



# New Perspectives and Policies of Cohesion and Development Tools for Strengthening the Interregional Cooperation in the Balkan area

Key note speech

*Gilles Kittel,  
IPA/EUSAIR/Accession Negotiations Team*

*REGIO D1*

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# 1 Setting the scene



*“Before the end of the month, I will travel to the region to send a strong signal of our commitment to the accession process.(...) Because an investment in the future of the Western Balkans is an investment in the future of the EU.”*

2021 State of the Union Address by President von der Leyen, Brussels, 15 September 2021.

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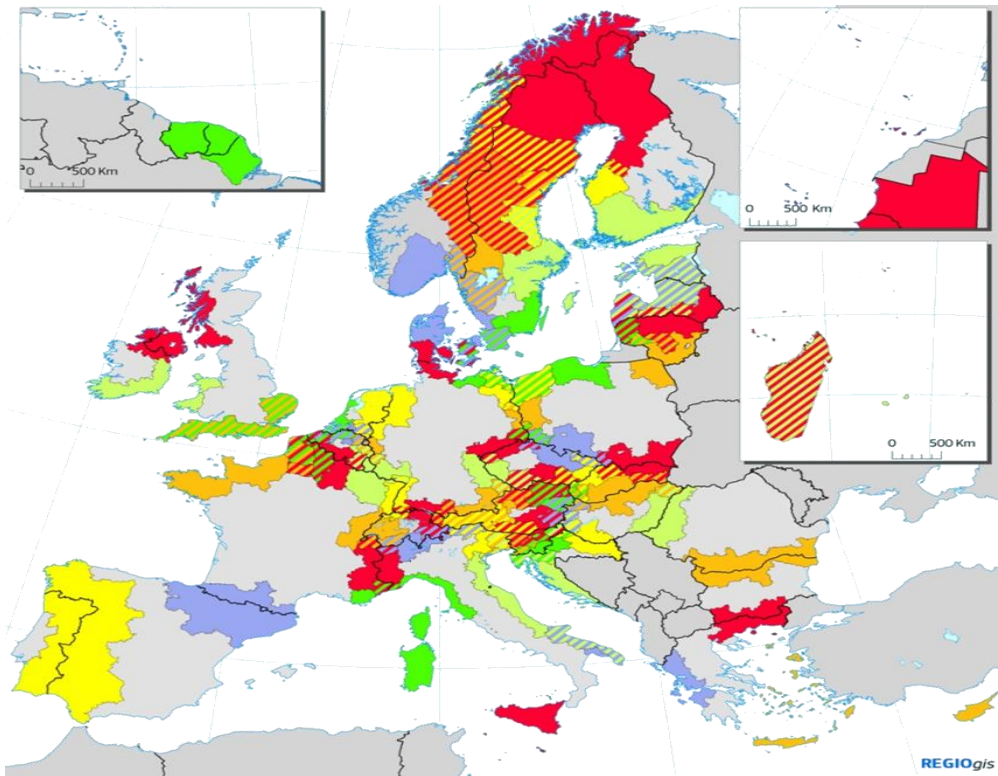
## New architecture of Interreg IPA programmes

# Reference to “strands” as in 2014-2020

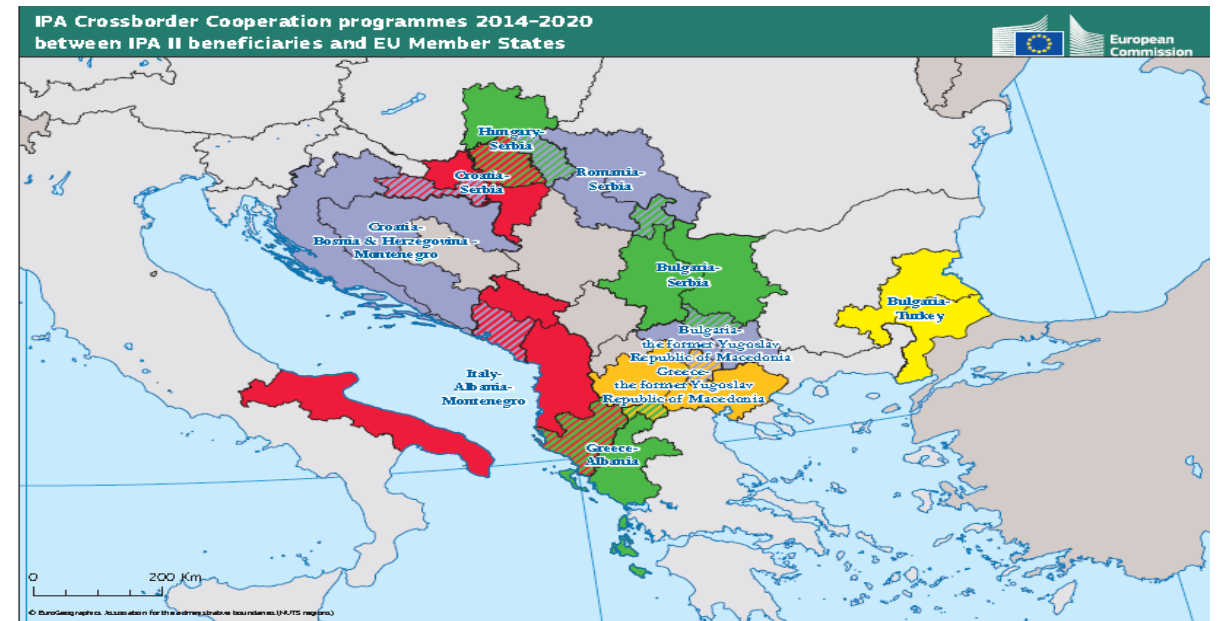
- Cross border cooperation (Interreg Strand A)
  - Internal (also 3<sup>rd</sup> countries without EU funds)
  - External: **IPA CBC**, NDICI/NEXT CBC
- Transnational cooperation (Interreg Strand B)
- Interregional cooperation (Interreg Stand C)
  - INTERACT, Interreg EUROPE, ESPON & URBACT
- One new strand Interreg D: outermost region cooperation
- Inclusion of external Funds (IPA III, NDICI, Funding for OCTs) under one umbrella

# Emphasis on the coherence and continuity of cooperation programme areas

## Internal Interreg CBC programmes



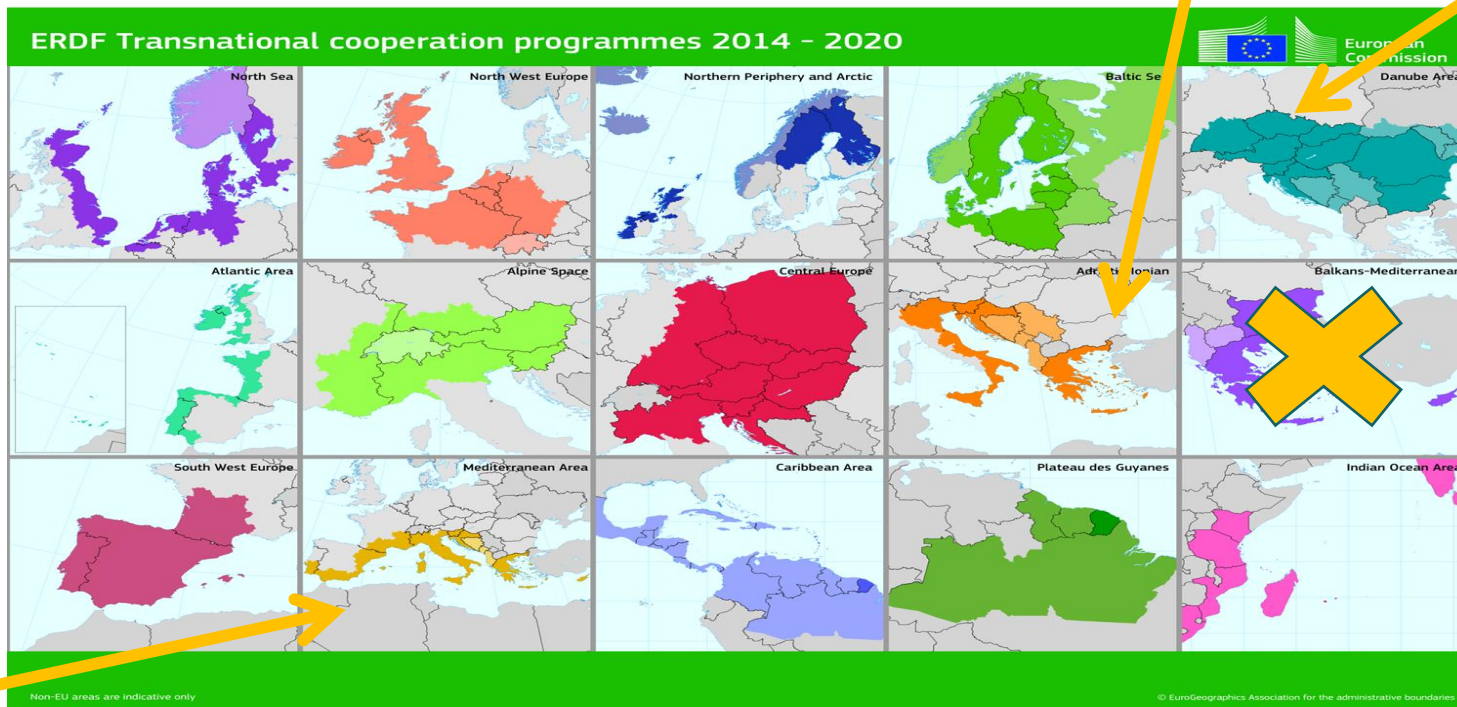
## Interreg IPA CBC programmes



# Transnational Cooperation

- Promotes cooperation among greater European regions, including the ones surrounding sea basins (e.g. Adriatic-Ionian Region, Baltic Sea Region, Atlantic Area) or mountain ranges (e.g. Alpine Space)
- 17 TN programmes in the post 2020 period :

## 14 External Interreg IPA & Internal TN programmes



## 3 External Interreg NDICI TN programmes

Black Sea Basin



ENI MED Basin



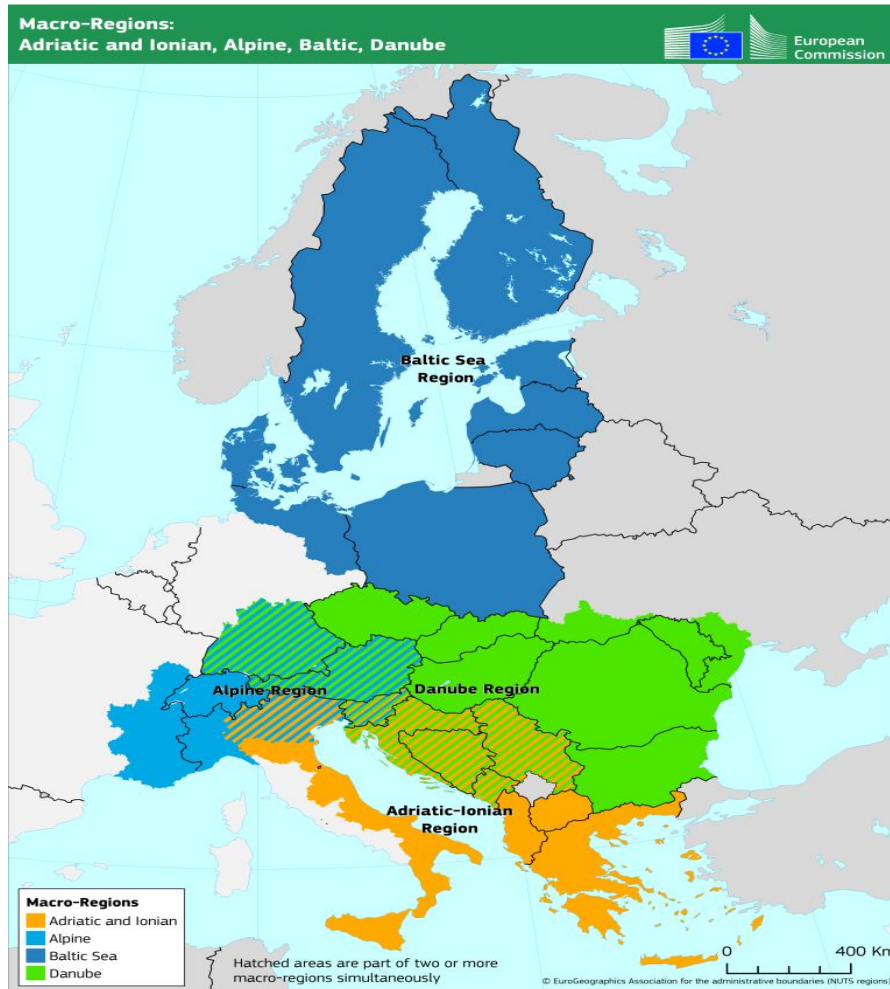
+ Mid-Atlantic





# EU Macro-regional strategies

4 MRS, 19 EU MSs, 9 non-EU countries



# Interregional Cooperation

## C: Interregional – Four "networking" programmes

### ***ESPON***

European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (studies, spatial planning)

### ***URBACT***

Exchange between Europe's cities on integrated urban development.

### ***INTERACT***

Cooperation and exchange network for territorial Interreg programmes.

### ***Interreg Europe***

Capitalisation among all EU regions

# 11 policy objectives simplified and consolidated into 5:



## A FOCUS ON FIVE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES, WHERE THE EU IS BEST PLACED TO DELIVER

Five main objectives will drive EU investments in 2021-2027:



a more **Smarter Europe**, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses



a more **Greener, carbon free Europe**, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change



a more **Connected Europe**, with strategic transport and digital networks



a more **Social Europe**, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare



a **Europe closer to citizens**, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.

**Horizontal issues: administrative capacity building, cooperation outside the programme area**

# Two new Interreg specific objectives (5 POs + 2 ISOs)

- **ISO1: Better cooperation governance**

- Focus on support to cross border cooperation beyond funding
- Link with actions under the Border Focal Point
- Not an extension of TA

- **ISO2: Safer and more secure Europe**

- Including protection and economic and social integration of third country nationals including migrants and beneficiaries of international organisations

# IPA III Programming Framework & Indicative allocation

IPA III Windows	%	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
<b>Window 1:</b> Rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy	15,13	281	287	293	299	304	311	317	2.091
<b>Window 2:</b> Good governance, acquis alignment, good neighbourly relations and strategic communication	16,59	308	315	321	327	334	341	348	2.293
<b>Window 3:</b> Green agenda and sustainable connectivity	42,45	789	805	821	837	854	871	889	5.867
<b>Window 4:</b> Competitiveness and inclusive growth	22,31	415	423	432	440	449	458	467	3.083
<b>Window 5:</b> Territorial and cross-border cooperation	3,51	65	67	68	69	71	72	74	485
<b>Total Operational Budget</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>1.858</b>	<b>1.896</b>	<b>1.934</b>	<b>1.973</b>	<b>2.012</b>	<b>2.053</b>	<b>2.095</b>	<b>13.820</b>
Administrative Appropriations	n/a	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	342
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,00</b>	<b>1.904</b>	<b>1.943</b>	<b>1.982</b>	<b>2.022</b>	<b>2.062</b>	<b>2.104</b>	<b>2.147</b>	<b>14.162</b>

The table above shows the indicative allocation for the period 2021-2027 to support the thematic priorities of IPA III programming framework. Prices are expressed in million Euro.

*Current prices are calculated by applying annually a fixed deflator of 2% to the amounts in 2018 prices. Totals do not tally due to rounding.*

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## Programming negotiations

# Main features

## 1. Consolidate existing Cooperation:

- Emphasis on **synergies** with other CBC and TN programmes

## 2. Reinforce the Strategic Dimension:

- **More coherence with Macro-Regional Strategies** (EUSAIR mainly and EUSDR) and other strategic and political initiatives
- **Flagship/Strategic/Large infrastructure projects**

## 3. Increase the Impact of the Programme Thematic concentration :

- **Capitalization** on previously achieved results
- Refocusing on **functional areas**

# Main features

## 4. Supporting institutional cooperation through the two new Interreg Specific Objectives:

- Interreg Specific Objective 1 (ISO1): Better cooperation governance
- Interreg Specific Objective 2 (ISO2): Safer and more secure European Union

## 5. Putting in place mechanisms for new delivery tools :

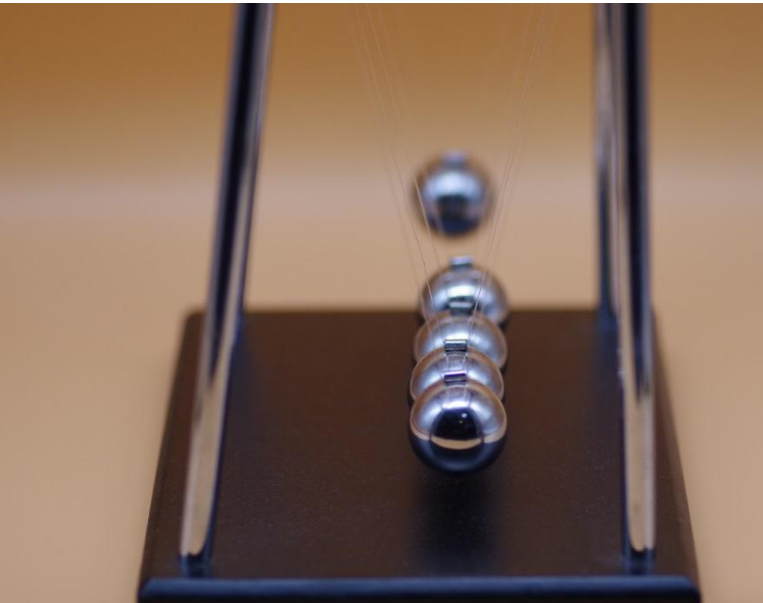
- Simple financial instruments (FIs) with a grant component
- Small Projects Funds and/or small scale projects (projects of a limited financial volume)

## 6. Exploring the use of joint territorial instruments:

- European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) or legal body
- Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI), Another Territorial Tools (ATT) or Community Local Led Development (CLLD)
- “Other” territorial tools under Policy Objective 5 (PO5)



# Post 2020 Interreg IPA ETC in an enlargement perspective

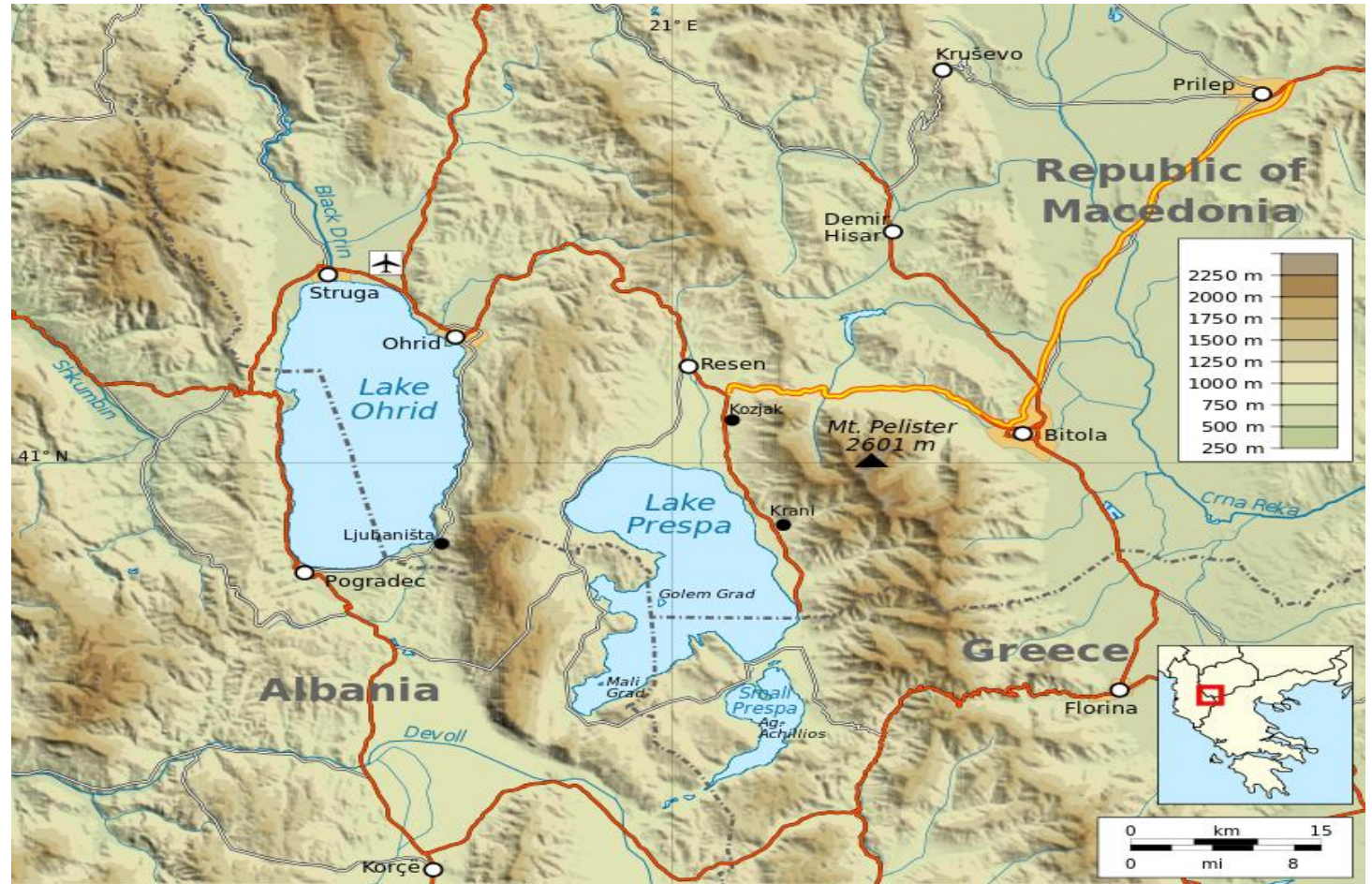


- **ETC 'mantras':**
  - Boosting growth and cohesion in EU Border Regions,
  - Reduction of cross-border obstacles,
  - Inclusive and apolitical approach,
  - People to people cooperation,
  - Good neighbourly relations and reconciliation.
- **ISO2 on external borders:** *"Peace, security and development are all mutually dependent"*. (President Ursula von der Leyen in her Agenda for Europe)

# Prespa area: an example of possible territorial focus

# EU for Prespa

- Possible combined operations with IPA III AAP 2021 Prespa AD and/or IPARD:
  - Construction of a border crossing point with Greece (Markova Noga)
  - Decreased pollution resulting of human activities
  - Increased share of Environmentally Friendly Agriculture
  - Sustainable tourism product promoted and diversified
  - Strengthened cross-border exchange



ISO2: many possibilities

## Legend

- Border Crossing Point (Corridors)
- Border Crossing Point (Core)
- Border Crossing Point (Comprehensive)
- Capitals

## Roads

- Comprehensive network
- Core network (incl. corridors)

Maintaining the Green Lanes to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services:

- **ISO2** can support the organisation of checks and health screening on one side of the border only to avoid overlaps and waiting times.

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## Key take aways

# Key take aways

For the 2021-2027 period , the Commission proposes re-focusing its narrative and actions along four main clusters – all of which would take account of the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lessons learned from it -> Border regions need to become more resilient in their governance:

- **Public services in border regions:** Cross-border health care, public transport, joint digital services, rescue and emergency services
- **Green Deal implementation**
- **Labour market and education:** Labour mobility in all its dimensions (access to jobs, fight against brain drain, etc)
- **Institutional cooperation:** Governance of cross-border regions and their key services to citizens + integrated and comprehensive approach to security.



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# Thank you



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