

# Take the shortcut to smart policy solutions

## The Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

**What does the platform offer for you?**  
**A focus on peer reviews**

Elena Ferrario – thematic manager of the Policy Learning Platform



**Interreg  
Europe**

European Union | European Regional Development Fund



# Why a platform for interregional policy learning?



**Strategic objective =**  
Capitalisation of project achievements

**In simple words...**

How to get more out of the invested funds for regions in Europe

## How?

- by bringing projects together
- by getting newcomers on board (i.e. managing authorities and regions not involved in the Interreg Europe projects)
- by offering ad-hoc support for interregional learning (i.e. without requiring project participation)

# What is the Platform about?

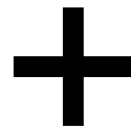


## 4 services for interregional learning



delivered through

Online portal



Team of experts





# Meet the thematic experts



Research and Innovation



SME competitiveness



Low-carbon economy



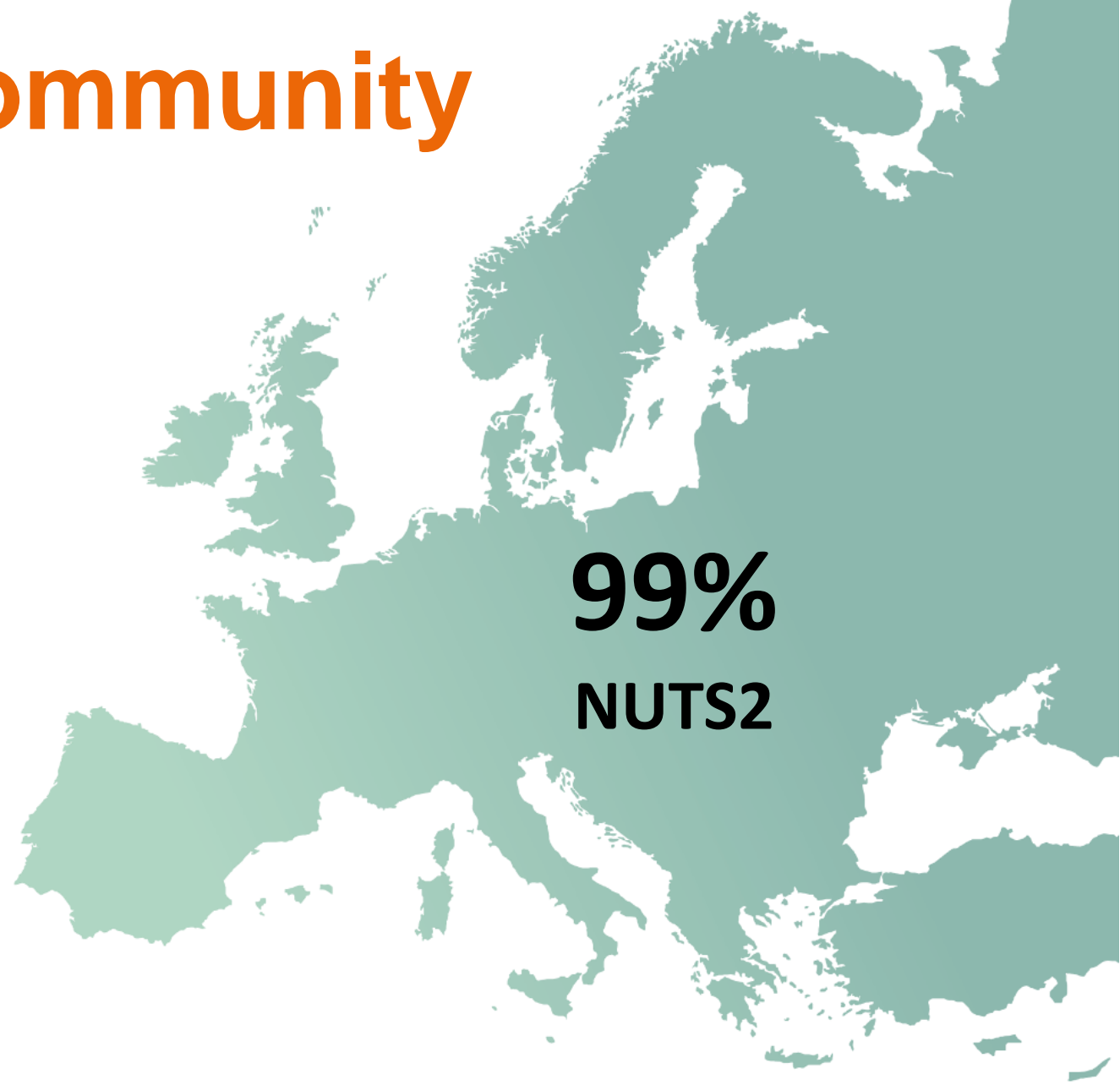
Environment and resource efficiency

# A truly European community



**16,000+**  
Members

**99%**  
NUTS2

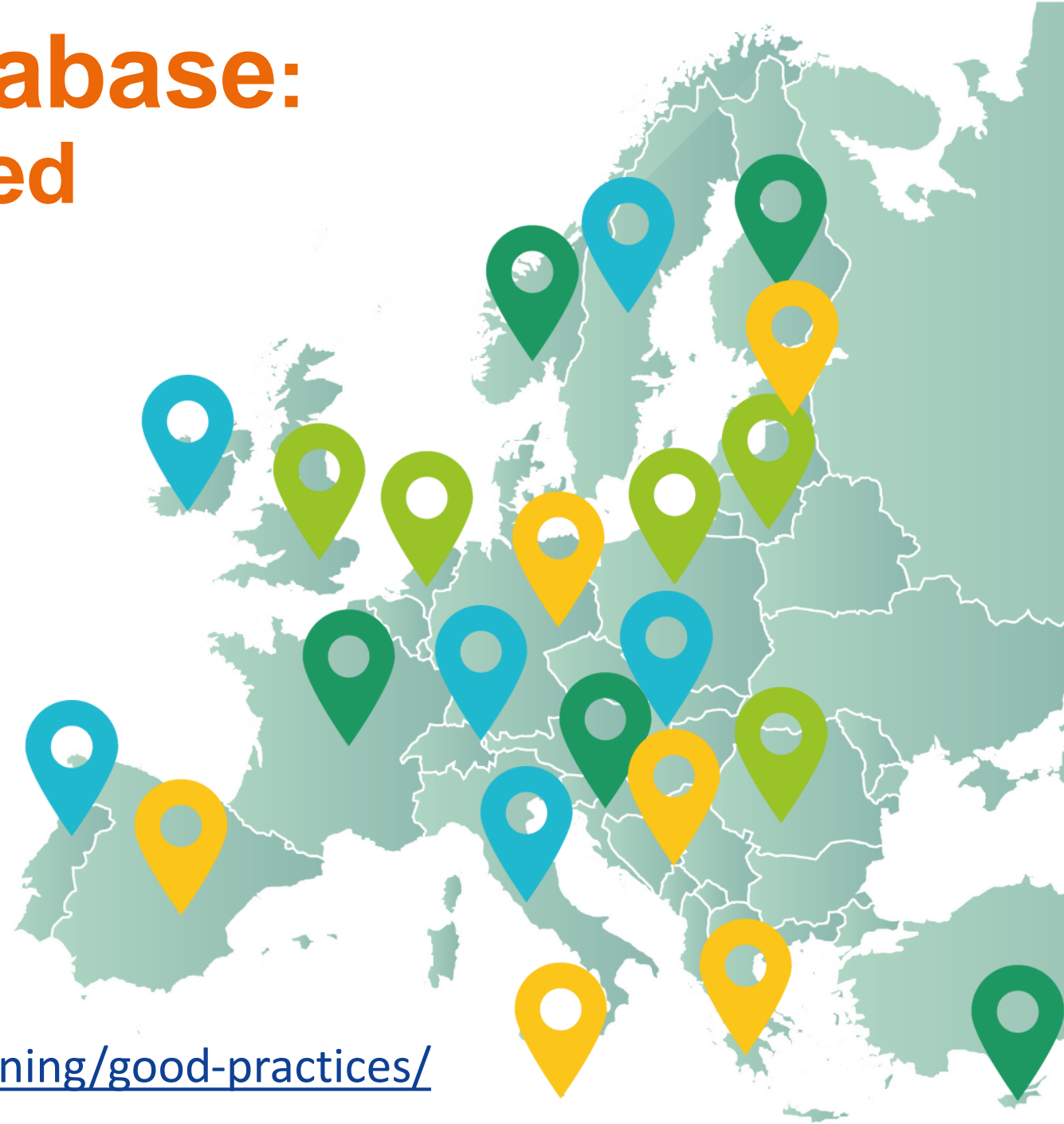


# Good practice database: inspire and get inspired



**~ 700**

**Good practices**



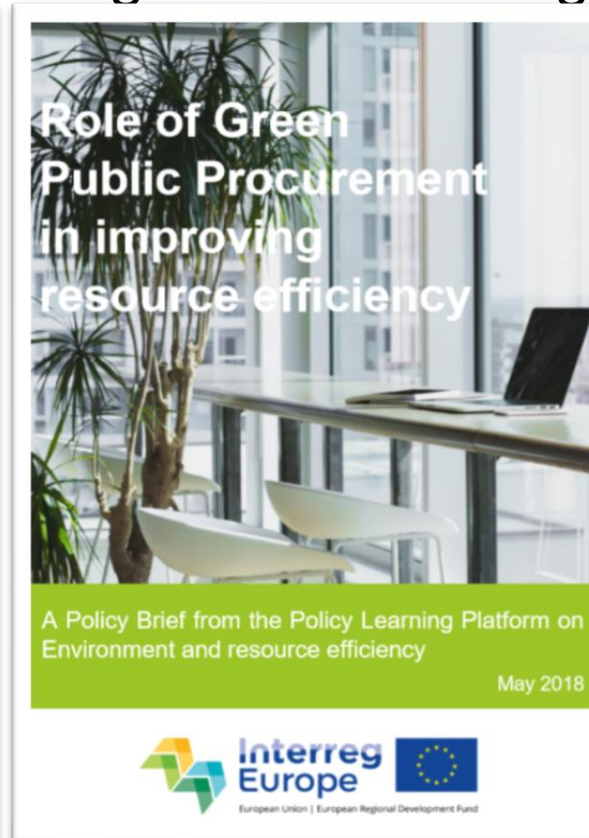
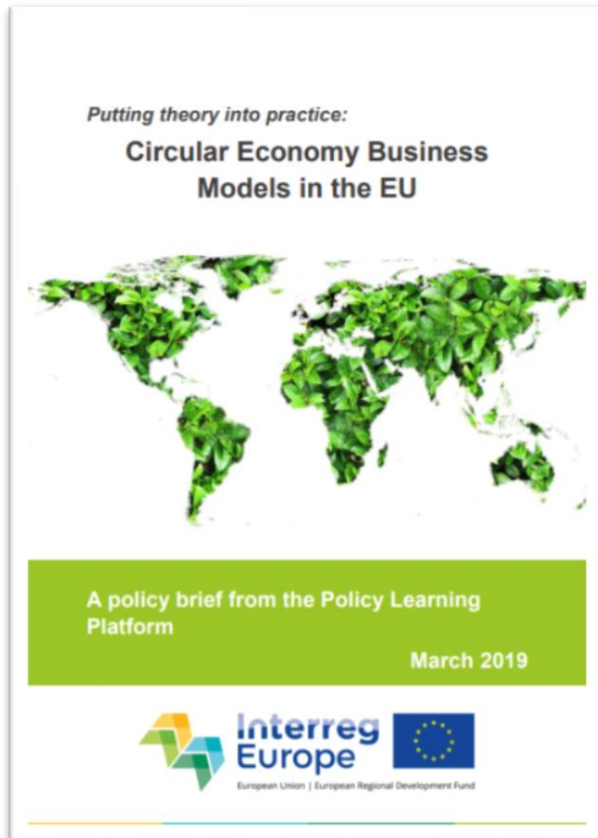
<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/>

# Read, learn, benefit



## 35 policy briefs

- The most recent expert analyses and insights into Interreg Europe projects



# Get the support you need



## Individual support serving your needs

- **Policy helpdesk**  
ask the experts and receive policy advice online
- **Targeted matchmakings** (1.5 hour, during events)  
get together with relevant partner regions to share your challenges and good practices
- **Peer reviews** (2 days onsite visit)  
team up with other European regions to get their feedback and recommendations



# Peer review



## Interregional learning on demand

### Target groups:

- Managing authorities
- Local and regional policymakers

### Approach:

- Face-to-face exchanges with experts (peers) from other regions on concrete policy challenges

*Improving the efficiency of ESIF funding for energy efficiency measures*

*Looking for innovative ways to support the internationalisation of SMEs*

*Investing in digital mobility solutions for rural areas*

### Support:

- Active support by the thematic experts of the Policy Learning Platform

*Identification of suitable peers*

*Guidance and coordination/ moderation support*

# Why?

## Teaming up for better policymaking

- Interreg Europe community and expert networks as sources of expertise
- Feedback and hands-on advice from competent colleagues and thematic experts with an unbiased view from “outside”
- Inspiration and new ideas for the policy ideas faced at your doorstep
- Joint development of a “to do-list” for follow-up action on the ground



# Who benefits?



- ✓ Is your organisation responsible for the **implementation of local or regional development policies**, in particular the management of structural funds?
- ✓ Would you like to team up with other European regions to **receive advice on how to best implement your policy or programme**?

**Express your interest for a peer review!**



# **Open call for peer reviews**

deadline 28 June 2019

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/peer-review/>



# Apply for a peer-review



## Pre-conditions:

- Policy responsibility of the host (local/regional authority, managing authority)
- Readiness to lead and coordinate the process
- Registered member of the Interreg Europe community: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/account/registration/>

## Selection criteria:

- the policy area addressed (thematic relevance for the programme: **resource efficiency, waste management, circular economy, eco-innovation**... and all “Thematic Objective 6” topics)
- the strong motivation of the candidate for a peer review
- the involvement of relevant local and regional stakeholders (if relevant for the addressed policy area)
- the potential for policy impact and follow-up action
- the clarity, completeness and overall quality of the proposal

Assessment and selection on rolling basis – timely online submission recommended

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/peer-review/>

# Step by step



## An indicative agenda for the process

### **First briefing by the thematic expert and finalisation of the host region's demand:**

- Info about the selection – appointment of an overall coordinator at the host region – first briefing by the thematic expert (phone/ online) – preparation of a thematic background paper by the host region

### **Peer selection and preparatory works for the onsite peer review:**

- Identification of potential peers by the thematic expert – notification of the selected peers – joint online meeting between the host, the selected peers and the thematic expert – preparation of input for the visit

### **Onsite peer review – two full working days:**





- Pre-meeting of peers – joint plenary – meetings/ interviews with stakeholders (optional) – preparation of draft recommendations – joint peer review session – final conclusions and preparation of “to do-list” for follow-up action

### **Follow-up process:**

- Concise peer review report (including the developed “to do-list”)
- Short evaluation survey

# Call 1- approved peer reviews



TO	Submitting organisation	Addressed policy challenge	Timing
 Research and innovation	Executive Agency Science and Education for Smart Growth Operational Programme, Ministry of Education and Science (BG)	ERDF support for the establishment and development of Centers of Competence and Centers of Excellence	18-19 June 2019
	Region of Gävleborg (SE)	Innovation and stakeholder governance	29-30 Jan 2019
 SME competitiveness	Berlin Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises (DE)	Start-up support measures supported by the regional operational programme	4-5 July 2019
	Government Agency Catalonia Trade & Investment/ Generalitat de Catalunya (ES)	SME internationalisation support	25-26 June 2019
 Low carbon economy	Ministry of the German-speaking community of Belgium (BE)	Governance and implementation of an inter-municipal SECAP	8-9 May 2019
 Environment and resource efficiency	Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (FR)	Corporate Social Responsibility/ circular economy	June 2019
	Nature Park Our/ National Nature Conservation Agency (LU)	Governance and implementation of Natura 2000 management plan	Sept 2019

# What did the host say?

## German speaking community, Belgium



Expert support

*We would like to thank all participants of the peer review and in particular the four peers for their valuable input. **The peer review was perfect with regard to the timing and the many interesting approaches that have been shared. In our speeches, we often talk about the added value of European cooperation. With the peer review, we could implement that concretely in our region.** A big thank you also to Interreg Europe for offering this policy learning tool.*

*Daniel Hilligsmann, Advisor to the Minister President of the German speaking Community, Belgium*

*“This has been a very good, **very practical exchange and I had the feeling that I can make a real contribution with my experience.** Now that we have met in person, we can better collaborate in the future.”*

*Nathalie Garré from the West-Vlaamse Intercommunale*







[www.interregeurope.org/policylearning](http://www.interregeurope.org/policylearning)

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