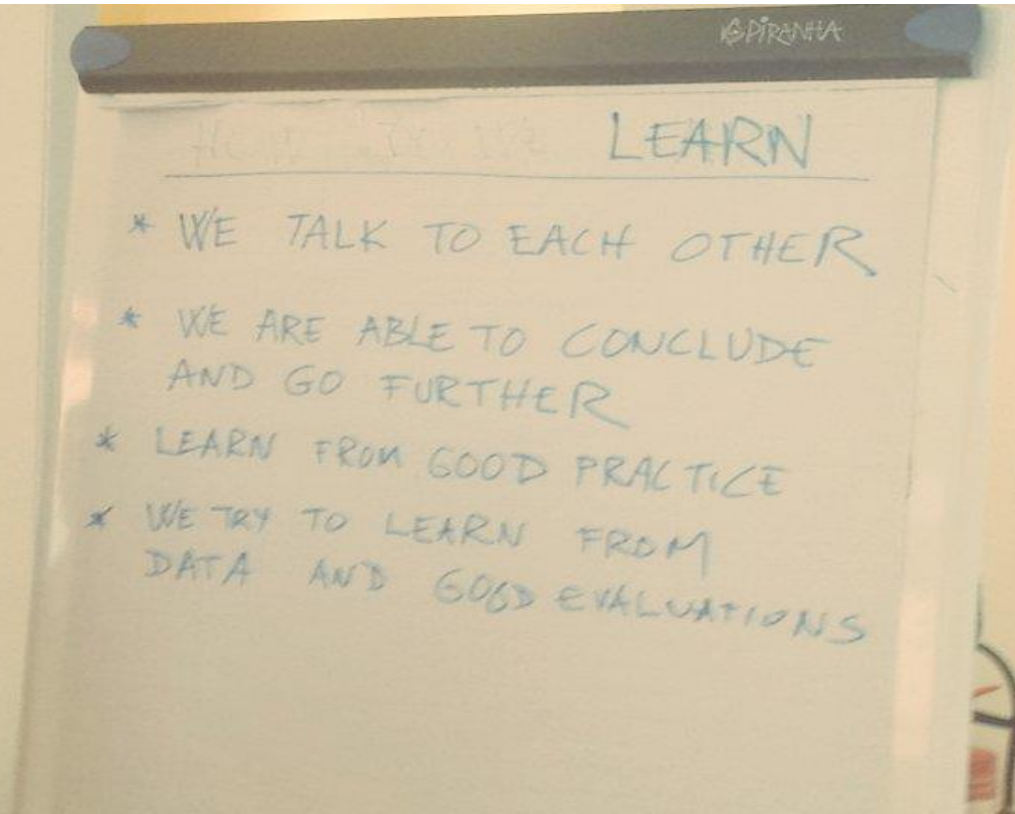
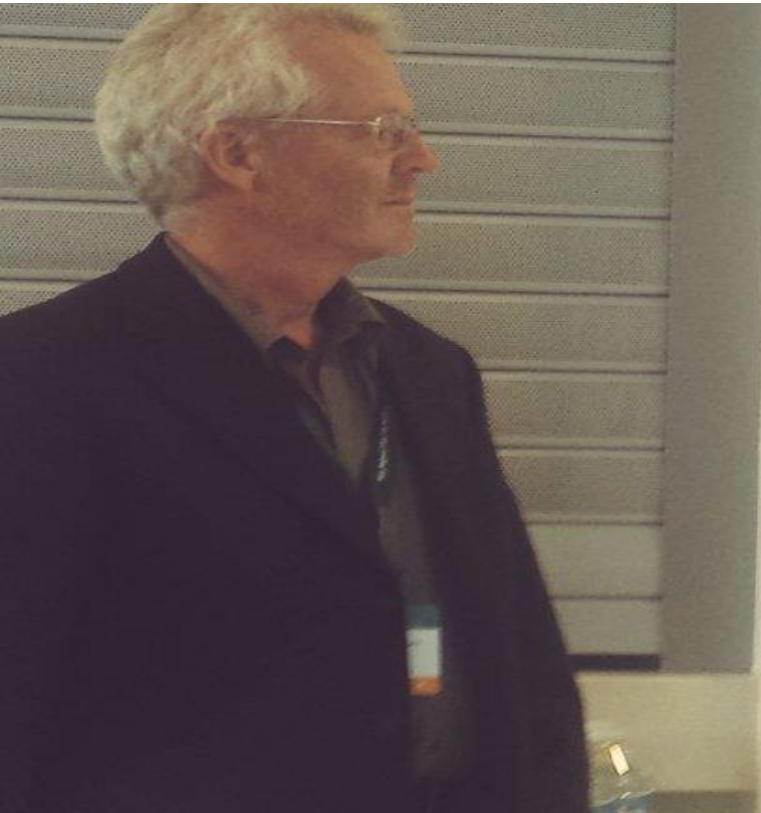
Start from your challenges





**Be specific and
focused**

Take the learning process seriously



Read the programme manual



Pay attention to the application form

Fairness and **equal treatment** principles

- Application Form = the **only basis** for assessment
 - same information requested from all
 - same technical requirements for all (e.g. text limits)
- Application form has to be **self-explanatory**
Additional information / clarification not possible after submission



Pay attention to eligibility

One NO disqualifies whole project → no assessment!

- High rate of ineligibility (29.4%)
- Main causes of ineligibility:
 - Letters of support (missing or incorrect)
 - Partner declaration (incorrect – amount lower than necessary!)

Make sure all documents are provided and correct.
Don't prepare them at the last minute!

More information:

www.interregeurope.eu/apply

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Building an application

5 top tips for success



Mr. Nicolas Singer
Head of Unit,
Projects and Platforms,
Interreg Europe



Ms. Manita Koop
Managing Director,
Vereniging Regio Water,
lead partner of SWARE project



Mr. Stefan Schaa

Malta Regional Development
and Dialogue Foundation,
partner of GPP4GROWTH project

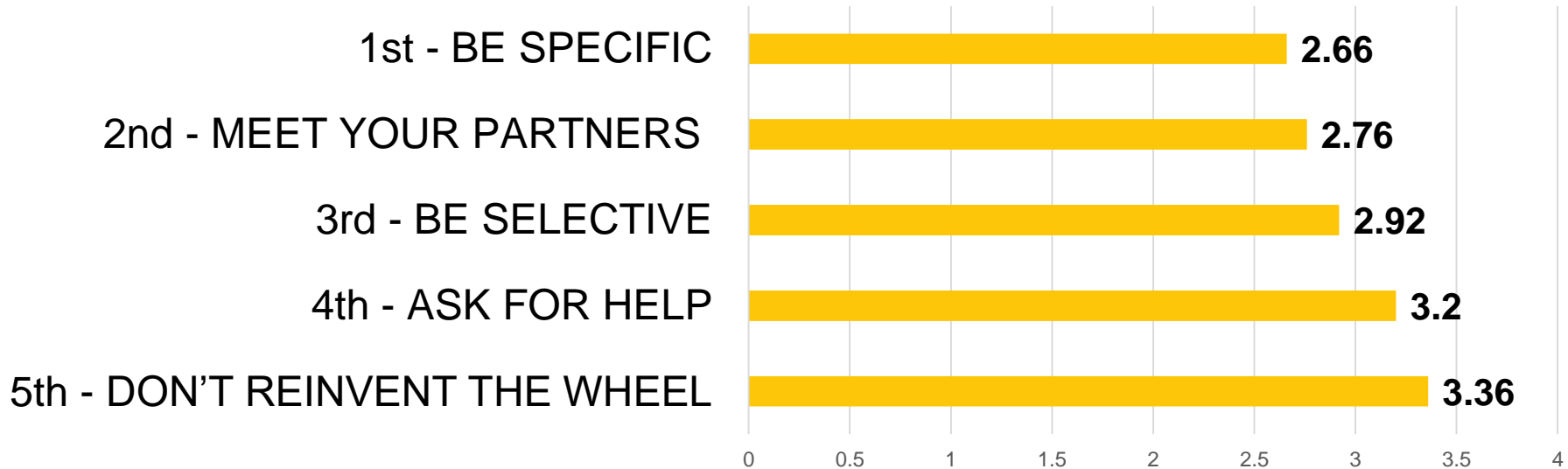
Building an application

5 top tips for success



Best tips according to partners

**Ranking in order of usefulness
1 (most) to 5 (least)**



105 answers ■ February 2017

Tip 1: be selective





Tip 1: be selective (in your partnership)

Partnership: project core element which determines policy instruments & regional context

- Involve **policymakers** directly as partners
- Demonstrate **policy relevance** of organisations who are not policymakers
- Ensure a **wide geographical coverage**

Tip 2: meet your partners





Tip 2: meet your partners

Preparation is key to success

Time needed to check:

- Motivation & commitment
- Common interest
- Contribution to the project

Tip 3: be specific





Tip 3: be specific

Good application = unique + reflecting partners needs

- Provide **concrete details & examples**
Facts and figures when possible
- Show in-depth knowledge of **policy instruments** addressed
- Avoid general and vague information



Tip 4: don't reinvent the wheel



Tip 4: don't reinvent the wheel



- Distinguish yourself from the 130 running projects
- Explain your differences (topics? partners?)
- Pay attention to general or 'successful' topics

Tip 5: ask for help





Tip 5: ask for help

We are here to help!

- Use the **assistance** offered by the JS (ask questions, check project idea, use partner search tool)
- Contact your **national contact point**





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Policy Learning Platform



Ms. Marie-José Zondag
Thematic Manager -
Low-carbon economy,
Interreg Europe Policy
Learning Platform



Ms. Eilish O'Loughlin
Policy Officer
Interreg Europe

Policy Learning Platform

Launch event at European Week of Regions and Cities



knowledge sharing



policy learning





Expert support



Role Play “Expert Helpdesk”



**Needs survey:
help us shape the platform**

Policy Learning Platform: “change through exchange”



join the community





03/03/2017

Policy Brief on cultural heritage in urban areas

A recent Horizon 2020 report highlights the potential of cultural heritage to generate benefits for the economy, society and environment.

Type: [Platform](#)




27/02/2017

Interregional cooperation in support of cultural heritage...

Development of cultural routes can be a way to increase awareness and understanding of such routes as valuable assets.

Type: [Platform](#)



16/02/2017

Help us shape the Policy Learning Platforms!

The Interreg Europe Programme needs your input in shaping the details of the Policy Learning Platforms.



15/02/2017

Policy Brief on industrial symbiosis

Industrial symbiosis is one of the tools European regions and cities can use when building a circular economy model. Read our Policy

Home > News and events > Policy brief on cultural heritage in urban areas

03/03/2017

Policy Brief on cultural heritage in urban areas

A recent report by the Horizon 2020 working group on cultural heritage highlighted the potential of cultural heritage to generate benefits for the economy, society and environment. It noted the changing perceptions of cultural heritage, moving away from it being seen as a financial burden towards recognising it as an asset which can provide a catalyst for enhanced growth and wellbeing.

The experts of the Interreg Europe Environment and Resource Efficiency Policy Learning Platform have developed a Policy Brief on the approaches aimed at securing the sustainable management of cultural

03/01/2017

Nine Interreg Europe projects work on promoting SME internationalisation

Although many barriers to internationalisation have been reduced, SMEs and start-ups are still confronted with the challenge to innovate, grow and compete at an international level.

Nine out of 33 Interreg Europe projects focusing on strengthening SME competitiveness are aiming at improving the internationalisation of SMEs. Six were already selected in the first call and have started their work:

Project acronym	Project full title	Lead Partner
COMPETE-IN	Competitive territories through internationalisation	Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy

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Name
Surname

Institution/Organisation
Country



PARTICIPANT



Name
Surname

Institution/Organisation
Country



NEW

PARTICIPANT



Name
Surname

Institution/Organisation
Country



PROJECT

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09:00 - Presentation of the second day agenda

09:30 - Parallel workshops IV / Field visits

11:15 - Parallel workshops V / Field visits

12:30 - Conclusions

13:00 - Lunch



WIFI - MCC GO