

#Interreg

Interreg GO! Youth Event

26 March 2025, Gorizia

Interreg GO!

27>28 March 2025

Gorizia / Nova Gorica



Interreg
Italia-Slovenija



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Opening remarks

- prof. **Diego Abenante**, University of Trieste
- **Barbara Zilli**, Regional Finance Councillor, Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia
- **Slawomir Tokarski**, DG REGIO, European Commission
- **Laura Comelli**, Head of Managing Authority, Interreg Italy-Slovenia Programme
- prof. **Giorgio Alberti** and prof. **Francesco Pitassio**, University of Udine; prof. **Penka Stateva**, University of Nova Gorica



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Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy – DG REGIO

Cohesion Policy

aims at strengthening the economic and social cohesion and reducing disparities between the level of development of the various regions in EU, supporting

- job creation
- business competitiveness
- economic growth
- sustainable development
- improvements to citizens' quality of life.

Funds:

ERDF European Regional Development Fund

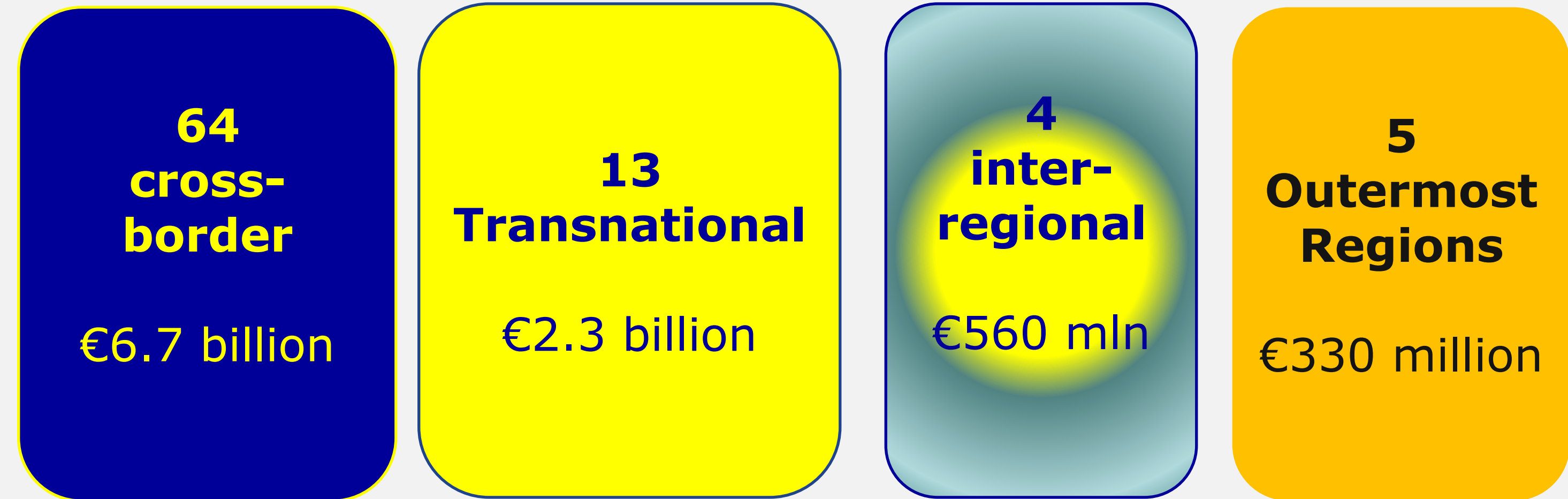
ESF+ European Social Fund+

Cohesion Fund

JTF Just Transition Fund



- One of the two goals of EU cohesion policy since 1990
- A cooperation framework between national, regional and local actors from different Member States and neighbouring countries;
- Promoting a harmonious economic, social and territorial development of the Union as a whole;
- Supporting the twin transition (Green and Digital) via joint actions and investments;
- 86 programmes, EUR 10 billion (2021-27), 4 strands of cooperation:



The 5 cohesion policy objectives

A smarter Europe
A greener Europe
A more connected Europe
A more social EU
EU closer to citizens

+

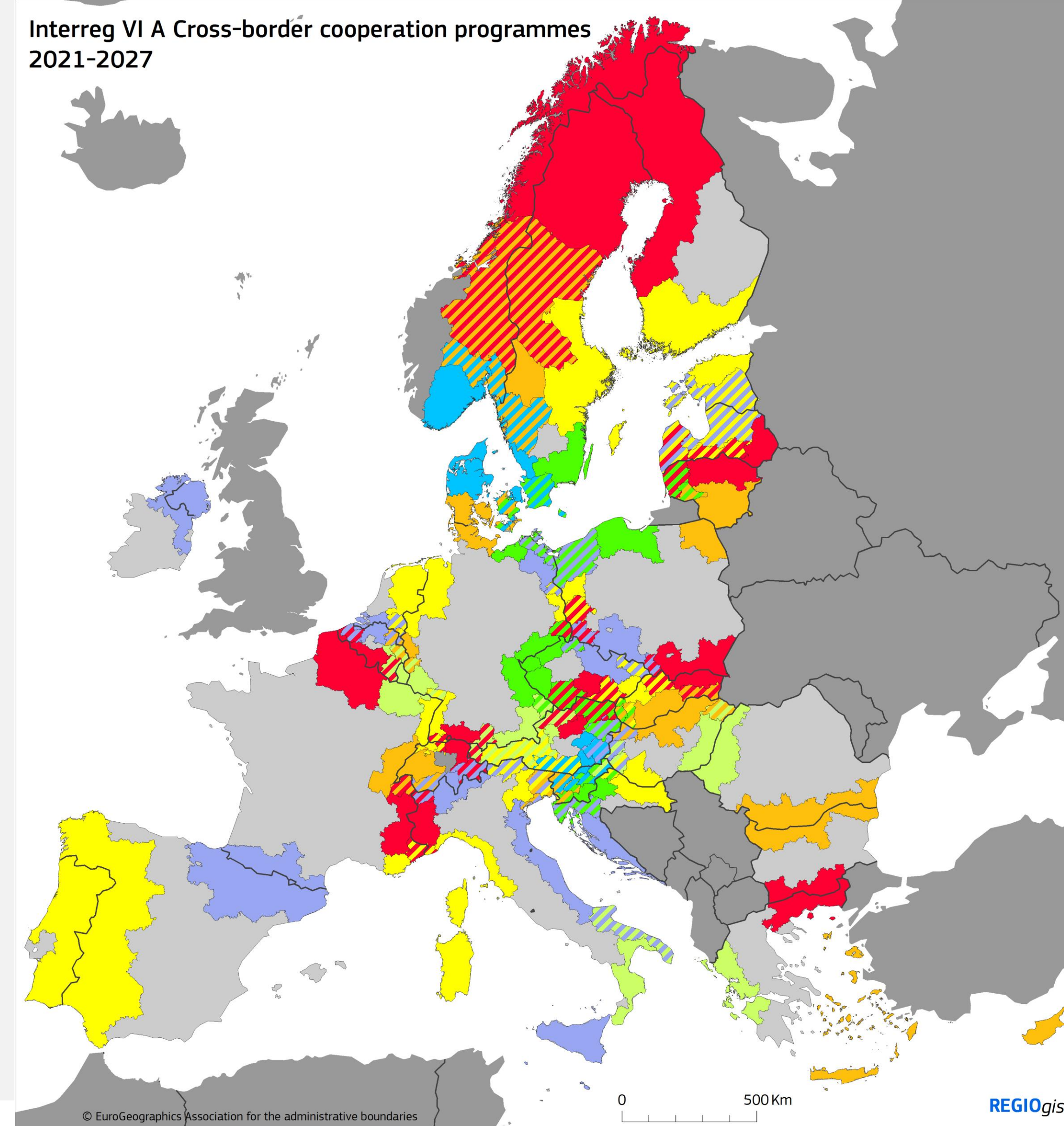
2 Interreg-specific objectives

Cooperation Governance
Safer Europe



Cross-border cooperation programmes in the EU

Interreg VI A Cross-border cooperation programmes
2021-2027



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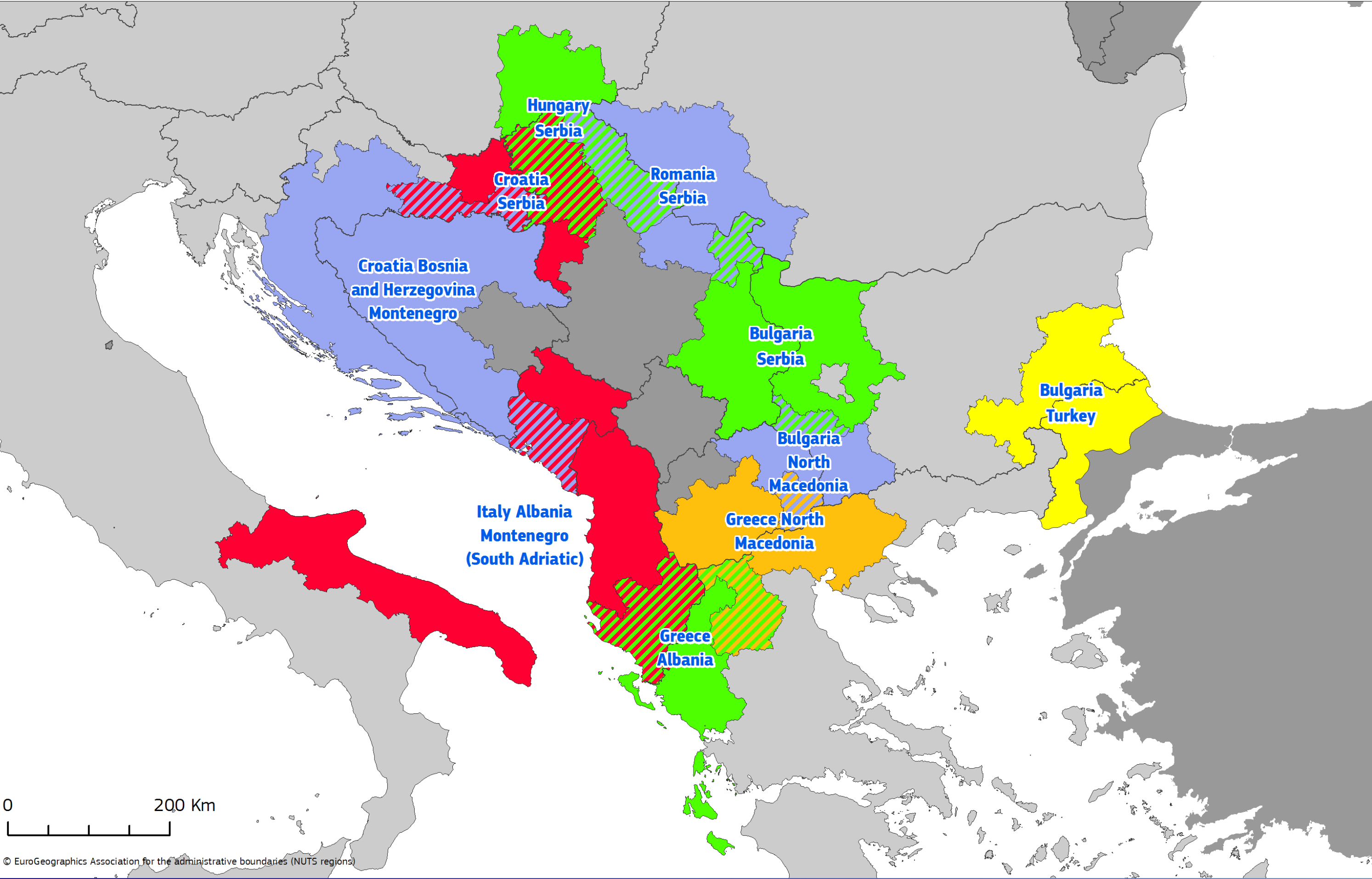
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Interreg VI A IPA CBC programmes 2021-2027



Interreg Programmes in the Balkans



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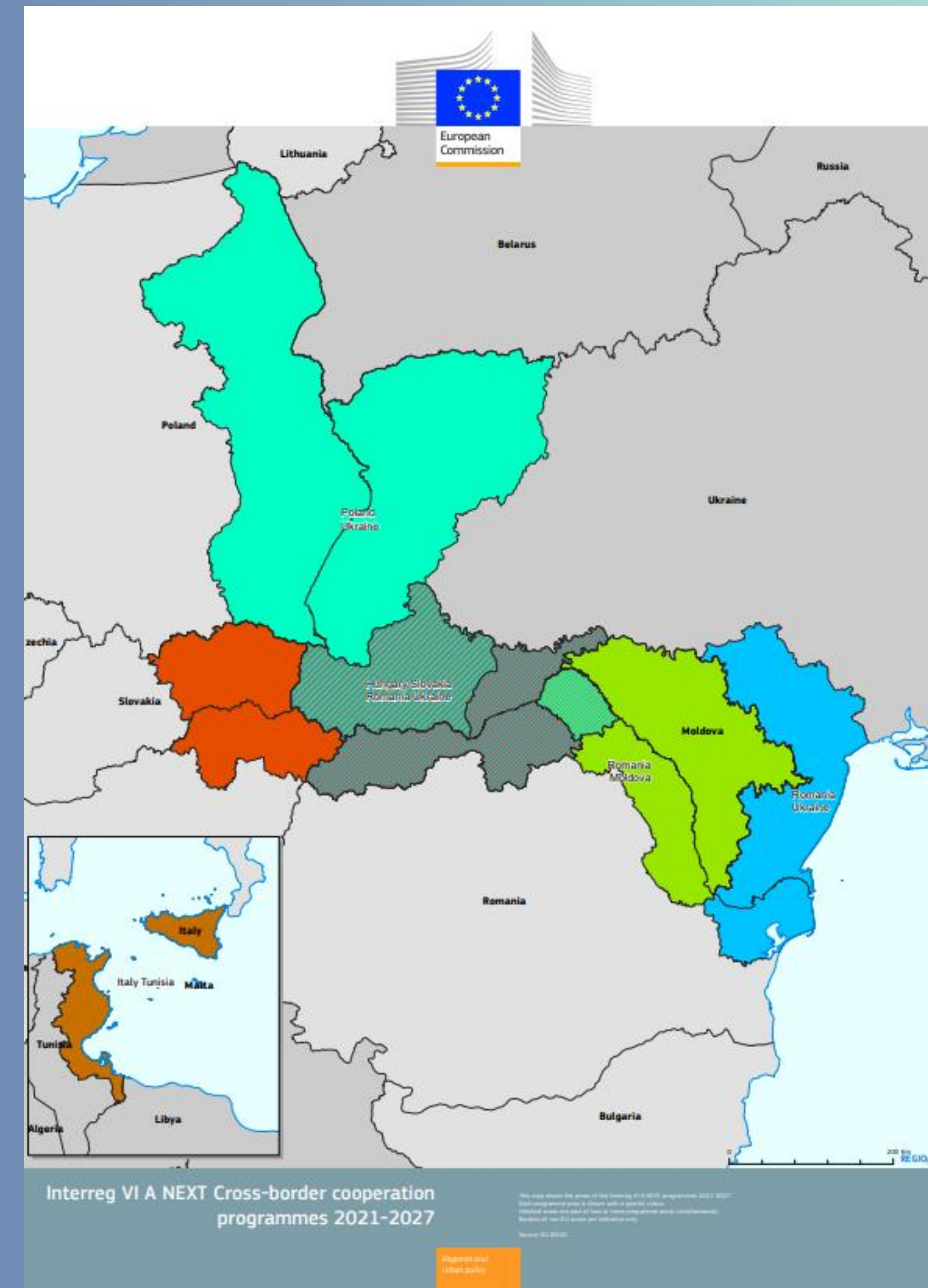
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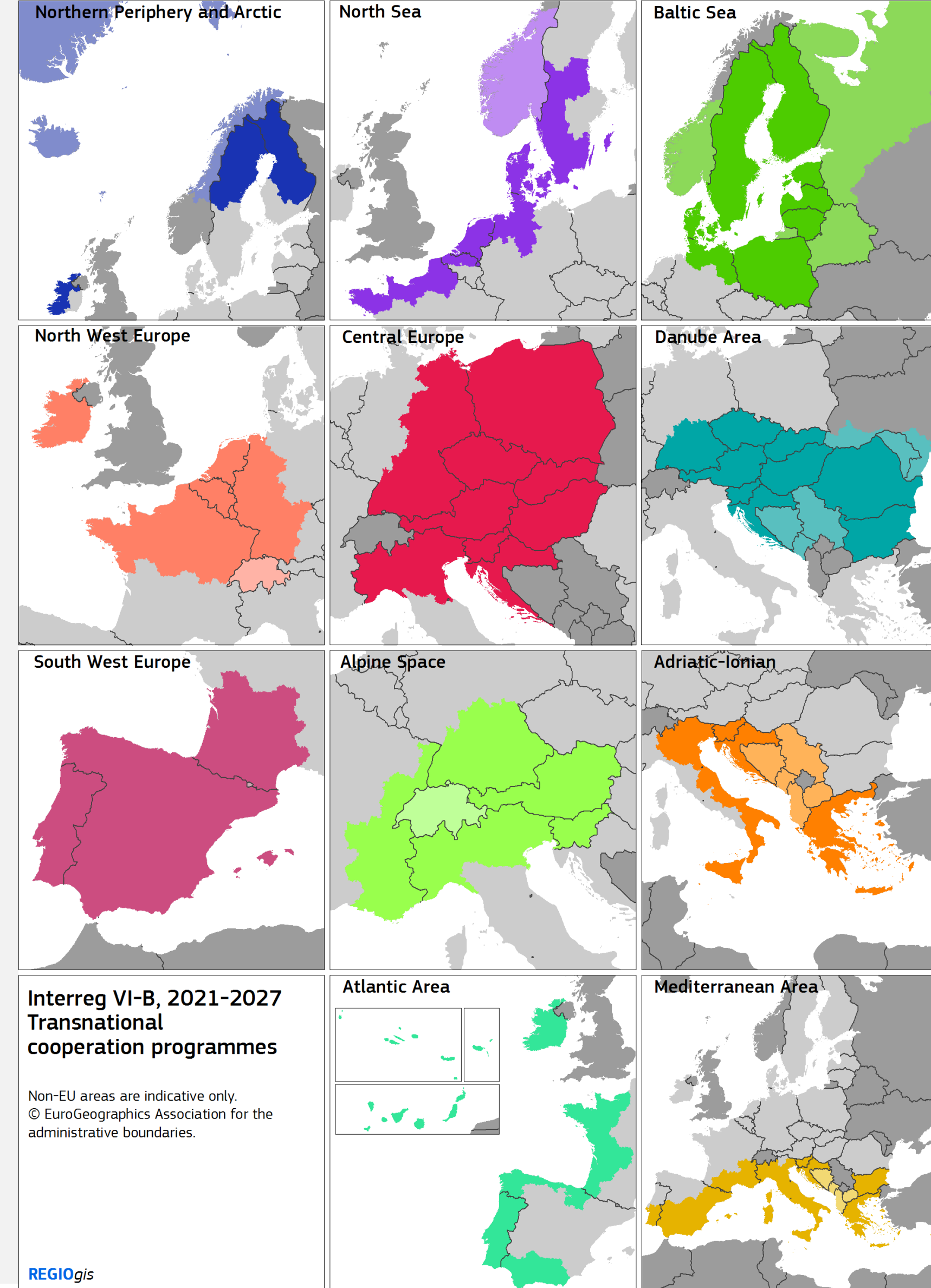
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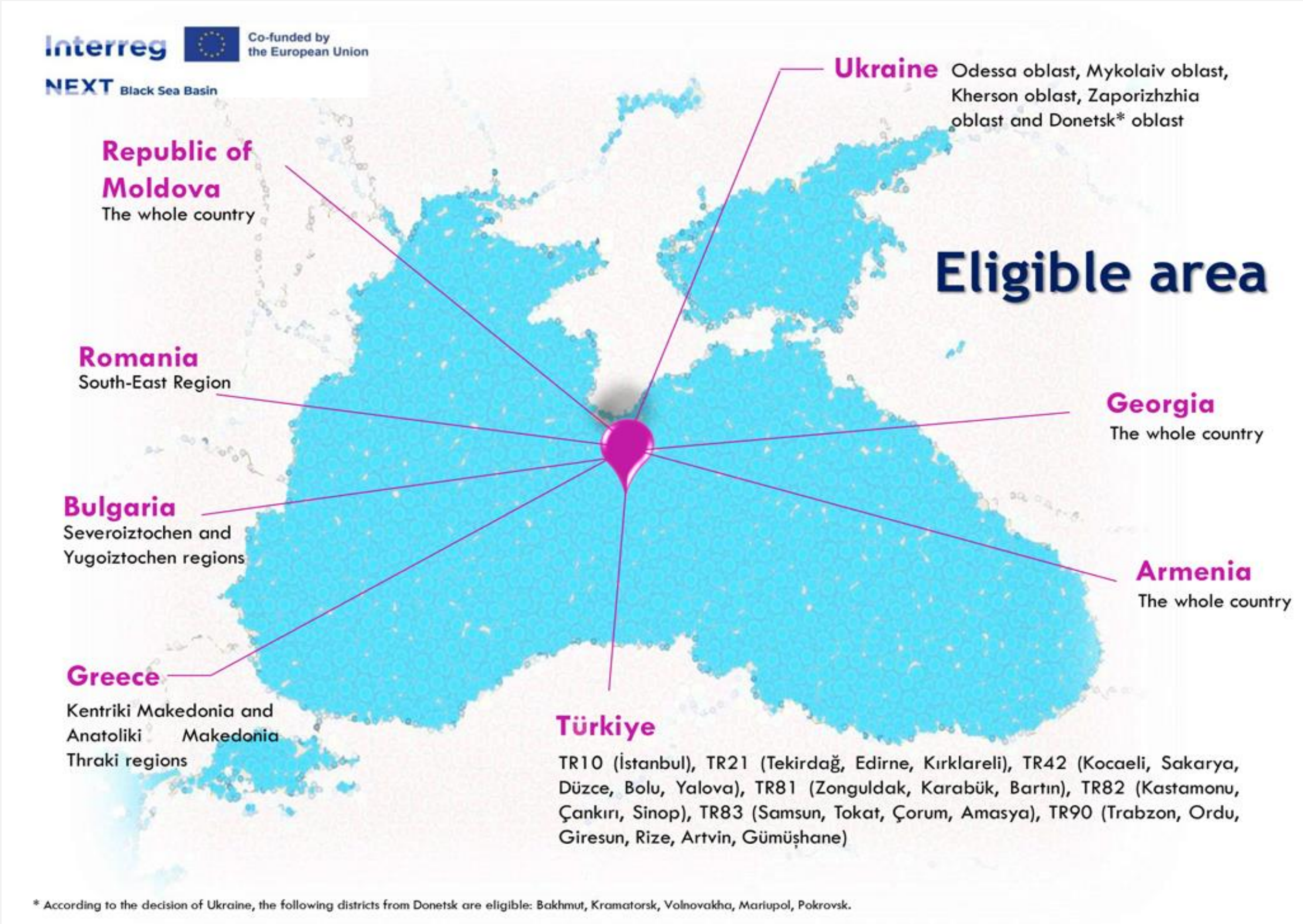
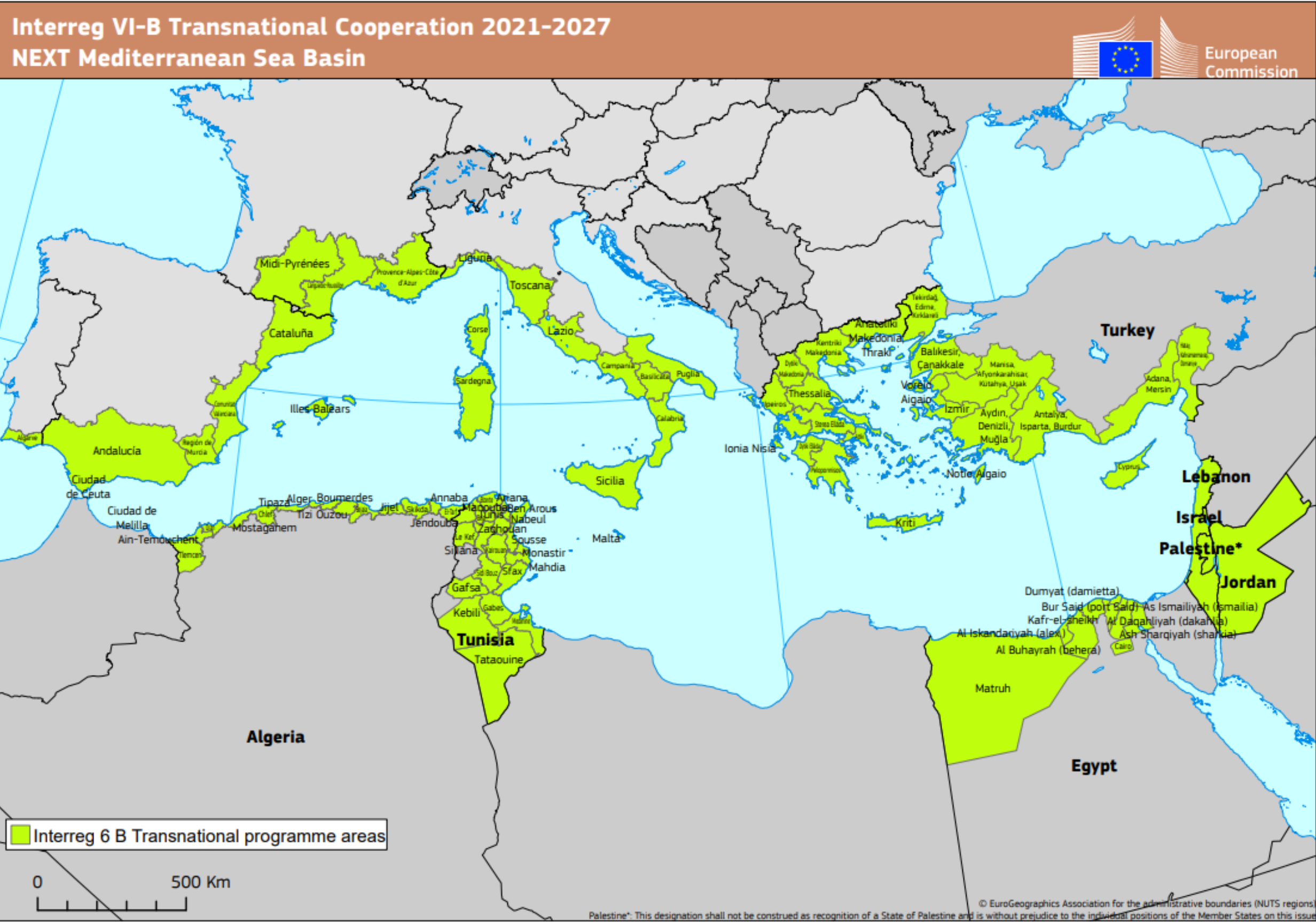
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Interreg programmes with Ukraine Republic of Moldova Tunisia



13 Interreg Transnational cooperation programmes





**Following Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine and its illegal attempt at annexing the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and at occupying parts of Ukrainian territory, only territories under the legitimate control of the sovereign Government of Ukraine are eligible under the programmes. Temporarily occupied territories will not be eligible as long as they remain under Russia's military control*

4 INTERREGIONAL PROGRAMMES



Improves Interreg programmes
implementation, making cooperation easier



Inspires policy-making by territorial evidence



Exchange and learning programme promoting
sustainable urban development



Capacity building programme to improve
regional development policies including
IJG programmes



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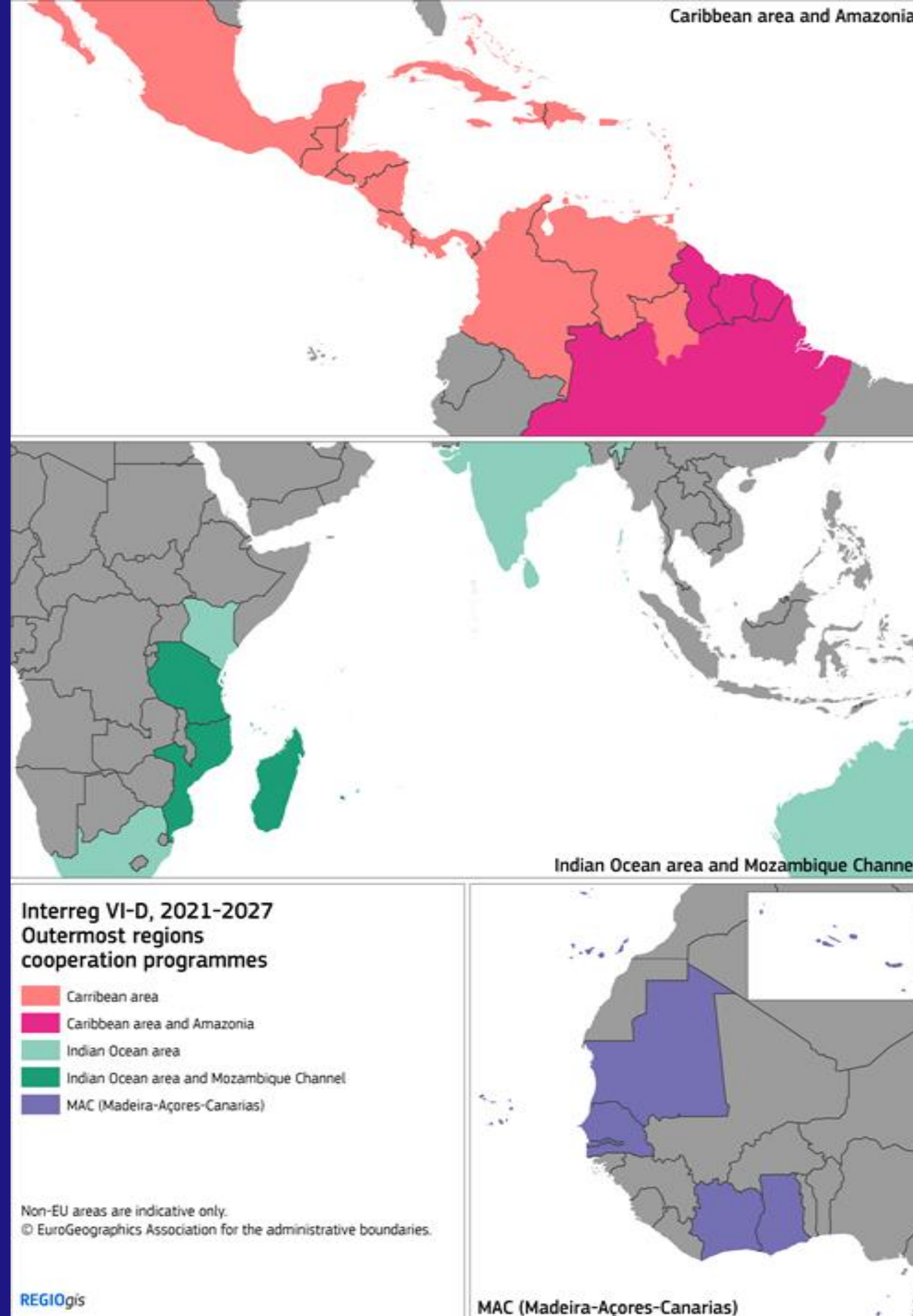


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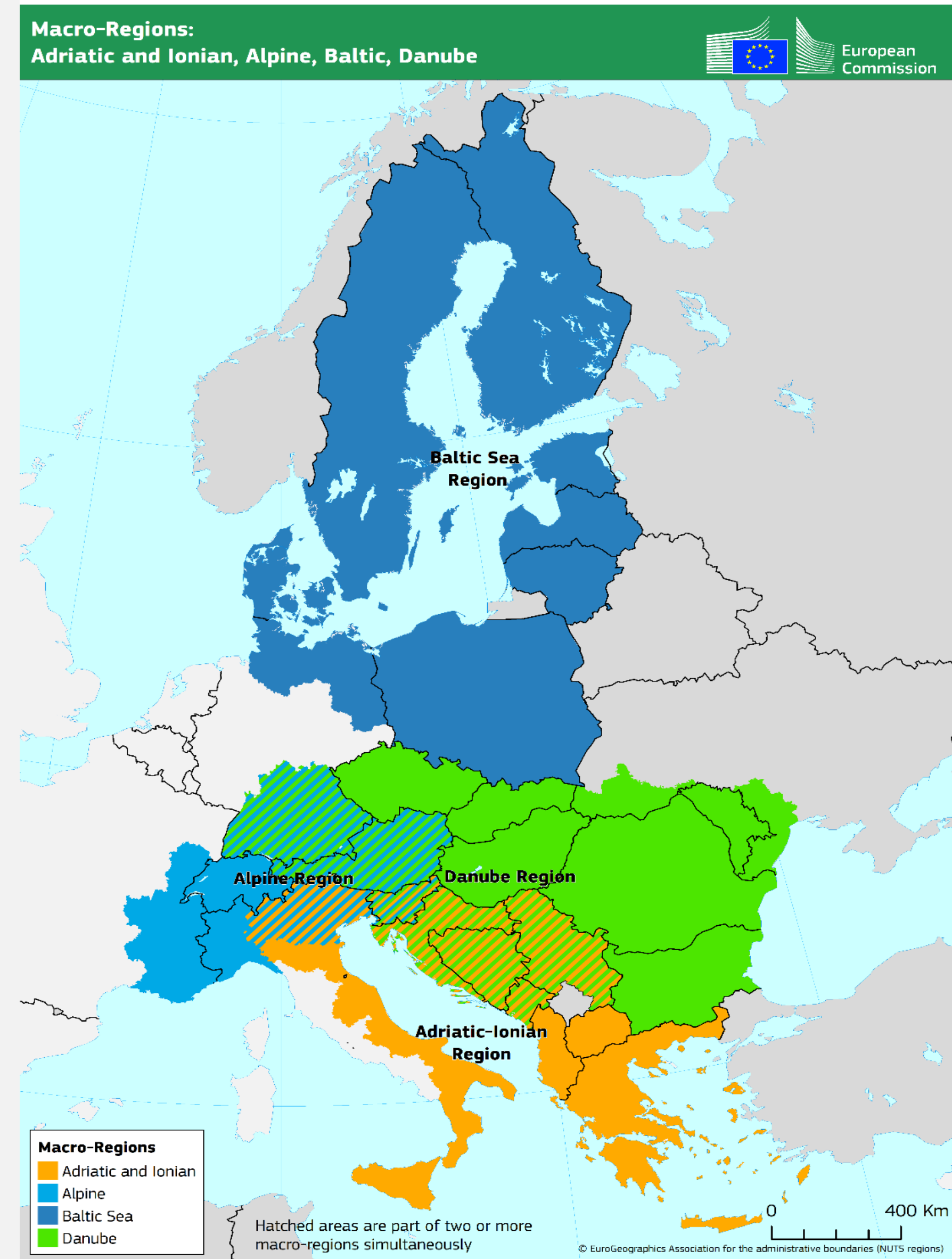
Five Outermost regions cooperation programmes

- Caribbean area
- Mozambique Channel
- Amazonia
- Indian Ocean
- Madeira-Azores-Canaries (MAC)

- Macro-regional strategies enhance **political dialogue** among different countries and regions
- There are **4 macroregional strategies**: **Baltic Sea Region**; **Danube Region**; **Adriatic and Ionian Region**; **Alpine Region**.

Youth engagement through Youth Councils

- 2021 EUSALP youth council
- 2022 Danube youth council
- 2023 Baltic Sea Youth Forum
- 2024 EUSAIR Youth council



Youth4Cooperation

- The **brand** gathering all youth initiatives related to Interreg and Macro-Regional Strategies.
- A **group of young people** meeting regularly online to
discuss topics of common interest
exchange with Commission officials
launch initiatives across borders
take part in consultations on the future of Interreg
- A **LinkedIn** group to stay engaged on all opportunities for young people in relation to territorial cooperation:



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Many opportunities to get involved in Youth4Cooperation



Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY)

- Up to 6 months volunteering opportunity
- Get involved in an Interreg programme or project
- There are always open opportunities!



Youth Councils of Macro-Regional Strategies

- Voice of youth in each MRS
- Involvement in governance and projects
- Check the MRS in your area and apply to become a councilor!



Cross-Border Ambassadors

- Youth component of the Border Focal Point Network
- Exchange with professionals on topics related to cooperation



Any questions?



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CircularRainbow

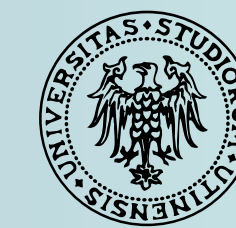
CircularRainbow

Promoting circular aquaculture for trout farming that optimises production, environmentally and economically sustainability and mitigate the effects of climate change

Michele Libralato, University of Udine, Italy

Živa Muršič, Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia, Department of Kranj

Interreg GO! Youth Event – 26 March 2025 – Gorizia, Italy



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Objectives

Reducing water consumption in **Rainbow Trout** farming (Recirculating Aquaculture Systems);

Applying **circular** economy to sludge and waste to produce energy or new biomass and to recover nitrogen and phosphorous;

Aquaculture systems **digitalization** and **automation**;

Creating new **interdisciplinary** professional figures and support life-long learning;

Innovation in farming practices is crucial because of climate change and its effects on the world around us!



Recirculating Aquaculture System

Indoor RAS systems allows to rear the fish in a high controlled environment where the use of water can be minimized by reusing it after its physical and biological treatments.

Indoor RAS can mitigate the risk of outdoor aquaculture (natural disaster, pollution, and disease) and allow for optimized fish growth on a year-round basis.



Indoor RAS, University of Udine (Italy).

Recirculating Aquaculture System

Outdoor aquaculture can be partially converted in RAS systems to mitigate water requirements, especially during critical climate conditions.

RAS technology offer great opportunity in a climate change scenario also for fish welfare.

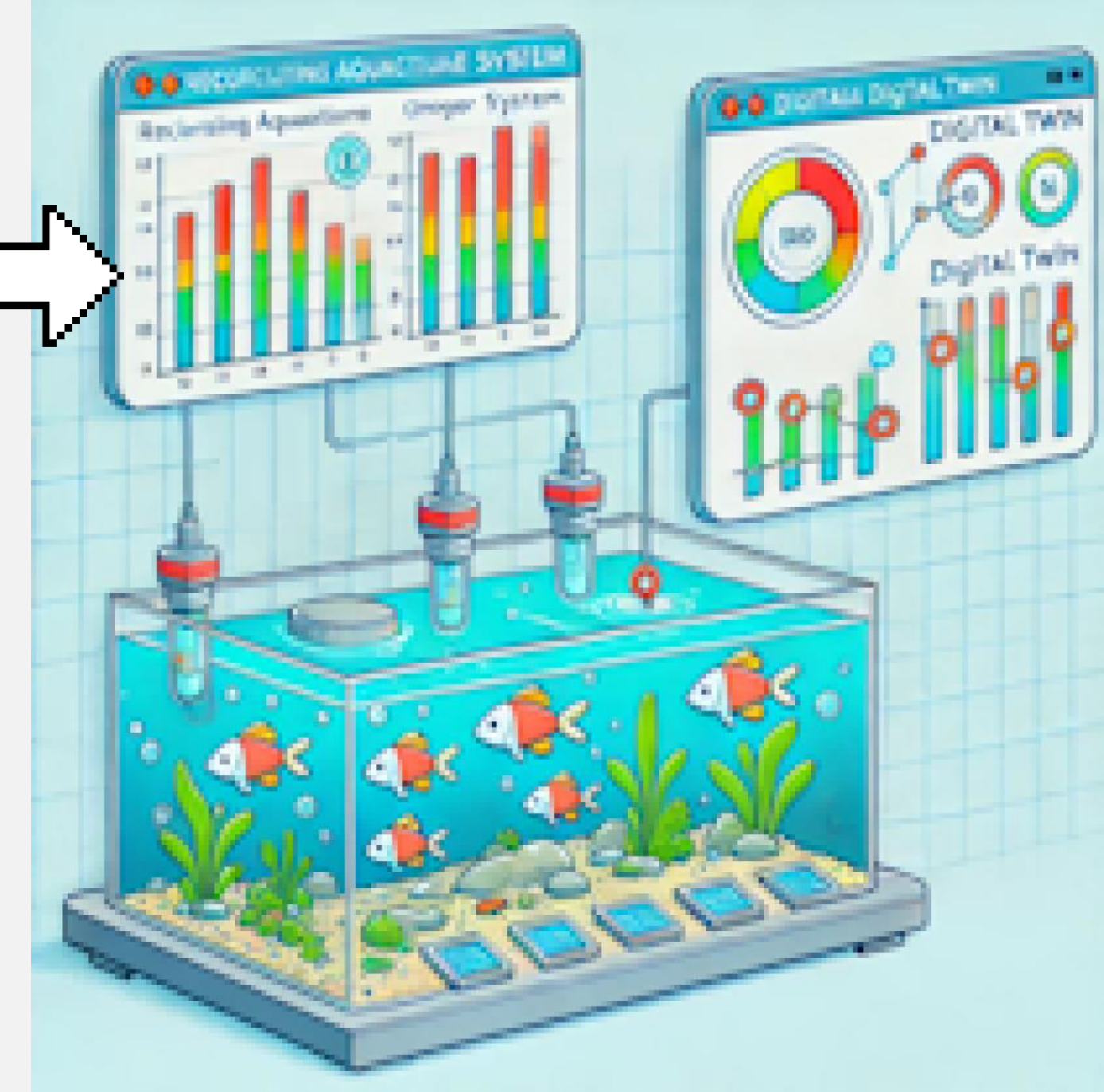
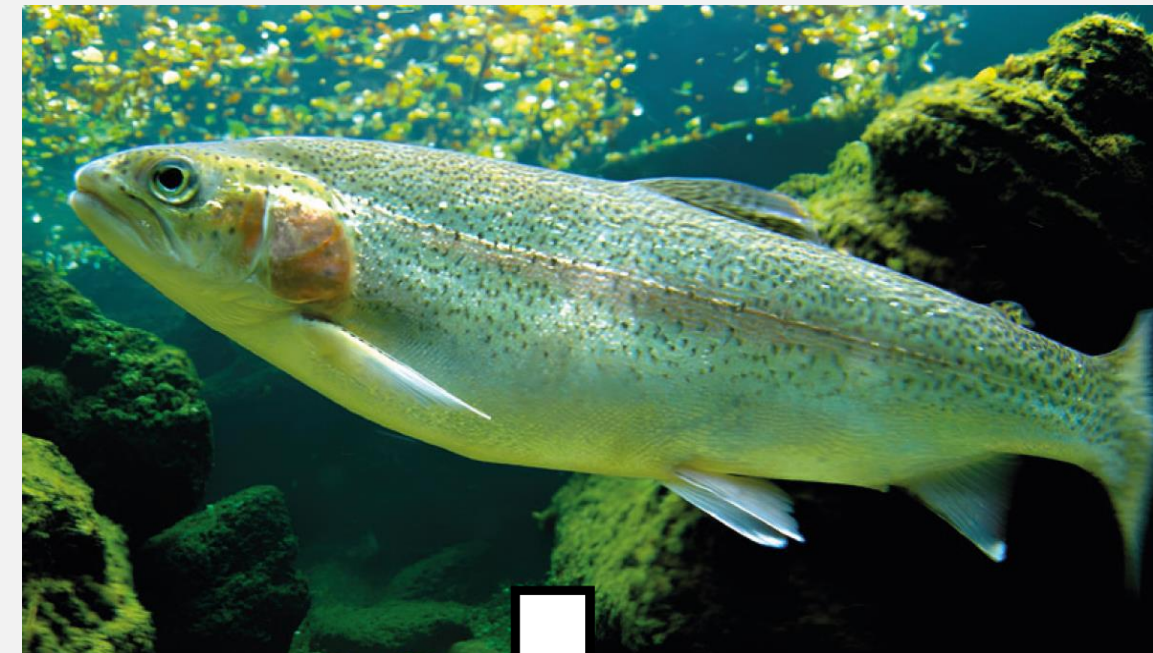


Partial RAS, Vodomec d.o.o., Ribogojnica Zalog (Slovenia)

Digital Twin

A Digital Twin is in essence a digital representation of a system that provides better insight into its dynamics.

It combines the knowledge of the real system through mathematical models with online data acquired from sensors and instruments deployed in or at the physical system.

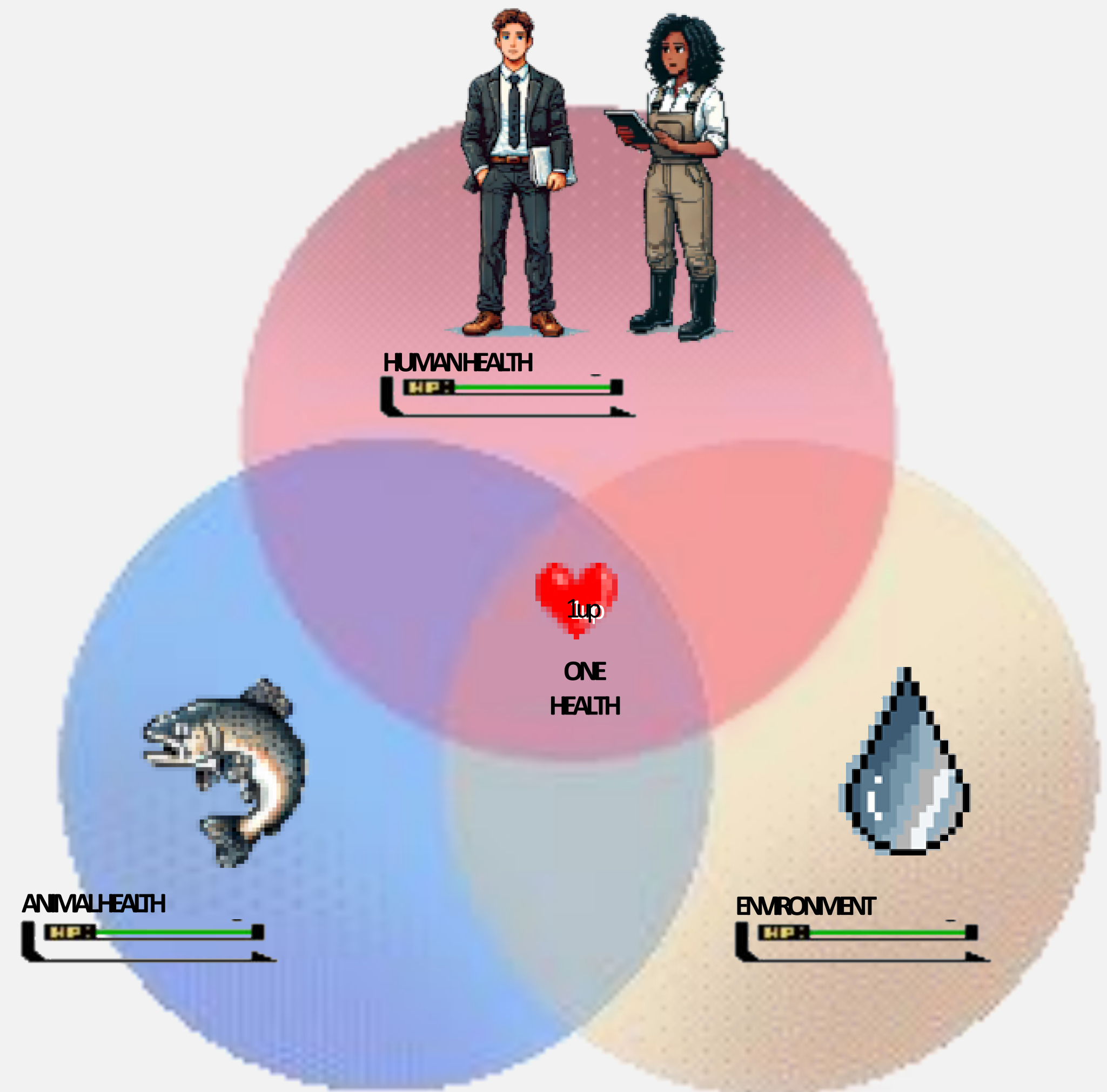


RAINBOWTROUT
L108
HP: [Progress Bar]

IDNo.	33533	ATTACK	266
OT/SILVER		DEFENSE	254
		SPCL. ATK	316
		SPCL. DEF	268
		SPEED	298

One Health

One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems.



Circular Economy

Is a model of production and consumption based on reducing, reusing or recycling resources.

The waste produced from a production chain can represent a "resource" for another chain.

CircularRainbow meet this vision by first optimizing the water use by its recirculation and by repurposing the sludge into energy or novel biomass for the agro-industrial chain.



Next Generation Trout Farmers

The future aqua farmers use new technologies to know and monitor their farm environment and production through sensor for real time data collection.

The real time biotic and abiotic monitoring will ensure fish welfare and thus product quality.



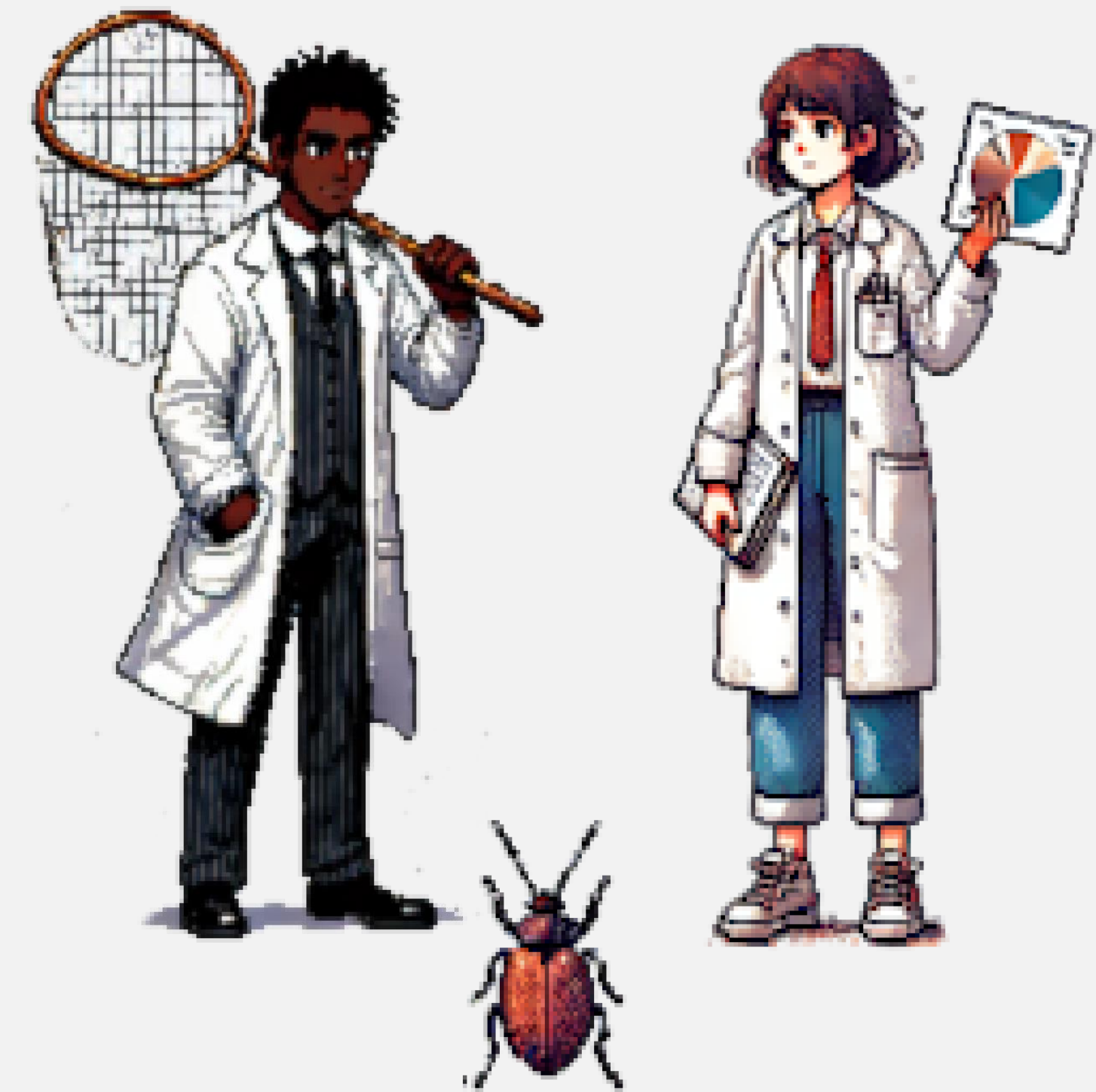
ZOOTECHNICS.....50XP
IOT AND AUTOMATION.....10XP
HEALTH AND FOOD.....30XP

Insect Farmers

Insect farmers know entomology to rise and breed insect as mini livestock.

Insect farmers have a key role in circular economy and can connect different agro-industrial chains.

For example, insect can upcycle the waste to produce eco-friendly fertilizers or bio-convert co-products to obtain biomolecules and alternative proteins for animal feed.



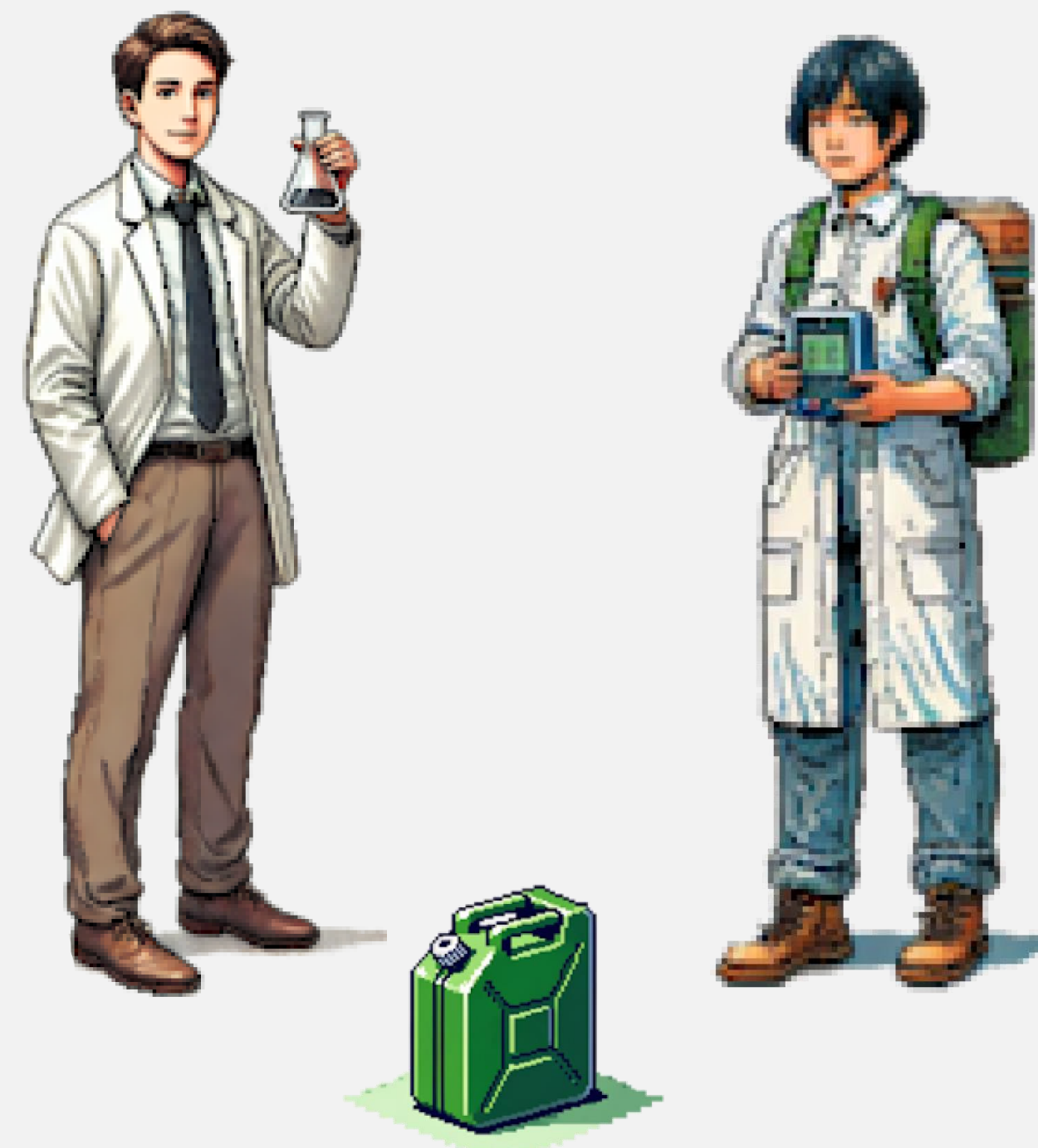
ENTOMOLOGY.....50XP
CIRCULARECONOMY.....35XP
NOVELBIOMASS.....10XP

Biomass Energy Engineers

Fish sludge is valuable biomass that can be transformed in biofuel.

The Biomass energy engineer is expert in chemistry and microbiology and can convert complex substances in high quality green fuels.

This contributes to reducing energy consumption of fish farms and their carbon footprint.



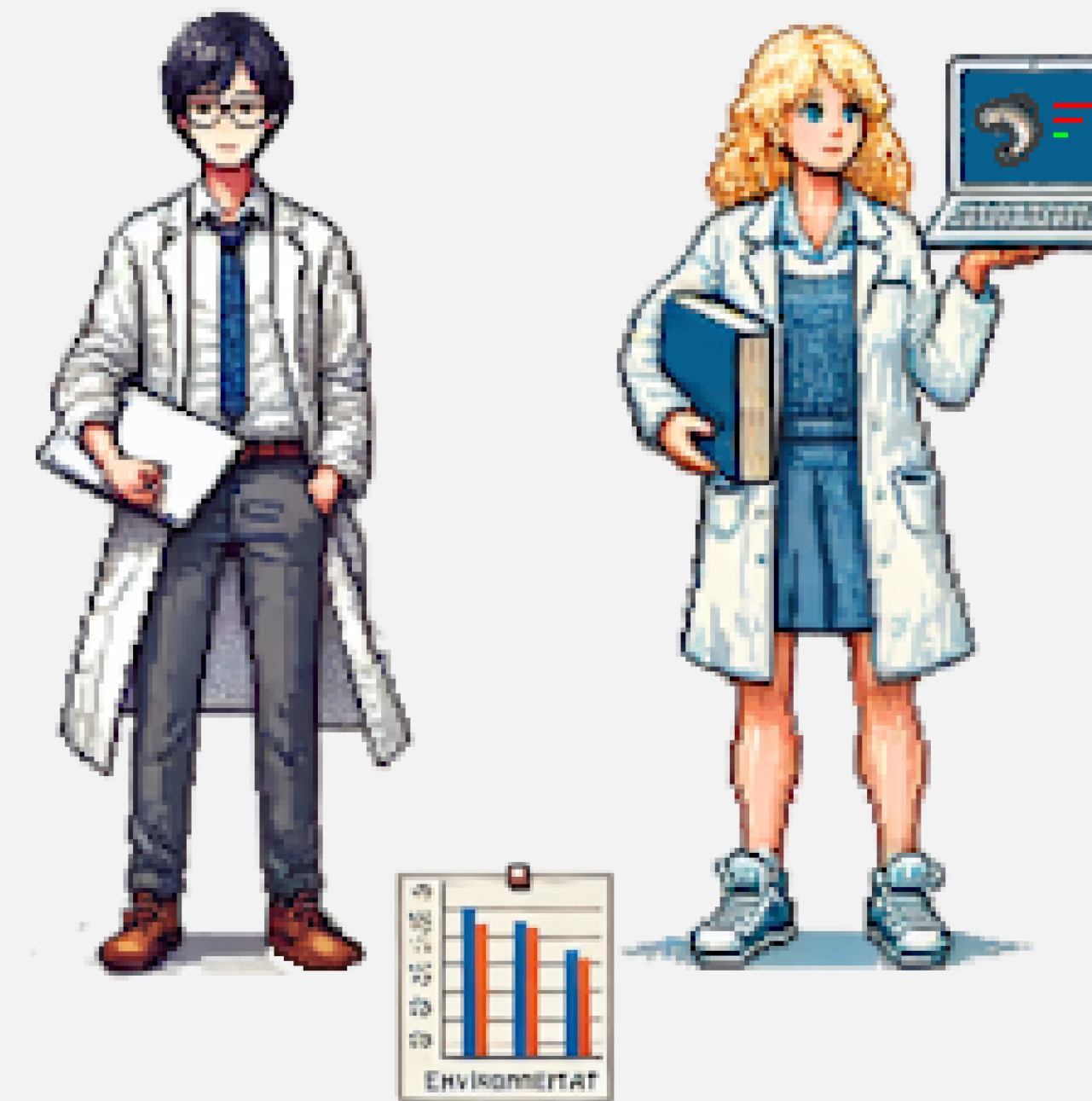
ENERGYENGINEERING.....50XP
MICROBIOLOGY.....30XP
LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS..30XP

Bio-systems Modelists

Bio-systems modelist have data analysis skills and biology knowledge.

They know how to extract meaningful information from data and use them to predict the future with simulations.

Their aim is to create a digital twin of the fish farm to optimize its management practice, fish welfare while reducing energy consumptions.



BIOLOGY.....40XP
DATA ANALYSIS.....40XP
MATHEMATICS.....20XP

Science Communication Experts

Communication experts represent a key link between scientists and citizens, with the aim to easily explain how the scientific progresses can be exploited.

They know that a food product success is based on transparency in production methods.

The consumers should be aware of the value in the circular foods production system approach, as well as fish farmers should know the novel opportunities from a circular approach.



COMMUNICATION.....50XP
MARKETING.....30XP
SCIENCEANDTECH.....40XP

Closing the loop, opening a world of possibilities

Climate change is fostering and driving aquaculture both towards technological innovation, and novel circular production system, to meet sustainability goals. Projects like CircularRainbow can represent a first tangible step on this direction.



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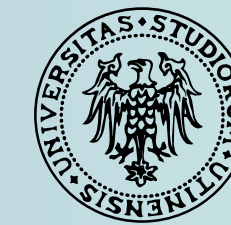
www.ita-slo.eu/circularrainbow



facebook.com/circularrainbow



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WALKofPEACE+

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BeWoP

WALK OF PEACE + & BEWOP

TWO PROJECTS, ONE UNIQUE PRODUCT

From valorisation of the WWI heritage to cross-border cultural and hiking trail

Nicola Revelant - PromoTurismoFVG



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ITA-SLO

Walk of
Peace idea

NetWorld

DANUBE

Pot Miru

GOV4PeaCE

CE

Walk of
Peace

Beyond Walk
of Peace

Walk of
Peace +



THE BEGINNING

From an idea of the Fundacija Pot Miru v Posočju of Kobarid which in turn takes up the idea of Walter Schaumann and the Dolomitenfreunde Association (Austria).

To connect all the point of interest of the Great War of the austro-Italian front to create a Path of Peace.

“Paths which were once divided by WWI frontlines (Kingdom of Italy and Austro-Hungarian Monarchy) shall bring us together today.”

(prof. Walther Schaumann, 1973)

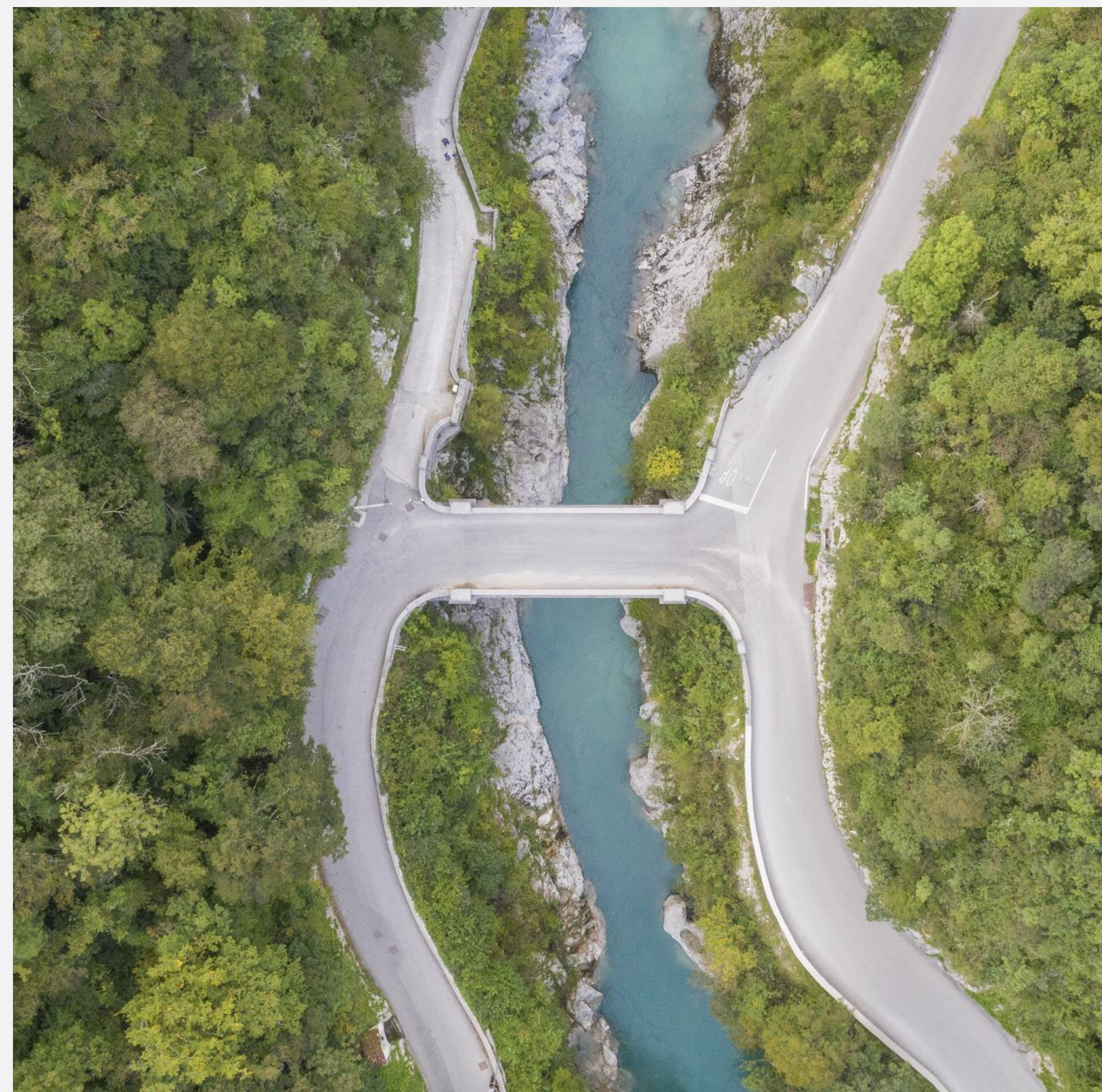


THE BEGINNING

In the early years (around 2000-2005) the first routes connected some open-air museums and places of the Great War in the area of the Upper Soča Valley (in the Municipalities between Bovec, Kobarid and Tolmin)

This idea spread to other Slovenian municipalities up to the area of Nova Gorica (Sabotin/Sabotino) and Karst area.

At the same time, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region began working as lead partner on the Interregional project «Itineraries of the Great War - a journey through history» together with Veneto, Lombardy and the provinces of Trento and Bolzano.



... IN THE MEANWHILE

Around 2012 FVG and Slovenia started to work together for the Centenary of the WWI.

Why?

The front of Isonzo (the most important part of Italian front) today is in Slovenia and Italy.

Kobarid (in italian Caporetto) is for the Italian history a symbol of the Italian Great War

At the same time, the memories of part of the families in Friuli Venezia Giulia are strictly connected with the «austro-hungarian heritage».



Litorale Austriaco

1897 Rand McNally World Atlas



WALK OF PEACE

POT MIRU AND WALK OF PEACE

The first Interreg project on the ITA-SLO program has been “Pot Miru – Via di Pace” (2013-2015)

The second one has been the strategic project “Walk of Peace” (2018-2022)





- 500 km route from Log Pod Mangartom to Trieste (Molo Audace)
- It crosses the areas of western Slovenia and Friuli Venezia Giulia that were part of the Isonzo front of the First World War, including the rear
- Divided into 25 stages (12 in Friuli Venezia Giulia and 13 in Slovenia) + 5 extra stages (in Slovenia)
- Designed on CAI paths and secondary ordinary roads
- It is a journey to be made strictly on foot
- Along the Walk of Peace there are two rings themed on both a historical and naturalistic level: the Kobarid-Cividale-Kobarid ring and the Nova Gorica/Gorizia-Malchina ring



WALK OF PEACE: NOT ONLY A TOURIST AND CULTURAL PRODUCT

Mutual respect and cooperation

Value of Peace

Vision: from the local development to the Cultural Routes of
Council of Europe

Research, protection, digitalization

Governance

Virtuous economic circle





WALK OF PEACE

WALK OF PEACE + PROJECT

The main goal: to capitalise the important result of the previous WALKofPeace project - voted the best INTERREG 2020 project - which had created the WoP "brand" connecting more than 300 monuments in a pathway more than 500 kilometres long

The project aims to:

Improve accessibility to the tangible and intangible heritage of the Great War by transferring the best practice acquired on Mount Sabotino/Sabotin to improve the usability of the peak of Mount Hermada/Grmada;

Budget

749.791,97 €

Create a multi-level and multi-sectoral cross-border governance for the management of the "brand" in the long term by involving all stakeholders in a process of defining a cross-border strategy and action plan;

Strengthen the Cross-border Tourism Promotion Strategy in order to make the WoP product a "brand" capable of catalysing the attention of the public attentive to a cultural, slow and sustainable form of tourism.

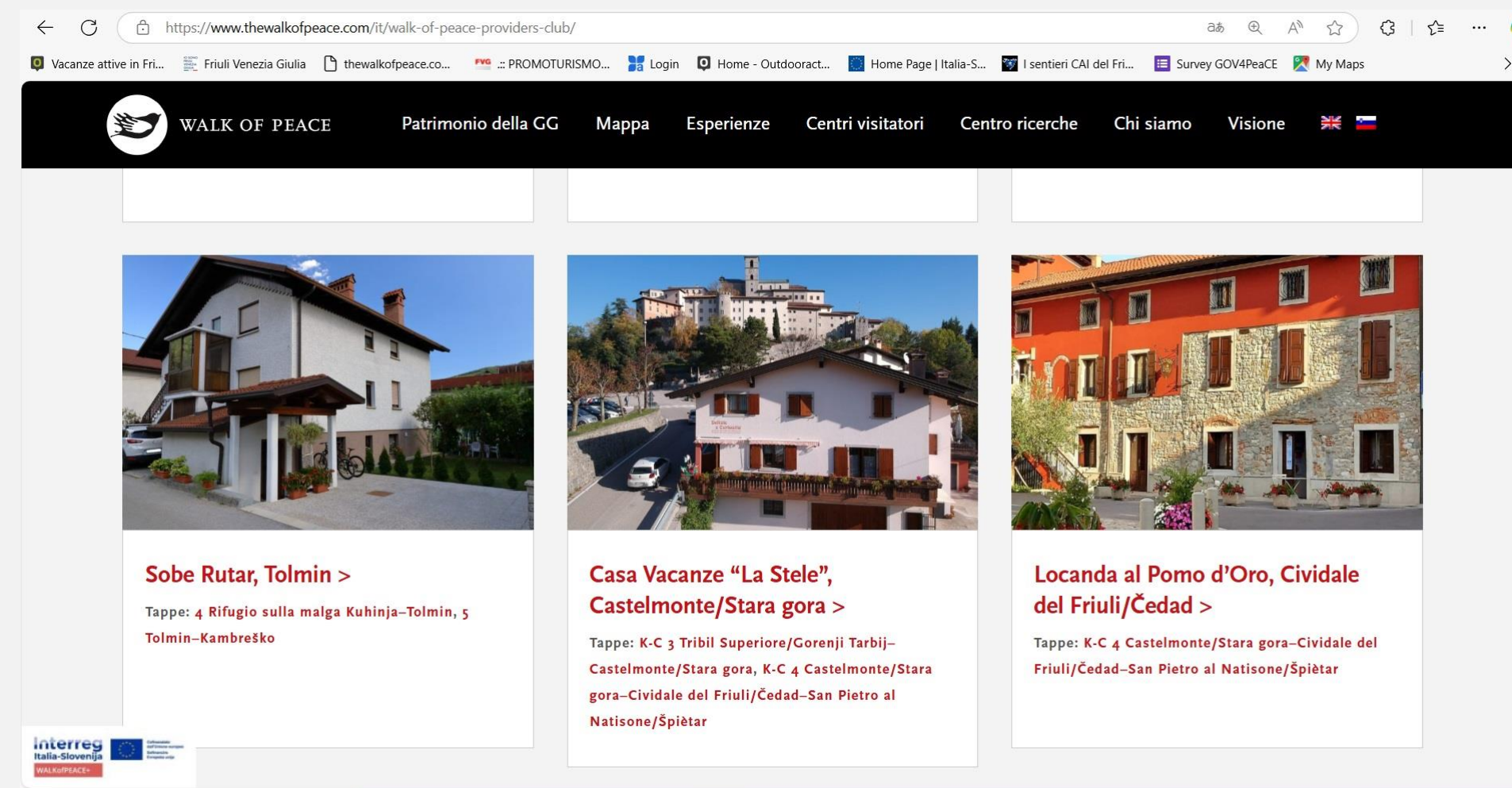
PARTNER

- LP** Promoturismo Friuli Venezia Giulia
- PP2** Ustanova "Fundacija Poti miru v Posočju"
- PP3** Posoški razvojni center
- PP4** Občina Komen
- PP5** Comune di Duino Aurisina – Občina Devin Nabrežina

Some activities...



Map 1:30000



Club of product with accomodations



Cross-border open air
museum on
Ermada/Grmada



Feasibility study on
the italian side of
Mount Sabotin



Memorandum
of
Understanding



WALK OF PEACE

BEWOP PROJECT

Beyond Walk of Peace

The general objective: increase tourist flows, thanks to the creation of an integrated tourist area in the cross-border sites of the First World War, focusing on sustainable and conscious cultural tourism.

BeWoP aims at an integrated tourism promotion of the cross-border area

The previous experience will be further developed and strengthened with diversified interventions

Budget totale

1.321.591,48 €

and activities that combine historical research, major events (also connected to the ECC Nova Gorica-Gorizia 2025 and to the èStoria Festival)

Dissemination of knowledge of the events of the Great War among the public and promotion of integrated and sustainable tourist routes on the identified sites.

PARTNER

- LP** Ustanova "Fundacija Poti miru v Posočju"
- PP2** GECT GO/EZTS GO
- PP3** ZRC SAZU - Znanstvenoraziskovalni center
Slovenske akademije znanosti in
umetnosti
- PP4** PromoTurismoFVG
- PP5** Občina Miren-Kostanjevica
- PP6** Associazione Culturale èStoria

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BeWoP

Some activities...

èStoriaBus

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èStoriaBus
PER I LUOGHI DELLA RESISTENZA

CON ANDREA ZANNINI
BOJAN GODEŠA

13 APRILE 2025
PARTENZA ORE 9.00
PARCHEGGIO DEL VALICO DI CASA ROSSA | GORIZIA
(RIENTRO INDICATIVO ORE 19.00)
La partecipazione è gratuita. È necessaria la prenotazione, scrivendo una mail a segreteria@estoria.it
Apertura prenotazioni: lunedì 31 marzo alle ore 8.00
Maggiori info su www.estoria.it

Partner di progetto/Projektni partnerji:

POC MERI GEF 2014-2020 ZRC SAZU GOVERNO REGIONALE FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA èStoria Občina Murova Kostanjevica

Interreg Italia-Slovenija Co-finanziato dall'Unione europea Sofinancira Evropska unija

èStoriaBus
PO POTEH ODPORNIŠTVA

Z ANDREO ZANNINI
BOJANOM GODEŠO

13. APRIL 2025
ZBOR IN ODHOD OB 9.00
PARKIRIŠČE OB MEJNEM PREHODU ROŽNA DOLINA | GORICA
(PREDVIDEN POVRATEK OB 19.00)
Udeležba je brezplačna. Potrebna je rezervacija na elektronski naslov segreteria@estoria.it
Začetek rezervacij: ponedeljek, 31. marec, ob 8.00
Več informacij na spletni strani èStoria www.estoria.it

Partner di progetto/Projektni partnerji:

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Restoration works on Sabotin



Events

Crossborder festival èStoria



Restoration works Cerje area



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THANK YOU
GRAZIE
HVALA

Nicola Revelant - PromoTurismoFVG



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Interreg Volunteer Youth Initiative

Chirine Ben Aissa, former Interreg Volunteer Youth - IVY



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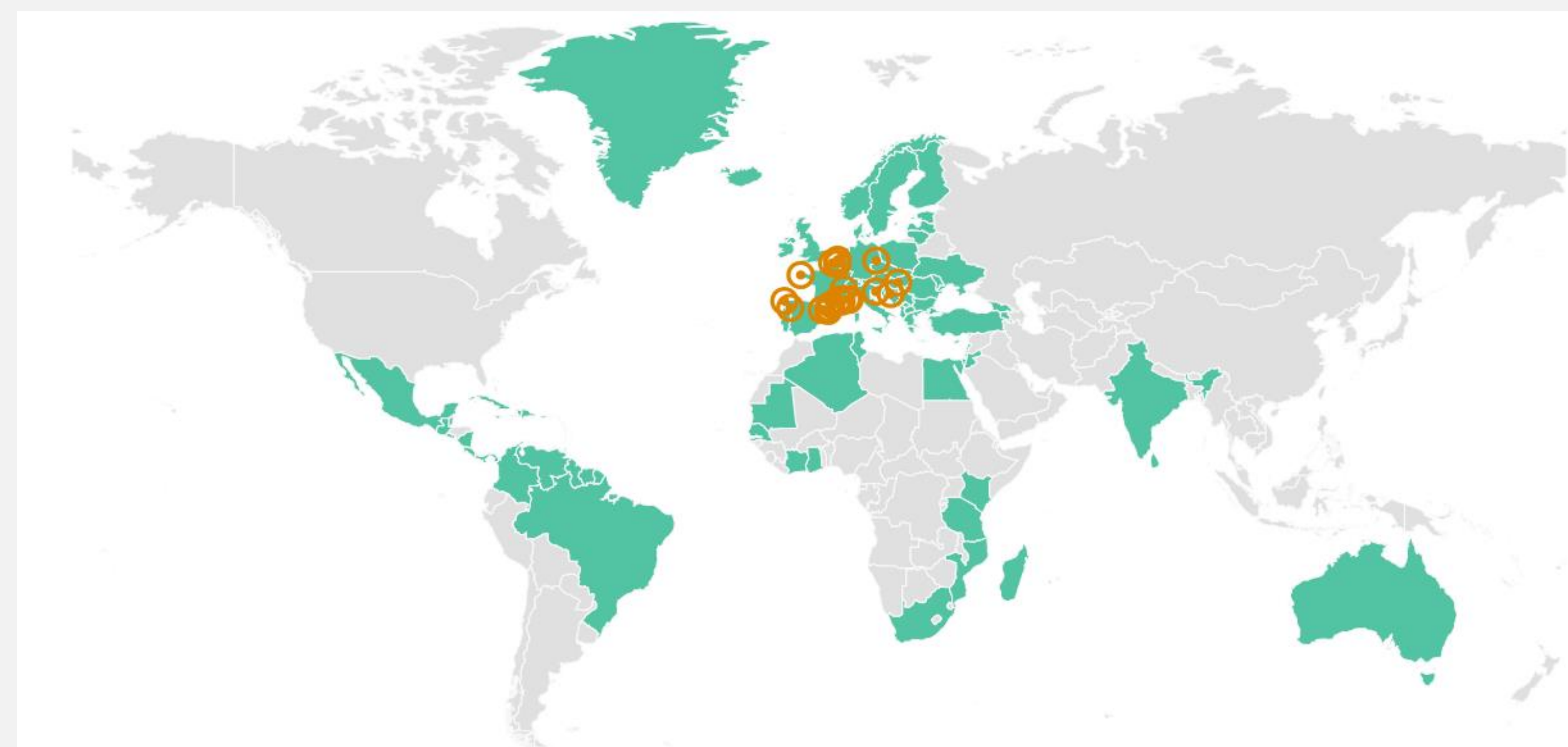
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What is IVY?

IVY (Interreg Volunteer Youth) is a European Commission initiative that allows young people to volunteer in Interreg projects across Europe and its neighboring regions, financed by the European Union and the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

Supports territorial cooperation and cross-border development.

Provides young people with professional experience, networking, and the opportunity to contribute to European projects.



 **1,014**
Volunteers

 **+435**
Host organizations

 **2017**
Since

 **97**
Countries involved

Who can join IVY?

Open to **young people (18-30 years old)** from the EU and partner countries.

Opportunities in **various sectors**: environment, social inclusion, culture, etc.



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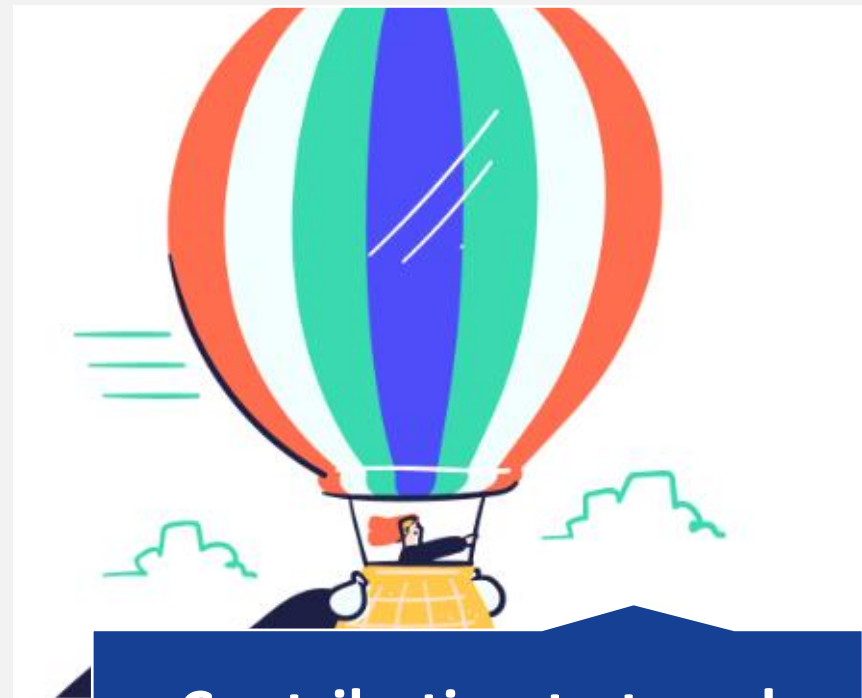
Benefits



Financial support



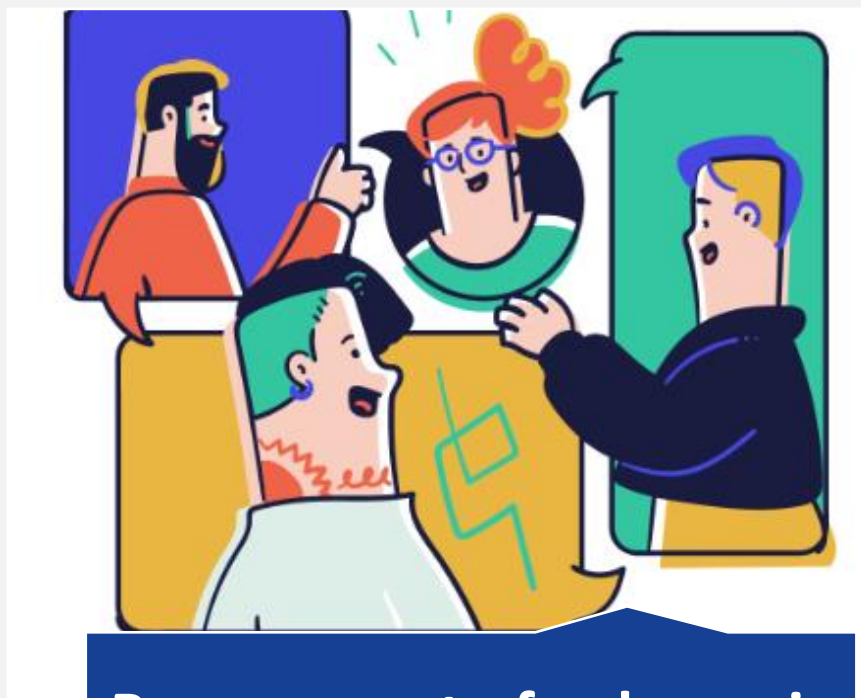
Insurance



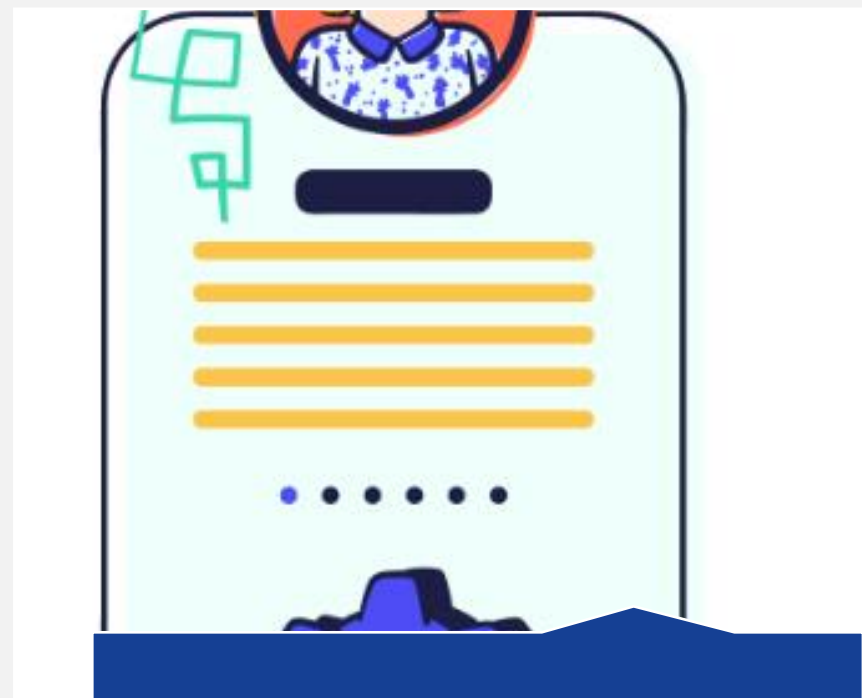
Contribution to travel costs



Training and mentoring



Become part of a dynamic network: the IVY Alumni



Recognition

My IVY Experience – A Journey of Growth & Impact

💡 How it started:

I discovered IVY through a European friend and was immediately drawn to the idea of contributing to a cooperation project.

I took the initiative to research ongoing projects and reached out to potential hosts. After a few rejections, I finally got a positive response from the MED4EBM project—and that moment was a thrill! it should be the host organisation looking for volunteers, not the other way around.



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My Role as a Volunteer:

- Hosted by **National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies of Tunisia**
- Volunteered on the **MED4EBM project**, focused on **sustainable coastal and marine management**



Key Outcomes

Professional Growth & Career Development

- Hired as a **Communication Officer** for the MED4EBM project.
- Gained hands-on experience in **scientific communication and public outreach**.
- Strengthened my skills in **project coordination, content creation, and event management**.

International Exposure & Networking

- Participated in the **Steering Committee in Sibari, Italy**, where I met and networked with experts and project teams from **four countries**.
- Developed cross-border cooperation skills by working with international stakeholders.
- Learned to **adapt to multicultural work environments** and collaborate effectively.

Impactful Fieldwork & Awareness Campaigns

- **Designed and implemented communication activities & awareness campaigns** in Kneiss Island.
- Promoted **environmental sustainability and ecosystem-based management** through strategic outreach.
- Engaged with local communities and stakeholders, raising awareness about the project's goals.

Personal Growth & Key Takeaways

- Built **resilience and adaptability**, especially during challenges like the pandemic.
- Learned the importance of **mentorship and continuous learning** in professional settings.
- Discovered my passion for **cross-border cooperation and sustainable development**, shaping my career aspirations.

"This experience wasn't just about work—it was about learning, growing, and understanding the real impact of cooperation. Each day, I felt more empowered. It was truly a life-changing opportunity!"



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Why Join IVY?



Thank You!



Check out my interview with
TESIM for more insights into my
experience.



More info on IVY and open
volunteering positions!

Youth Councils: Shaping the Future of Cooperation!

Insights from the Adriatic Ionian Youth Council
& the Future of Regional Cooperation

Antonio Grujevski

member of the EUSAIR Youth Council

26th March 2025



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What is Territorial Cooperation?

- **EU's way to unite regions beyond borders**
- **Why it matters:** Shared challenges—climate, jobs, migration
- **Interreg:** €12B+ since 1990, 100+ programs
- **Policies:** Boosts peace, sustainability, growth



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EU Macro-Regional Strategies

- Big plans for big regions—**4 strategies total**
- **Baltic Sea** (2009), **Danube** (2011), **Adriatic-Ionian** (2014), **Alpine** (2016)
- 19 EU + 8 non-EU countries, **270M people**
- **Focus:** Environment, transport, innovation



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Why Youth Councils?

- **EU youth policies:** 72M under 30 shape tomorrow
- **Impact:** 80% of climate solutions need youth (EU stats)
- **Future is ours:** We design, we decide



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What Do Youth Councils Do?

- **Advocate:** Push for youth priorities (e.g., green jobs)
- **Innovate:** Create projects—€200M for youth ideas (2021-27)
- **Connect:** Link regions, share stories



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Macro-Regional Youth Councils

- 4 councils, 1 per strategy—ours is growing!
- 1. EUSALP Youth Council – Representing the **Alpine Region**
- 2. EUSBSR Youth Council – Representing the **Baltic Sea Region**
- 3. EUSAIR Youth Council – Representing the **Adriatic-Ionian Region**
- 4. EUSDR Youth Council – Representing the **Danube Region**



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Our EUSAIR Journey

- **Key Milestones Leading to the Establishment:**
- **April 2024:** A call for applications was launched to select young representatives aged 18 to 29 from the Adriatic-Ionian region to form the Youth Council.
- **November 2024:** The inaugural meeting took place in Dubrovnik, marking the official establishment of the EUSAIR Youth Council.



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Objectives of the Macro-regional Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region Youth Council:

- **Youth Participation:** Involve young people in decision-making.
- **Policy Influence:** Ensure youth perspectives shape regional policies.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Connect young leaders across the Adriatic-Ionian region.
- **Sustainability:** Advocate for eco-friendly and long-term regional solutions.



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How Can You Get Involved?

- **Discover:** Pick your region—4 strategies, 27 countries
- **Jump In:** Youth councils, Interreg workshops—open now!
- **Create:** € for your ideas—pitch a project



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Call to Action!

Youth councils: EU's game-changers?

Nova Gorica-Gorizia: Borders? What borders?

Now: Join up, speak out, lead on

Unite, Collaborate, Succeed—Together!



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The Power of Youth in Cross-Border Cooperation

Paulina Moskal,
former Cross-Border Ambassador



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What if borders shaped your future?



My Story: From Local to Cross-Border

Borders don't just exist on maps. They shape our daily opportunities. And young people need to be at the table when decisions are made about them.



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Who Are We?

We're a group of young people from different border regions who:

- 🌍 **Bring together youth from different countries to share challenges and solutions.**
- 🗣️ **Engage with EU institutions**
- 🔧 **Work on real projects**



Meet the second intake of Youth4Cooperation Cross-Border Ambassadors



Oleksandra Kobernik 



Sara Pane 



Álvaro Lombardo 



Sara Cardona Rubio 



Vincent De Keer 



Emma Chlebowski 



Mustafa Caliskan 



Mihaela Voydenova 



Kyriakos Kourtidis 



Paulina Moskal 

#Youth4Coop

What Have We Done?

 We've written articles and created videos to raise awareness about cross-border challenges young people face.

 We've connected with stakeholders

 We've built networks



Border Focal Point Network

A community of experts in cross-border issues

The Border Focal Point Network is an EU-wide professional network bringing together experts on cross-border issues. The network aims to promote easier cross-border interaction, address existing legal and administrative barriers, and encourage the pooling of cross-border services.

[Read more about the Border Focal Point Network.](#)

 [Subscribe to the Border Focal Point Newsletter](#)

**Youth4Cooperation Cross-
Border Ambassadors**

**Youth4Cooperation Cross-
Border Ambassadors
Second Intake**

What if this was your chance?

- ✓ Do you want to study or work abroad?
- ✓ Do you care about sustainability, transport, or digitalization?
- ✓ Do you want to meet people from different countries and work on something bigger than yourself?



So what's next?

Scan the QR code, check out our work, and reach out if you have questions. You never know where one opportunity might lead you!



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Coffee break

See you back at 16:50 for the panel *Cooperation – one of the pillars of EU*



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Cooperation - one of the pillars of EU

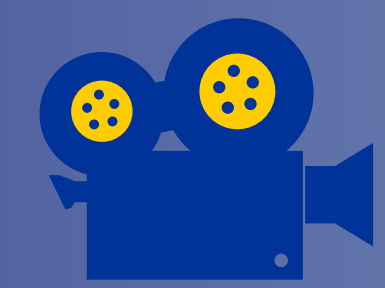
Speakers:

- **Jean-Pierre Halkin**, DG REGIO, European Commission
- **Mojca Aljančič**, Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development, Republic of Slovenia
- **Raffaele Parlange**, Department for the cohesion policy and the south at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italian Republic
- **Syria Paoloni** and **Luka Čavdek**





VIDEO CONTEST



Italy-Slovenia

in 30 seconds



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#Interreg

Thank you!

... if we are to shape our Union in their mould, young people must be able to shape Europe's future. Our Union needs a soul and a vision they can connect to.

President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, Sep 15, 2021



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