

Interreg GO!

Financing Research and
Innovation, how Interreg adds
value

28 March 2025
#Interreg

GCI 2025
NOVA GORICA - GORIZIA

Interreg  Co-funded by
the European Union



This session will highlight Interreg's support for research and innovation in the 2021-2027 period, focusing on how programmes finance and implement projects in this field. Participants will exchange experiences on different support models, funding approaches, and strategic synergies with other EU and national programmes. Discussions will explore how Interreg contributes to scaling up innovation, strengthening regional ecosystems, and ensuring long-term impact. The session will also link to the study visit at Primorski Technology Park, showcasing how programme-supported projects translate into real-world benefits.

Venue: Kulturni Dom Goriza

Project visit:

Location: Primorski Technological Park Vrtojba
(Nova Gorica)

Address: Mednarodni prehod 6, 5290 Šempeter pri
Gorici, Slovenia

Projects to be presented:

- Strategic Project 2014-2020 DIVA| Italia
Slovenia (ita-slo.eu)
- Strategic Project 2014-2020 NANO-REGION|
Italia Slovenia (ita-slo.eu)
- Standard Project 2021-2027
Capacity2Transform| Central Europe (interreg-
central.eu)

Research and innovation

The cross-border area between Friuli Venezia Giulia and Slovenia hosts several institutions that are renowned for their expertise in various scientific fields, including the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the European Institute of Oncology (IEO), and the Italian National Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - CNR). The Region also hosts the AREA Science Park, one of the leading science and technology parks in Italy, promoting the development of scientific and technological research and the transfer of its results to the market.

Interdisciplinary research collaborations between Italy and Slovenia have been fostered through joint projects and initiatives, promoting a deeper understanding of the region's complex environmental and socio-cultural dynamics.

DIVA | Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020¹

- **Main project objectives**

The purpose of the DIVA project was to create an innovation environment for Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME) to enable them to successfully perform on the global market in the fields of digital transformation and smart technologies and communities.

- **Key results and lessons learned**

During the first phase of the project, methodological frameworks were created aimed at establishing innovative development platforms to take part in technological and social innovations for the society of the future.

In the second phase, regional innovation hubs linked to interested SMEs were established. Methodological approaches for cooperation between modern and traditional companies were simultaneously developed enabling them to participate in innovation protocols to address their needs.

In the final phase of the project, 21 pilot projects were implemented in order to test cooperation between individual actors in the innovation, development and application processes.

- **Ideas for the future**

The call for pilot projects represented a significant best practice to be replicated in future projects. The call provided an opportunity for traditional companies and organisations from the cultural and creative sectors to work together, while also encouraging further activities for those still sceptical and reluctant to engage in such cooperation.

- **Description of the collaboration method**

Particular attention was paid to the development and implementation of methodologies to facilitate and encourage collaboration between creative and artistic individuals, organizations and SMEs. Integrating an artistic mindset and art-thinking approaches into innovation processes enabled the flow of innovative ideas into technological, commercial and social innovations.

- **Post-implementation arrangements**

Among the outputs of the project, the DIVA Cooperation Model is intended to serve as a basis or starting point for projects and actions that promote creative innovation and the introduction of Design and Art thinking approaches in innovation processes in the economy.

PROJECT DATA

DURATION: 1ST March 2019, 30th June 2022

BUDGET: EUR 2 996 265.87 (ERDF), EUR 3 535 018.70 (TOTAL)

LEAD PARTNER: Camera di Commercio Industria Artigianato e Agricoltura di Venezia Rovigo (Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts of Venice Rovigo)

PROJECT PARTNERS: 15

¹See project website:

<https://2014-2020.ita-slo.eu/en/diva>



NANO-REGION | Italy-Slovenia - 2014-2020²

- **Main project objectives**

The project intended to develop a network of research centres and parks on nano-technologies to promote technology transfer in the cross-border area. The network offers access to enabling technologies and contributes to creating a new culture of innovation, through a programme of targeted open events, a consultancy service, and feasibility studies, responding to the needs expressed by individual businesses and stimulating the creation of new products, markets and businesses.

- **Key results and lessons learned**

The main result of the project is the effective improvement of technology transfer from the research centres operating in the Interreg programme area to local companies, the improvement of medium and long term competitiveness, employment and the local economy.

PROJECT DATA

DURATION: 1st March 2023, ongoing

BUDGET: EUR 1 917 905.60 (ERDF), EUR 2 397 382.00 (total)

LEAD PARTNER: Primorska Technology Park (Slovenia)

PROJECT PARTNERS: 11

²See project website:

<https://2014-2020.ita-slo.eu/en/nano-region>



Capacity2Transform | Central Europe - 2021-2027³

- **Main project objectives**

The Capacity2Transform project aims to promote innovative business support schemes to help companies adapt and bring more sustainable products and solutions to the market. The Project connects businesses, training institutions, research organisations and policy makers into a supportive digital, green and creative innovation ecosystem and supports the efforts of CCIs to join the international digital and green transition value chains.

- **Key results and lessons learned**

During the first year of implementation, key achievements include:

- Development of a comprehensive methodology for identifying local resources, enabling the creation

of a stakeholder database to engage in the Capacity2Transform (C2T) process

- Creation of a methodology for selecting and developing transnational support tools and upskilling training modules

- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding by 28 participating organizations (project partners and associated partners) to establish long-term support schemes formalized

- Development of specialized tools for the Digital, Green and Creative (DGC) transition, including KnowledgeFactory for skill development and MediaFactory for raising awareness.

PROJECT DATA

DURATION: 1st February 2019 to 31st July 2022

BUDGET: EUR 2 999 924.97 (ERDF), EUR 3 529 323.50 (total)

LEAD PARTNER: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – Istituto Officina dei Materiali CNR-IOM (National Research Council, Italy)

PROJECT PARTNERS: 10

³See project website:

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/capacity2transform/?tab=home>

