

# ENHANCING INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION FOR EU COMPETITIVENESS: INSIGHTS FROM NORTE REGION OF PORTUGAL

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*Seminar Enhancing policies through interregional cooperation:  
new industrial value chains for growth – S34Growth*

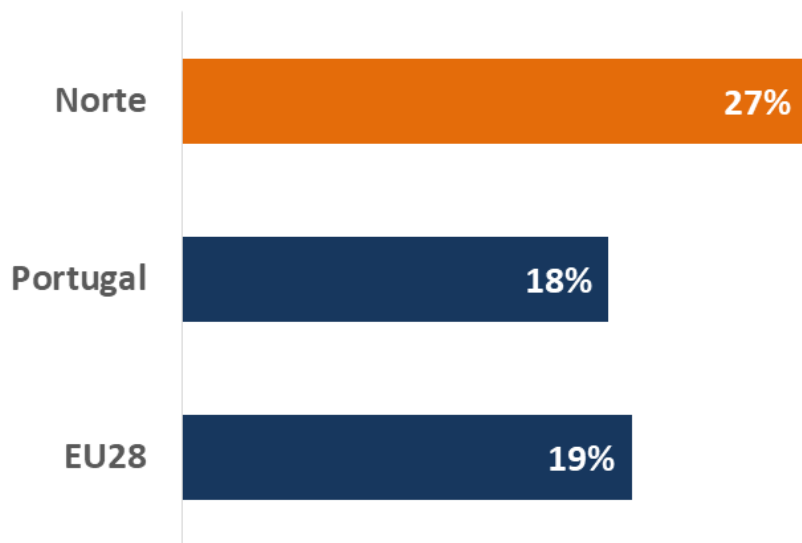
Committee of the Regions, Brussels, 15 March 2018



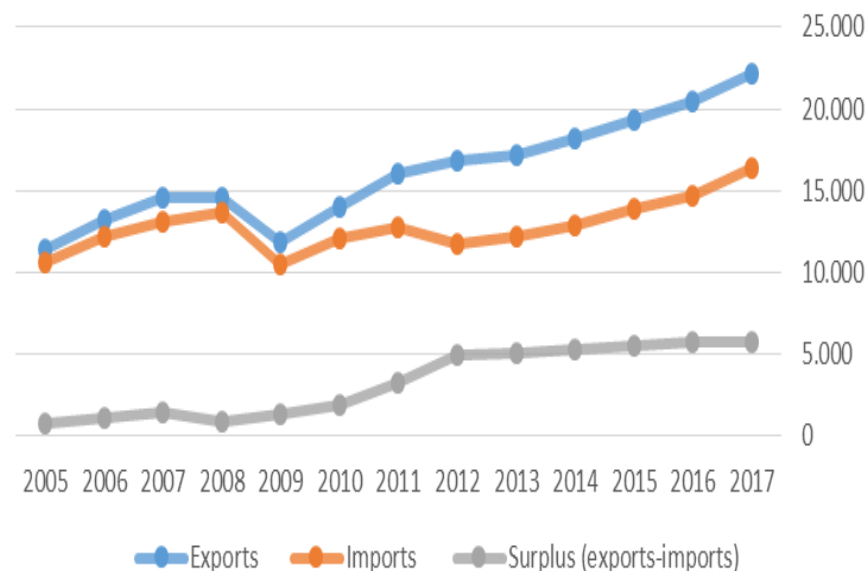
# **Norte Region of Portugal: a very basic introduction**

# Norte is an industrial region with strong export orientation and intensity, and a high RTD potential...

Share of industry in GVA, 2016 (%)\*



International trade of goods in Norte 2005-2017 (M€)\*



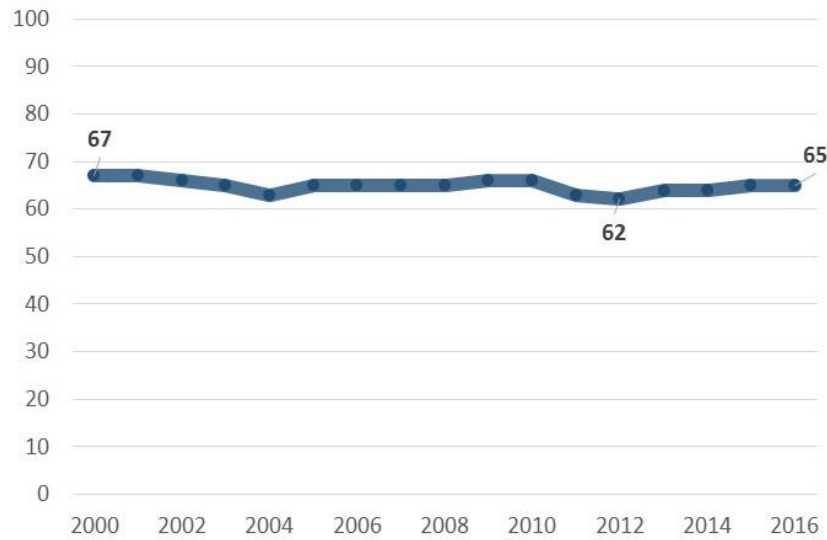
World-class R&TD institutions in Norte, such as:



\* Sources: Eurostat (GVA figures) and Statistics Portugal (trade of goods figures)

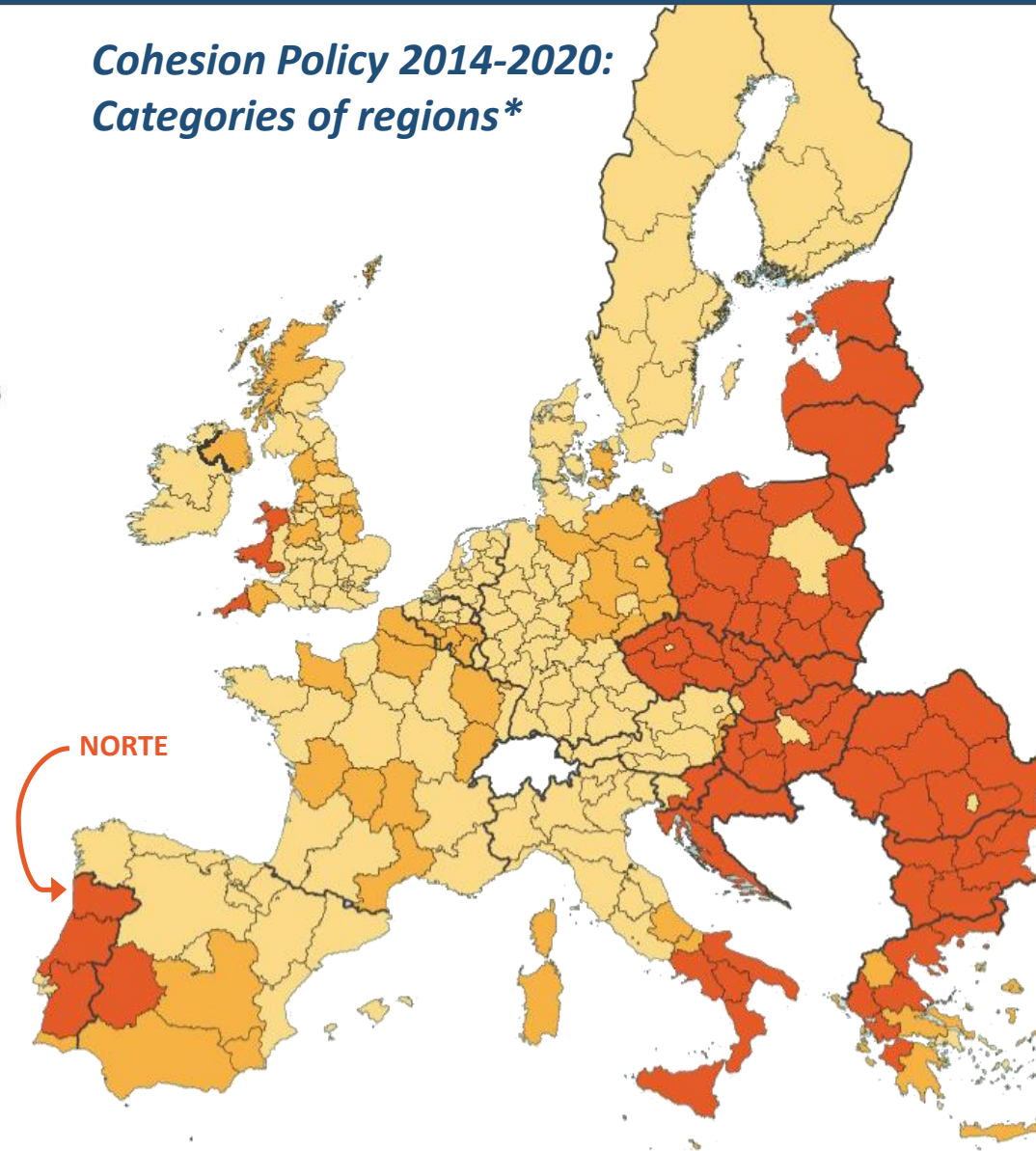
# ...but it does not grow out of being a lagging territory

**GDP per capita in PPS  
in Norte 2000-2016 (EU28=100)\***



-  *Less developed regions*
-  *Transition regions*
-  *More developed regions*

**Cohesion Policy 2014-2020:  
Categories of regions\***



\* Sources: European Commission (categories of regions) and Eurostat (GDP figures)

# Cooperation is one of the keys to bridge the gap between Norte and more developed regions

## EU COHESION POLICY 2014-2020\*

Reducing disparities between the levels of development of EU regions

**OBJECTIVE 1.**  
Investment for growth  
and jobs

97,2%

2,8%

**OBJECTIVE 2.**  
European Territorial  
Cooperation

351.8 bn €  
TOTAL EU

### INSTRUMENTS IN NORTE REGION

Regional

**NORTE2020**  
PROGRAMA OPERACIONAL REGIONAL DO NORTE

**COMPETE 2020**

**POSEUR**  
PROGRAMA OPERACIONAL DE INTERCOMUNICACAO E TERRITORIO

National

**PO ISE**  
PROGRAMA OPERACIONAL INCLUSÃO SOCIAL E EMPREGO

**POCH**  
PROGRAMA OPERACIONAL CAPITAL HUMANO

### INSTRUMENTS IN NORTE REGION

Interregional

**Interreg Europe**  
European Union | European Regional Development Fund

**ESPON** **INTERact** **URBACT**

Transnational

**ESPAÇO ATLÂNTICO** Programa Transnacional **Interreg Sudoe**

Crossborder

**Interreg** **España - Portugal**  
Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvimento Regional

\* Source: adapted from CCDRN/OADR (2017), "NMP-REG: Enquadramento do projeto e dos trabalhos do grupo de stakeholders"

**Challenges and paths for enhanced cooperation:  
a selection of insights as seen from Norte**

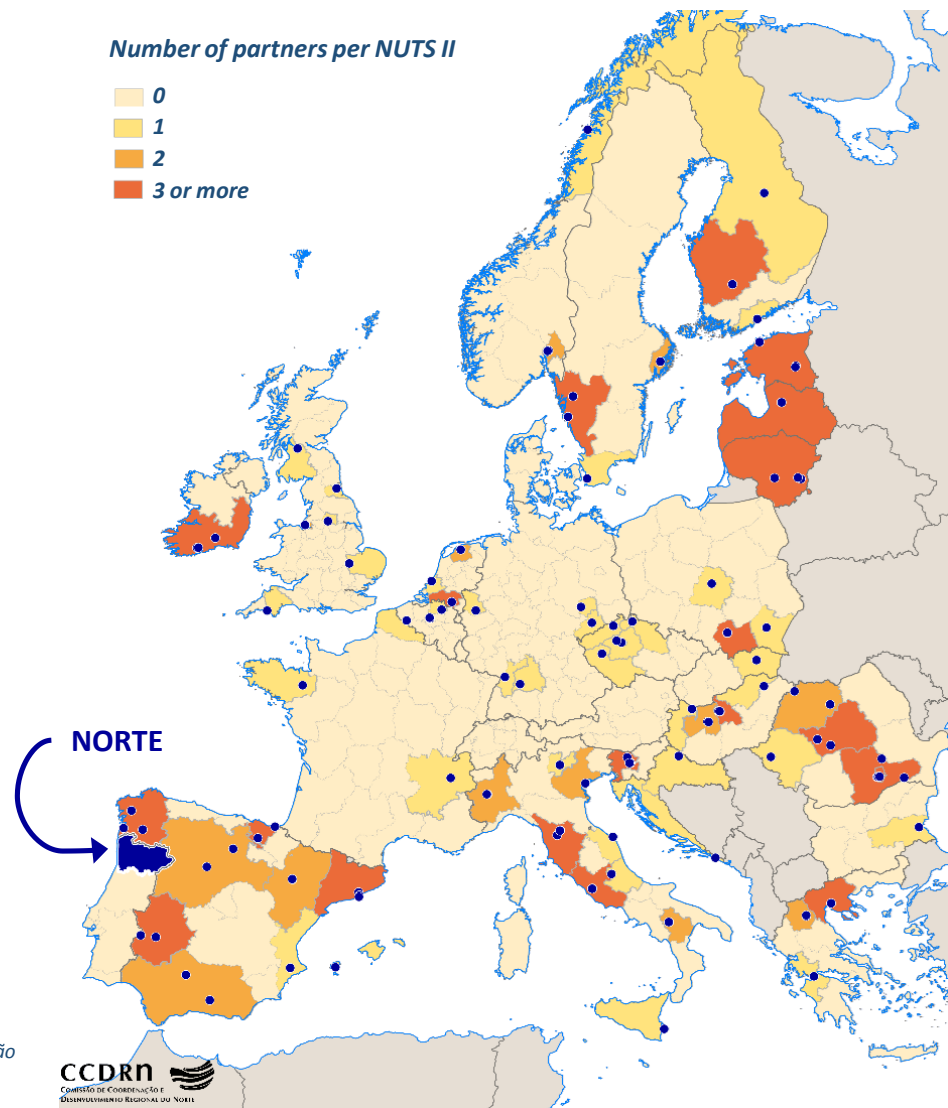
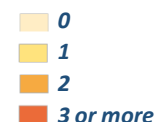
# Keeping the territory in mind (1): the importance of place-based cooperation

## Participation of institutions from Norte Region in Interreg Europe projects (31/12/2017)\*

- 19 projects (10 of which on smart growth/S3)
- 160 non-portuguese partners from 76 regions



Number of partners per NUTS II

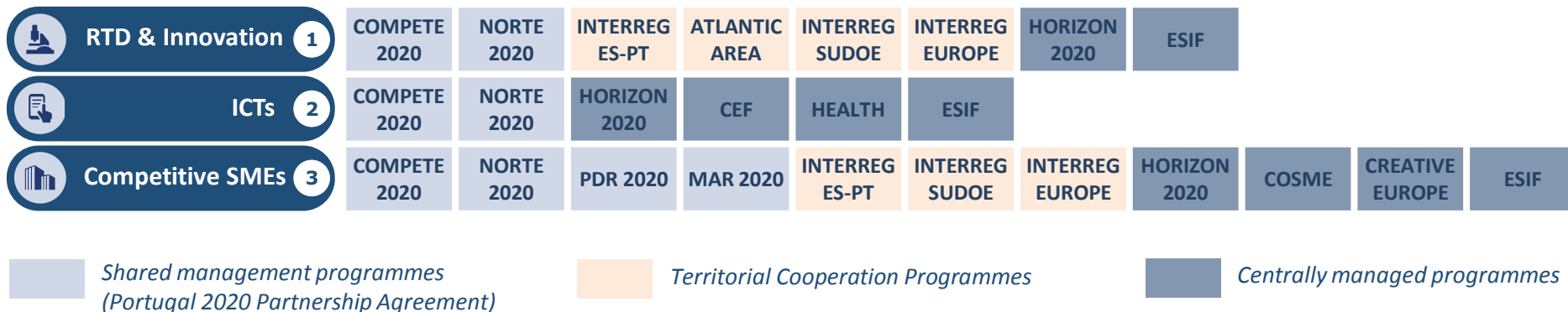


\* Source: Adapted from CCDRN/OADRn (2017), "Participação da Região do Norte em projetos de cooperação interregional Interreg Europe 2014-2020"

# Keeping the territory in mind (2): the importance of spatially articulating different EU policies/instruments/projects

## Selection of EU programmes supporting smart growth projects in Norte\*

### Thematic Objectives (TO)



## Selection of other EU-level instruments with a smart-growth focus

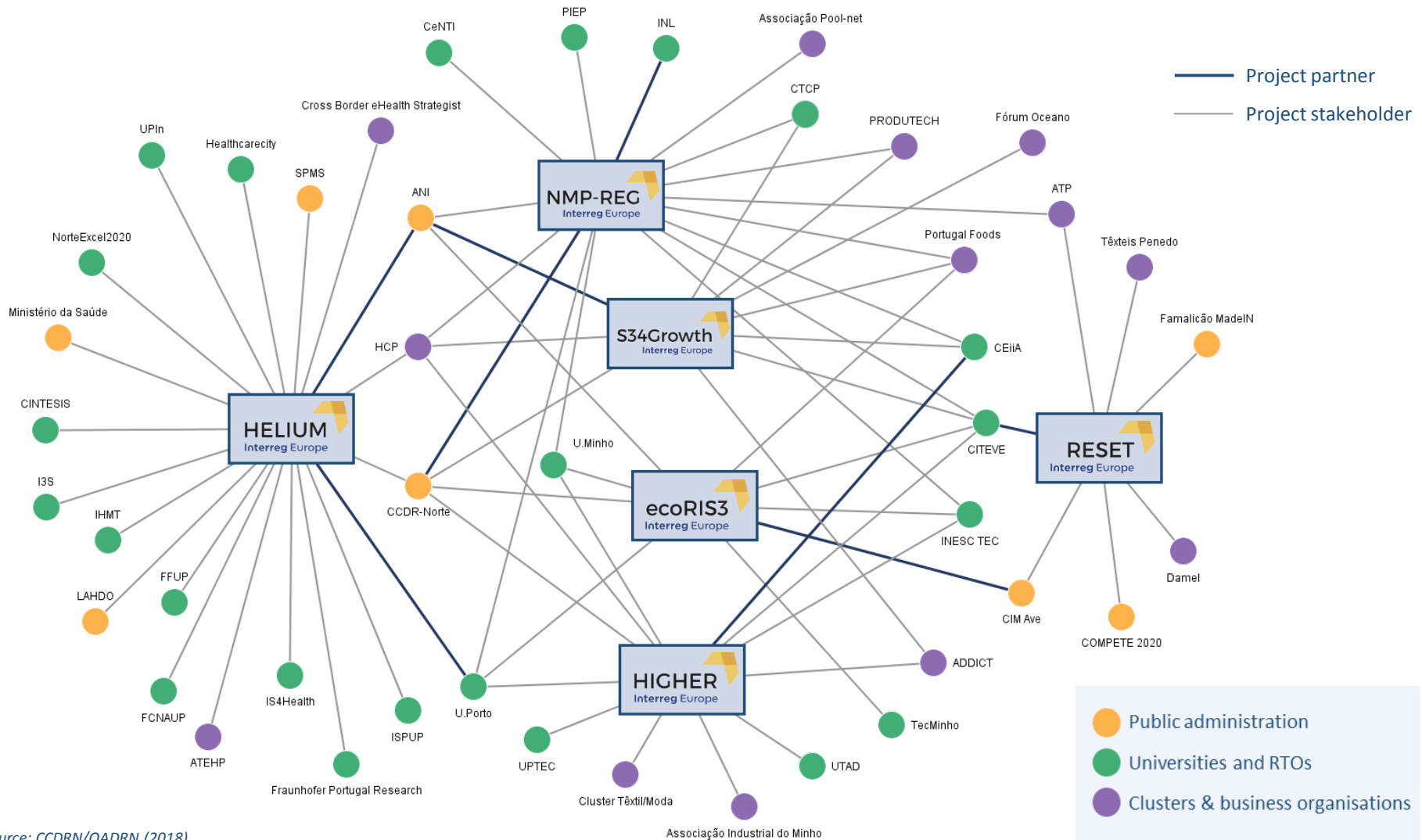
CONTRACTUAL PPPs	ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK	EUROPEAN PILOT PRODUCTION NETWORK	KETs OBSERVATORY	POLICY SUPPORT FACILITY	S3 PLATFORM
DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS	EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM	EUROPEAN S. CLUSTER PARTNERSHIPS	KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION COMMUNITIES	RECONFIRM	TAIEX REGIO PEER-2-PEER
EIT REGIONAL INNOVATION SCHEME	EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS	JOINT TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES	KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PLATFORM	REGIONS IN INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION	WATIFY

\* Source: Adapted from CCDRN/OADRN (2017), "Apoios da União Europeia aplicáveis na Região do Norte: uma perspetiva global das principais oportunidades de financiamento"



# Improving institutional capacity: the importance of learning processes in cooperation

*Networks of stakeholders from Norte Region involved in Interreg Europe projects  
(selection of 6 projects with the common topic of business R&I and open innovation through smart specialisation)\**



\* Source: CCDRN/OADRN (2018)

# Moving beyond the rhetoric: the importance of result orientation in cooperation and effective policy implementation at subnational level

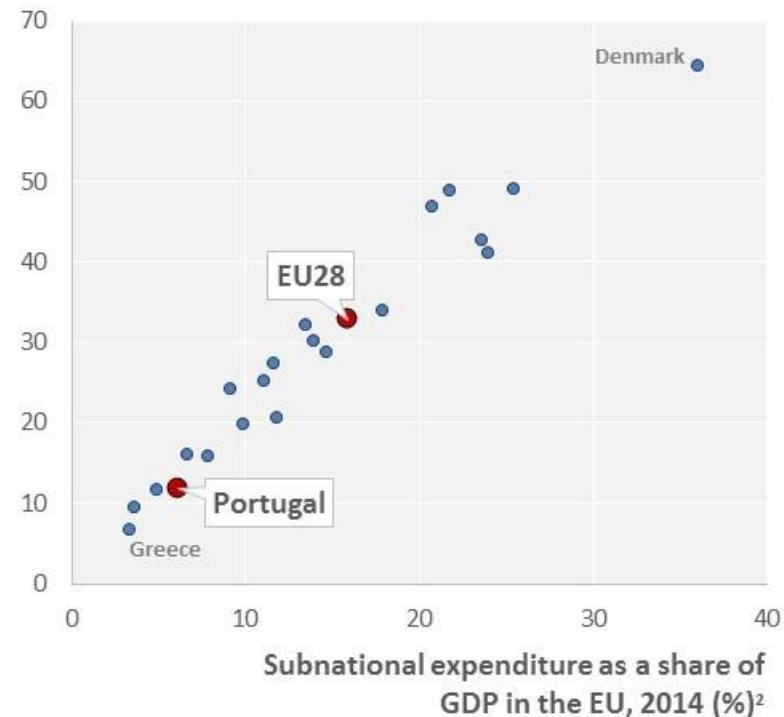
*Hundreds of action plans for policy change to be implemented (Interreg Europe), 19 of which in Norte<sup>1</sup>*

Research & Innovation		Low carbon economy
<b>6</b> Business R&I and open innovation through smart specialisation		<b>3</b> Energy efficiency in public infrastructure
<b>1</b> R&I infrastructure and capacities	<b>1</b> HR for business innovation	<b>1</b> Energy efficiency in businesses
Environment & resource efficiency		SME competitiveness
<b>4</b> Cultural heritage	<b>1</b> Waste management	<b>1</b> Entrepreneurship and innovative SMEs
		<b>1</b> SME internationalisation

<sup>1</sup> Source: CCDRN/OADR (2018)

*Governance systems and policy-changing processes vary significantly among cooperating partners*

Subnational expenditure as a share of total public expenditure in the EU, 2014 (%)<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Source: OECD (2016), OECD Regions at a Glance 2016

## Conclusions: some food for thought

- **Cohesion and interregional cooperation matter:** Reducing regional disparities remains important for post-2020 EU competitiveness. Cooperation is a key to bridge the gap between lagging and more developed regions.
- **Territory matters:** Place-based approaches are essential also for sectoral policy objectives, such as innovation. Different (cooperation) initiatives should be spatially articulated.
- **Learning matters:** Policy learning and knowledge sharing are central for cooperation activities. Local stakeholder networks across different projects and initiatives should be mapped and understood for each territory.
- **Results and institutions matter:** Concrete impacts of cooperation should be made visible... but policy and project implementation at subnational level is challenged by distinct multi-level governance systems among cooperating partners.

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