

Interreg contributions to climate change adaptation in COP24

8 December 2018

Katowice, Poland

Climate change affects all territories. To better understand and adapt to it, we need to work together. In the European Union, there are around 35 territorial cooperation programmes, known as Interreg, which recognize this need. Each of the programmes offer funding opportunities for relevant public organisations, to develop and implement specific projects related to climate change. Interact has established a thematic community of programme experts working with climate change in order to enable exchange and stimulate inter-programme cooperation.



The twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) took place in Katowice from 2 to 14 December 2018, convened under the Presidency of Poland. The EU, as a member of this conference, hosted side events at a dedicated pavilion. **On 8 December 2018**, the Interreg Climate Change Network held a session presenting "Interreg contribution to climate change adaptation: discover results and funding opportunities". The aim of this session was to show examples of relevant projects, and to provide the audience with information about how to benefit from the current funding research opportunities available.

The event started with a ‘meet-the-expert’ session where the visitors could find useful information about Interreg and concrete projects and tools, such as KEEP.EU and the website Interreg.EU.



The session dedicated to showing Interreg’s contributions to Climate Change adaptation took place in room “Vienna” of the EU Pavilion. The session started with a brief introduction to ‘what is Interreg’ and a presentation of the Interact Climate Change Network. This was supported by two dedicated videos produced especially for this occasion:

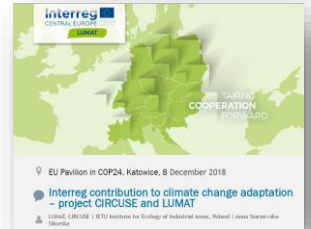
- Interreg Climate Change Network - the reasons why ([link](#))
- Interreg results in combating climate change ([link](#))



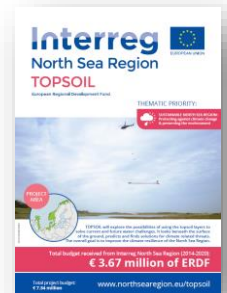
Then, Speakers representing different climate change projects were invited to present their experiences as lead partners.



First, Dr. Anna Starzewska-Sikorska, from the Institute of Ecology of Industrial Areas in Poland, introduced two project examples from the Interreg Central Europe Programme: CIRCUSE and LUMAT ([link](#)).



Afterwards, Mr. Rolf Johnsen from Central Denmark Region presented the main features of the TOPSOIL project ([link](#)) from the Interreg North Sea Programme. TOPSOIL deals with adaptation to climate change and changes in precipitation, sea- and groundwater levels in the North Sea Region. TOPSOIL finds new solutions by working together in partnerships across geographical and disciplinary borders.



Finally, Dr. Monika Strojicka-Gevorgyan, from the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development of Poland expressed the importance of Interreg as a funding instrument for climate change projects. Two key examples were mentioned: [FramWat](#) dealing with natural small water retention measures, and [CE-HEAT](#) focusing economic eligibility of waste heat exploitation.



The session ended with a quiz testing how much the audience had learned from Interreg programmes and projects dealing with climate change adaptation, as well as where to find information about existing projects and upcoming calls for proposals.