

**Interreg  
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund



*Sharing solutions  
for better regional policies*

# Interreg Europe

**Verena Priem**

Policy Officer | Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat

[v.priem@interregeurope.eu](mailto:v.priem@interregeurope.eu)

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# Summary

- **Key programme features**
- **Results of previous calls**



# KEY PROGRAMME FEATURES



# Interreg Europe rationale

**Objective set in the ETC Regulation - Article 2(3)(a) for interregional cooperation:**

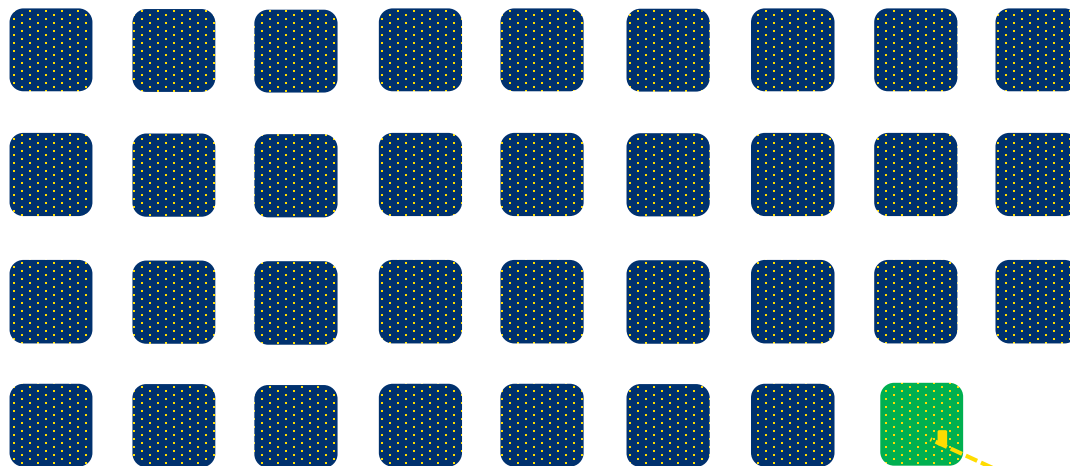
- “to reinforce the effectiveness of **cohesion policy**”
- “identification and dissemination of good practices with a view to their transfer principally to operational programmes under the **Investment for growth and jobs** goal but also, where relevant, to cooperation programmes”



# Interreg Europe rationale

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



# Improving policy

## What is a policy instrument?

- Means of public intervention (policy, strategy or law) developed by public authorities
- Example: Structural Funds Operational Programmes

## How to improve a policy instrument?

1. Implement **new projects**
  2. Change programme **governance**
  3. Change programme **content**
- } May not require funding!



# 1/ Implement new projects



## Practice:

Research & development Card: advisory & financial support to SMEs for the development of innovative products

**From: Västra Götaland (SE)      To: Lower Silesia (PL)**



5.4 million zł (MEUR 1.35) financed from the ESF Operational Programme of Lower Silesia

## 2/ Change programme governance



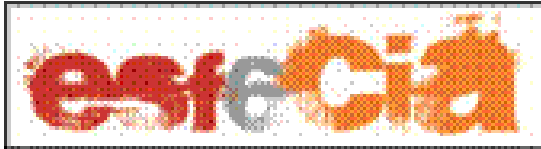
Modification of the monitoring system for the evaluation of the innovation measures in the regional operational programmes of:

- Bretagne (FR)
- PACA (FR)
- Puglia (IT)
- Wielkopolska (PL)





# 3/ Change programme content



## Partner

Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

## Improved policy

Bulgarian ESF development programme

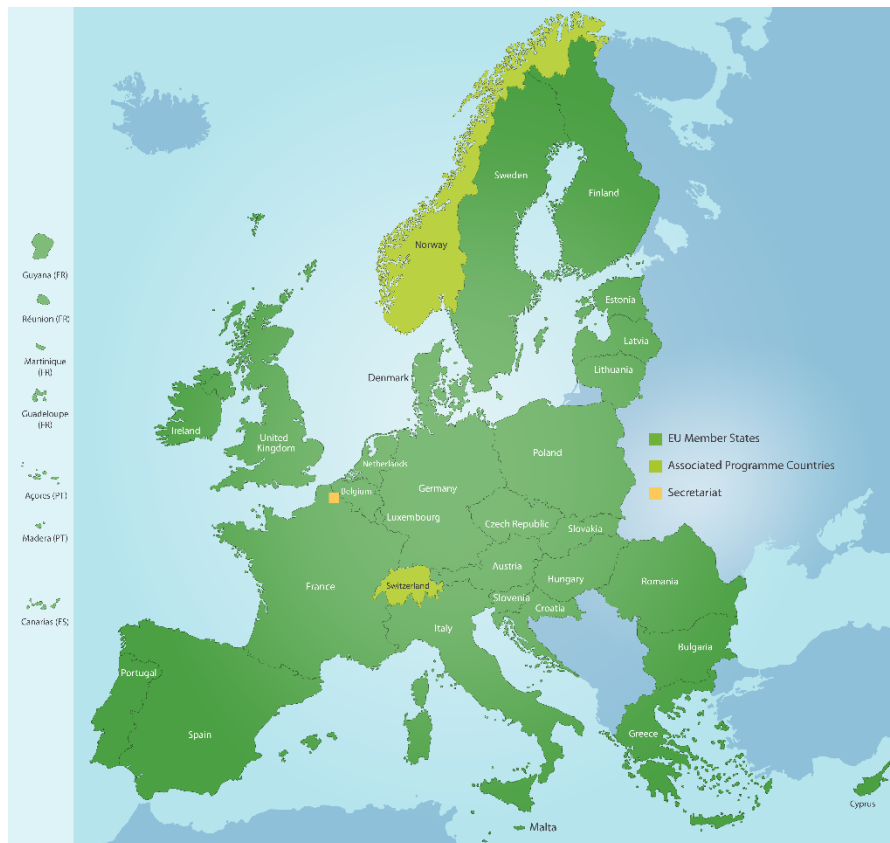
ESF 'Development' programme tackling unemployment after mass redundancies in enterprises. Thanks to the project, the programme was modified to include preferential treatment to people age 50+.



# Geographical & thematic focus

The only Interreg covering  
EU 28 + NO & CH

A thematic programme





# Target groups

**Managing  
authorities**

**Regional / local  
authorities**

**Agencies, institutes,  
private non-profits**



Learn from each other  
to improve policies

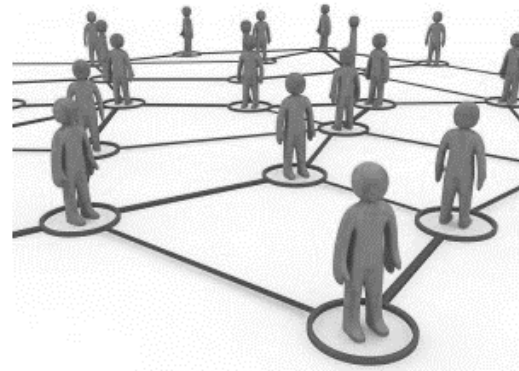


# Supported actions

## A/ Policy learning platforms



## B/ Projects





# **A/ PLATFORMS**



# Platforms: objectives



Research and  
innovation



SME  
competitiveness



Environment and  
resource efficiency



Low-carbon  
economy

facilitate continuous **policy learning** across EU by creating a community of **policy makers & practitioners** to improve regional policies

- Better exploit projects' results
- Open up the programme results to anyone interested

Internal  
capitalisation

External  
capitalisation



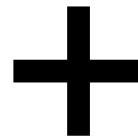
# Platforms: definition



A service-portfolio provided  
**per priority axis via:**

**Online collaborative tool**

With relevant functionalities



**Expert team**

Content and coordination role

## Services accessible to all public

### Knowledge bank



- Good practices Database
- Policy recommendations,
- EU policy news
- Thematic studies

### Networking opportunities



- Practitioners Database
- Matchmaking events
- Discussion forums
- Partnering events

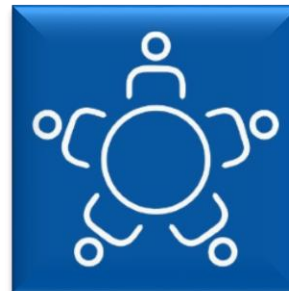
## Services accessible to registered members

### Expert helpdesk



- Policy advice
- Guidance in the databases
- Analysis data
- Updated information

### Expert support



- Peer reviews
- Benchmarking exercises
- Thematic workshops
- Capacity building events





# Platform: how to get involved?

- Sign up to the Interreg Europe Community  
[www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning](http://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning)
- Follow the upcoming events in 2017
  - Networking events combined for Innovation and SMEs // Low-carbon economy and Environment
  - Policy Learning events per thematic objective
  - Thematic Workshops





# B/ PROJECTS



# Projects: main features

## Definition

Partners from different countries working together on a shared regional policy issue (within the thematic scope of the programme).....

## Objective

....to improve the effectiveness of the policy instruments of the regions involved in the project (in particular their Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes)



# Projects: main features

## Implementation in 2 phases

### Phase 1



Policy exchange of experience (1 to 3 years) ending with production of one **action plan** per region

### Phase 2

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

Focus on Structural Funds: **At least half of policy instruments addressed must be Structural Funds**

# Projects: partnership requirements



- Min: 3 countries to be represented  
Recommendation: **between 5 to 10 partners**
- **Involvement of policy responsible organisations**
  - Directly as partners
  - Indirectly through **letter of support** through stakeholder group
- **Creation of stakeholder groups**
  - Contribute to success of learning process by involving all relevant organisations
  - Reduce obstacles to action plan implementation



# Projects: who is eligible?

- Public bodies (main target group)  
(e.g. local, regional, national authorities)
- Bodies governed by public law (Directive 2004/18/EC)
- 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: what do we finance and how?



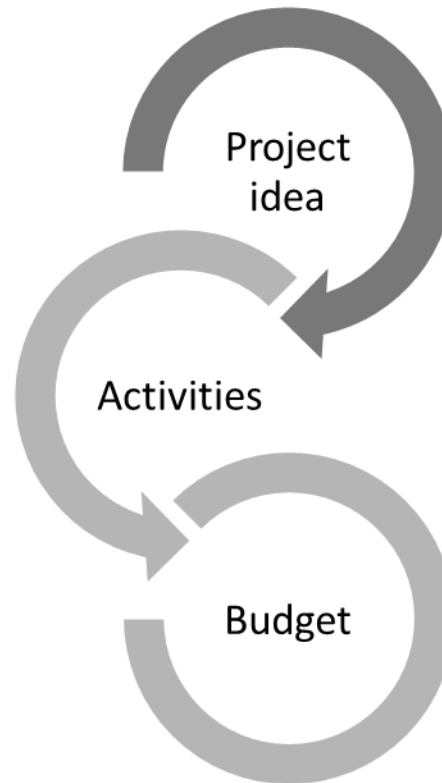
- Exchange of experience activities among project partners like study visits, peer reviews, staff exchanges
- through five budget lines

Budget line	
Staff	the core of the budget (usually 50%)
Administration	15% flat rate of staff costs
Travel and accommodation	only for the staff members of the partner organisation
External expertise and services	any services needed outside the partner organisation +travel and accommodation for stakeholder groups/external experts (usually below 50%)
Equipment	office equipment (not exceeding EUR 5000-7000)



# Projects: what do we finance?

**Estimate the budget based on your activities!**



Average ERDF budget per project is between 1 - 2M€





# Projects: simplifications

## Online (OLF) system

- Application, report, request for changes

## More budget flexibility

- 20% flexibility rules within approved budget
- No financial reporting per component

## Fewer control steps

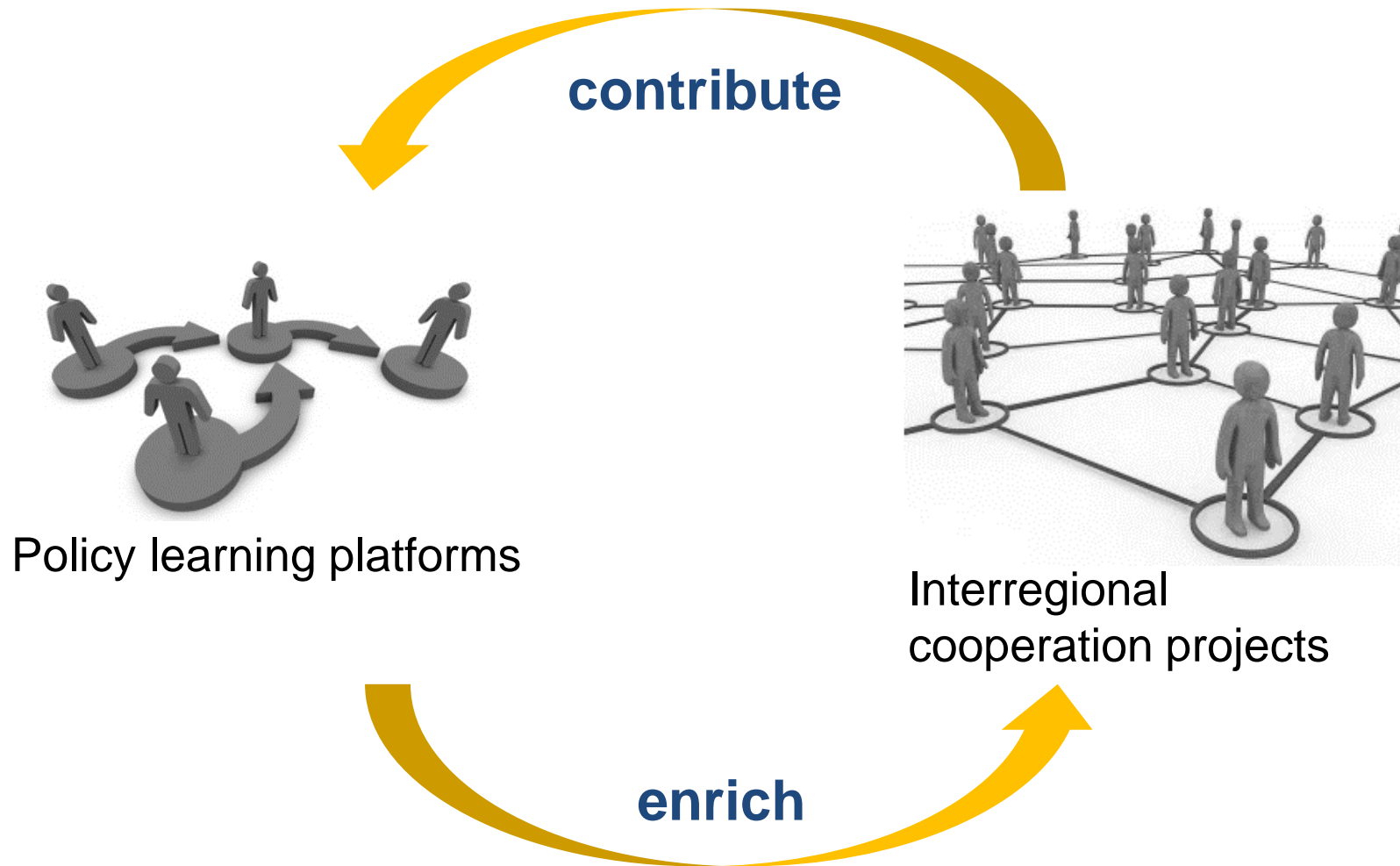
- No reconfirmation of partnership cost on lead partner level

## Simpler administration

- Lump sum preparation costs (EUR 15,000)
- Flat rate administration costs (15% of staff costs)



# Two interrelated actions





# CALL 1 & 2 RESULTS

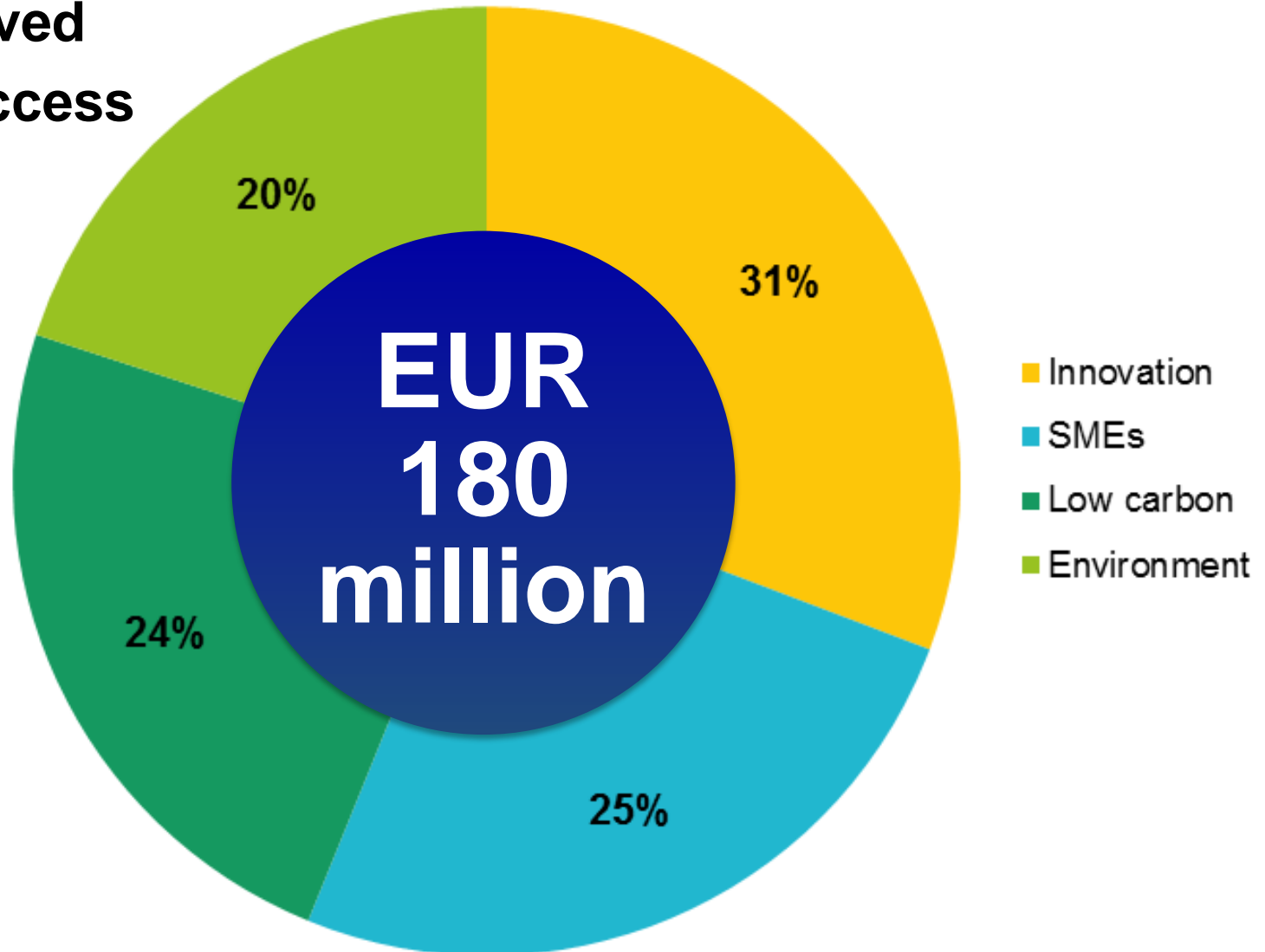


# Call results

**472 submitted**

**130 approved**

**27.5 % success**



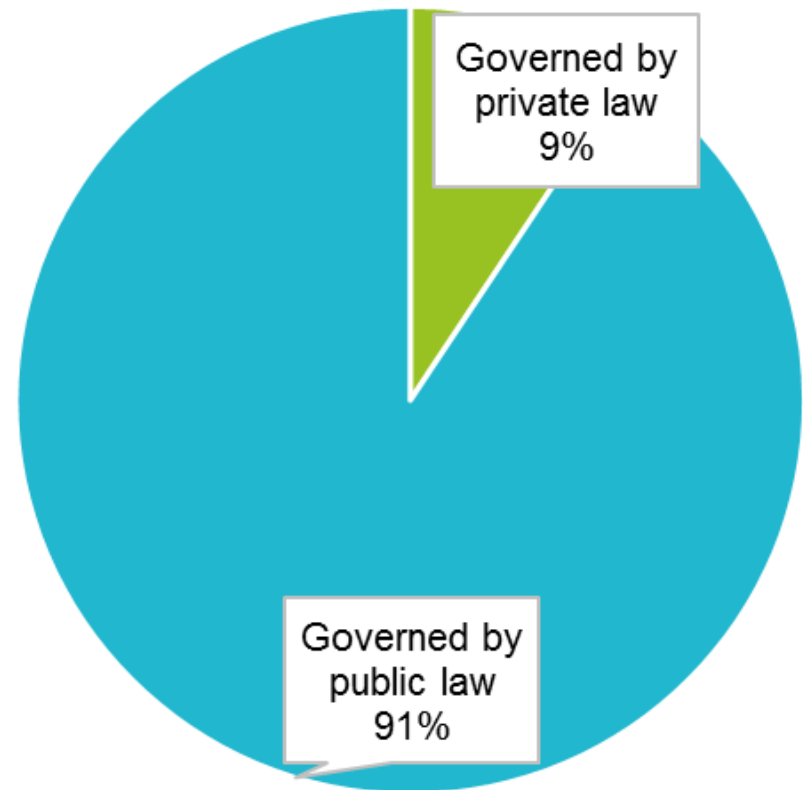


# Call results

## Geographic coverage



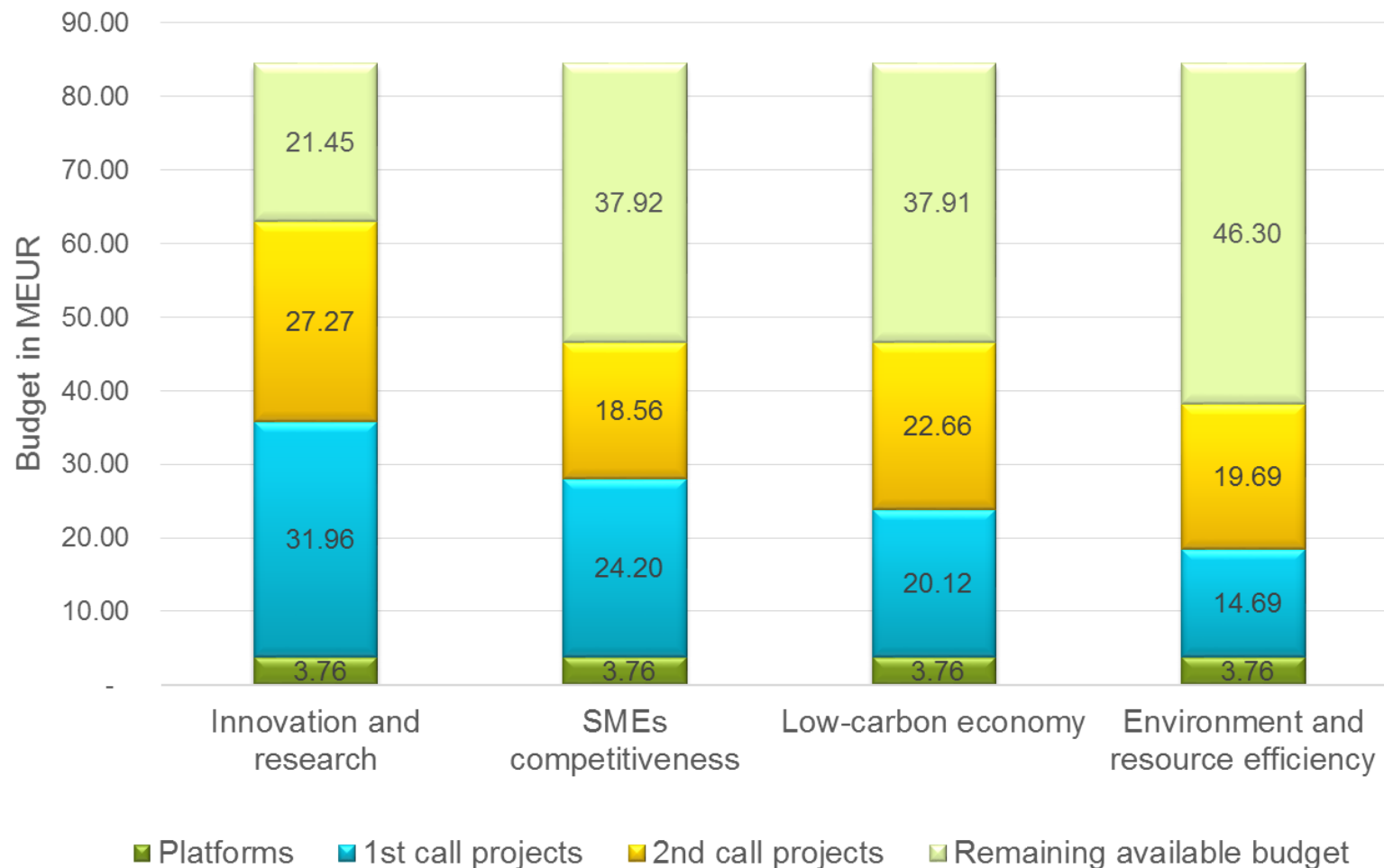
## Partners by legal status



# Call results



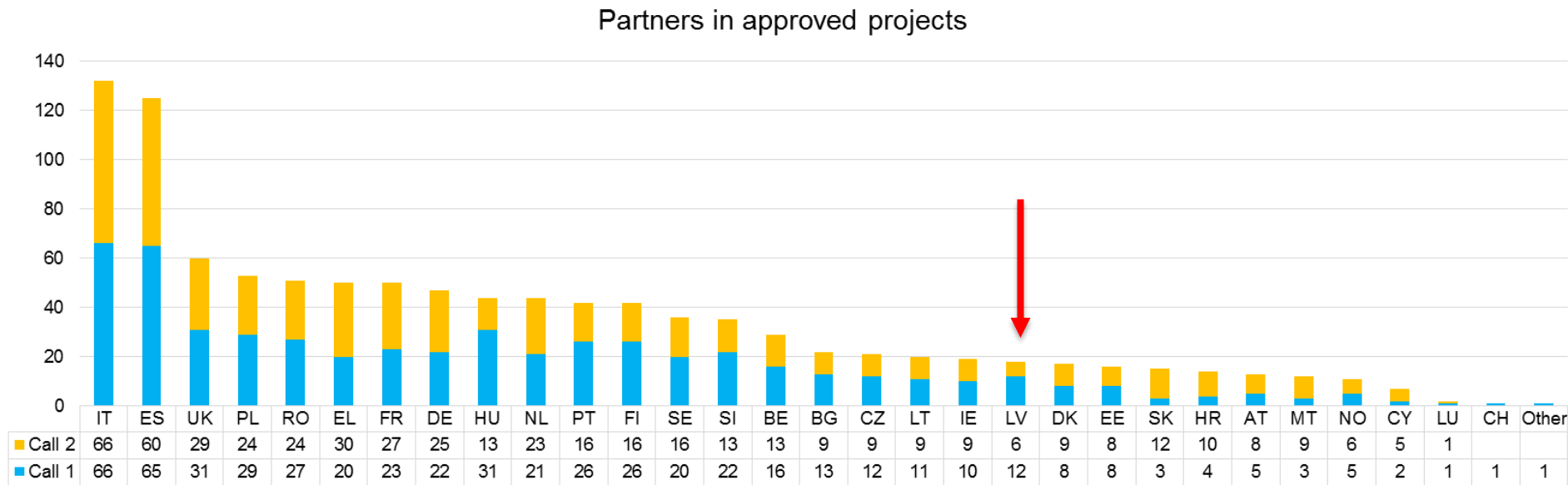
## Budget allocation so far





# Partners in approved projects

N° of partners per country



All partner states represented in approved projects.

# Examples of 'topics' in the two calls



## **Innovation and research**

- RIS3 - sector/ governance (e.g. P2L2, HIGHER)
- Social innovation (e.g. OSIRIS)



## **SME competitiveness**

- Microfinancing (e.g. ATMforSMEs)
- Internationalisation (e.g. SIE)
- Social enterprises (e.g. SOCIAL-SEEDS)



# Example of 'topics' in the two calls



## **Low-carbon economy**

- Energy efficiency in social housing (e.g. Social Green)
- Near zero CO2 emission buildings (e.g. ZERO CO2)



## **Environment and resource efficiency**

- Biodiversity information management (e.g. BID-REX)
- Circular economy (e.g. RETRACE)
- Waste management in heritage cities (e.g. INTHERWASTE)



# For more information

## Programme website

- [www.interregeurope.eu](http://www.interregeurope.eu)

## Programme manual

- [www.interregeurope.eu/help/programme-manual/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/help/programme-manual/)

## Interreg Europe community

- [www.interregeurope.eu/account/dashboard/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/account/dashboard/)

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# Thank you!

Questions welcome



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