

Blue Energy – The potential of Interreg

Knowledge of the seas network's thematic event
21 September 2021 | Online

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Welcome and introduction

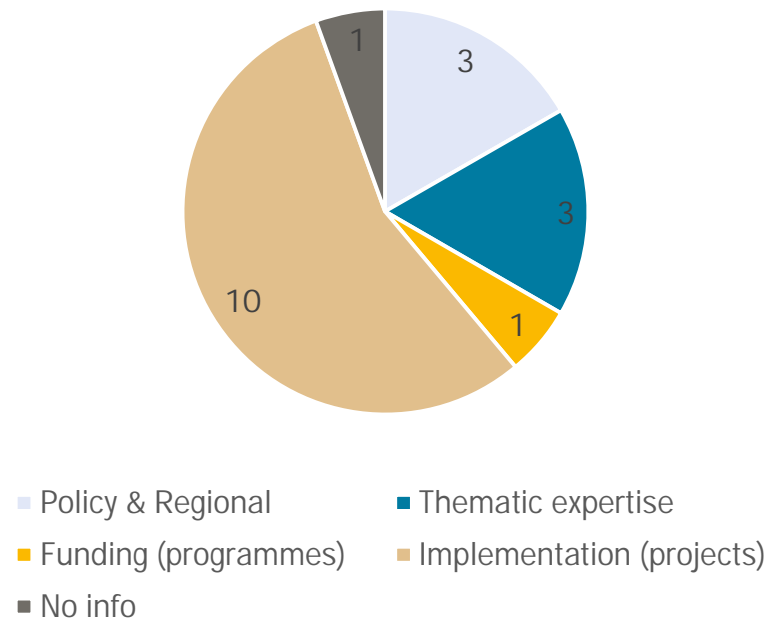
1. Welcome and introduction (13:30-13:45)
 2. Q&A with the speakers (13:45-14:00)
 3. Discussion on the potential of Interreg in Blue Energy (14:00-14:45)
 4. Summary and closing of the meeting (14:45-15:00)
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- Thank you for being part of this experiment and your extra efforts!
 - Success depends on all of us, both in preparation of event and in the event itself!

Participants and their interest

YouTube playlist:
255 video views
by 29 Sep 2021

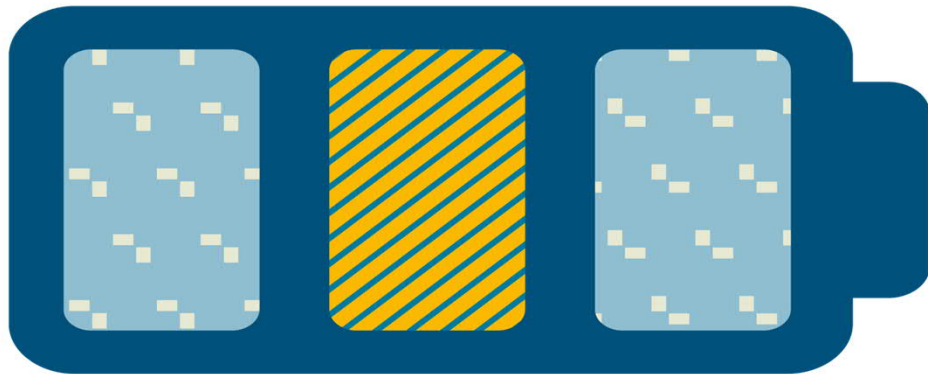
18 participants including 7 representatives of Interreg programmes, 2 of Interreg projects, and 9 of EC DG REGIO, thematic experts, regional actors etc.

Most relevant perspective (participants)



Q&A session

Your questions on the pre-recorded presentations



Questions from the participants (registration)

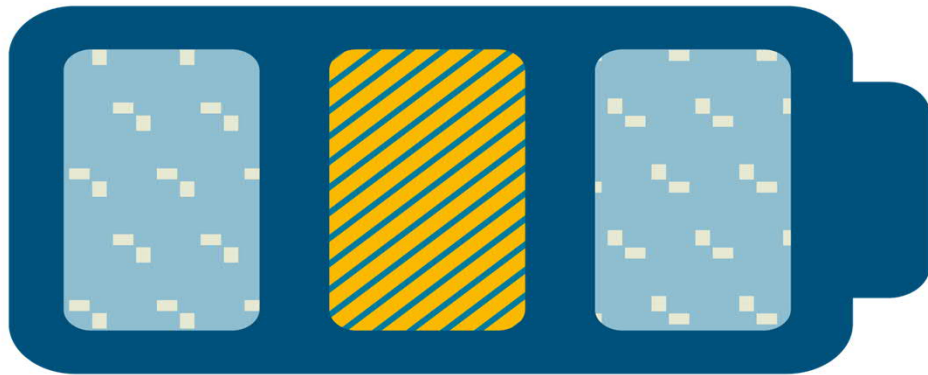
- To Xavier Guillou/EC DG MARE:
 - Which areas in Europe have the greatest potential for wave and tidal energy?
 - Within the ocean energy, could you break down wave and tidal energy 40GW by 2050?
 - Is the European shipbuilding industry working on blue energy?
- To Nicolas Wallet, Danielle Moodie/BLUEGIFT: Please give more information about the technologies/pipeline you are working on in the Bluegift project?
- To Simon Cheeseman/TIGER:
 - What are your first concrete results of the project?
 - Do you think that tidal stream turbines will be operational/on the market in the next 10 years, and compatible with other renewable energy sources such as offshore wind?

Questions from the participants (registration)

- To all projects:
How does your project engage with industry and stakeholders to maximise participation?

The potential of Interreg in Blue Energy

Interactive discussion and exchange



Where is Interreg good at in Blue Energy?

- To incite thematic and financial interest and developments in the different countries; strengthen the voice of the sector with partners in different countries engaging stakeholders to increase visibility; involvement of local and regional authorities; MLG
- Supporting technology development during very intensive and costly research and development phases; thus decreasing costs for testing technologies, **overcoming the "valley of death" between research and commercial uptake**; a more comprehensive technical, commercial and policy support to SMEs developing technologies.
- Sharing test centres, demonstration projects, stakeholders engagement, experimental work, **pilot actions and exchange of knowledge and best practices**; creation of regional/transnational Blue Energy Labs (quadruple helix actors) to **explore** feasibility and sustainability of Blue Energy projects; **coordination** of regional and national actors.

What is Interreg's future potential in Blue Energy?

- BE projects are the core thematic considering the **EU Green Deal**; strong link to **policy**; strong **regional/sea basin dimension**; **combination of funds** for the development of BE.
- **Topics** (combination of sectors): MSP; a more space efficient and integrated development of BE (e.g. energy islands coupling several types of offshore energies); a more sustainable penetration in the market (diverse levels of technological advance and readiness).
- Continued support for **demonstration** to help technology developers **optimise their approach and reach the market**; more cooperation between private investors, technology centres and academia; include policy makers and local/regional authorities to **know the potential and technologies available** (include into regional innovation policy strategies); systematise the exploration of research and innovation on BE.
- Less technology focused, rather uptake/roll-out of existing solutions, awareness raising etc.; **capitalise** on past and ongoing Interreg projects.



Is Interreg really the right tool to finance (financially and size-wise) big but rather local investments like test grounds, individual blue energy installations etc.?

No



Yes



slido

What is cooperation across borders in the field of Blue Energy really about? Why would you use Interreg to develop Blue Energy and not other financial mechanisms?

Maximise learning to solve generic challenges

create a testing environment

speeding up the TRL improvement

territorial scoping

Cooperation environment working across borders

technology transfer

knowledge transfer, sharing best practices

cooperation on research and innovation

Interreg need to be connected to policies, blue energy is a good example



What about taking risks and being innovative? Do you perceive Interreg as sufficiently "risk friendly" to develop innovations in the field of Blue Energy?

Somewhat



Yes

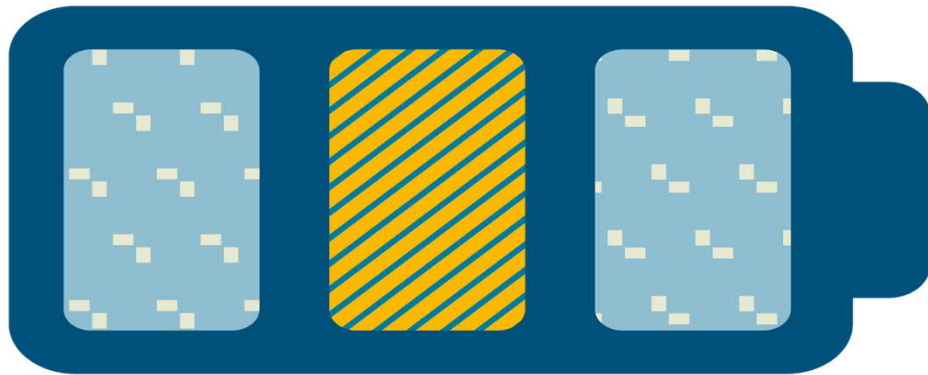


No



Reflections? Conclusions?

Summary and closing of the meeting



Some key messages from the discussion

- Interreg needs to be more radical if it wants to be a game changer – especially in view of challenges like climate change (and blue energy answers to this challenge).
- Public authorities need to have an informed risk appetite, to be ready to take risks to overcome the death valley until reaching the 'ready for market' stage. But it takes a lot of efforts to get politicians convinced and involved.
- Interreg is much more than a mechanism, it is a policy with cooperation as core element and, for maritime cooperation, the sea being the common element. Cooperation is important as countries might be at different stages in terms of regulatory and legal development or spatial planning; to share knowledge, good practices and to avoid duplication; as the human capital will be higher if allowing for interaction across borders.
- Interreg is much more user friendly than other funding programmes as it allows for flexibility and modifications (even if more demanding for the programme management), esp. important when being innovative and developing new (blue energy) solutions.

Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

www.interact-eu.net

