Interreg VI–A Italia–Österreich
Kooperationsprogramm
Programma di cooperazione

23. EU-Kontaktleute Treffen
23° incontro persone di contatto UE

IURC
INTERNATIONAL URBAN AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Interreg
Italia–Österreich

Co-funded by
the European Union

Europa noch näher
Un'Europa più vicina

About IURC

Sustainable and Innovative Cities and Regions

[About – International Urban and Regional Cooperation]

Latin America | North America | Asia & Australasia

The International Urban and Regional Cooperation programme (IURC) aims to consolidate the form of decentralised international urban and regional cooperation in sustainable urban development, in key partner countries and regions in line with the external dimension of "Europe 2020." Based on the capitalisation of results and lessons learned from the previous phases (2016-2024), the IURC programme optimises the added-value of international cooperation.

IURC is about more than signing agreements, is about practical implementation of concrete focused projects. Is a functional platform of cooperation between stakeholders from business, governments and research institutions where they get together to implement actions and make a difference for the future.

IURC Cities and Regions Advancing Global Cooperation

IURC Global Thematic Networking Event @ SCEWC25 – Global Cooperation in Action

Driving Innovation and Sustainability: IURC Global Thematic Networking

IURC Latin America

IURC LA 2025 Inception

The International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) EU – Latin America and the Caribbean (IURC-LAC) programme fosters partnerships between cities and regions from LAC and their counterparts in Europe. Participating countries include Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and selected Caribbean cities.

Day 2 – Matchmaking, Business Engagement & Closing Plenary

Event @ #SCEWC 2025 in Barcelona – International Urban and Regional Cooperation

IURC
INTERNATIONAL URBAN AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

A Platform for Lasting Cooperation

- The IURC Global Thematic Networking @ #SCEWC25 confirmed the EU's leadership in decentralised international cooperation and the growing importance of international partnerships in addressing global challenges.
- By combining knowledge exchange, technical collaboration, and peer learning, the IURC continues to empower cities and regions to co-create solutions for climate resilience, innovation, and sustainable growth.
- The Barcelona event leaves a lasting mark — a community of leaders united in building **smarter, greener, and more connected cities and regions worldwide.**

6 Regions CoPs

CoP 1 -Digital Transformation

- Bucharest
- Santiago de Chile
- Bacau
- Tucumán
- *other EU regions*

- CoP Manager: Francisco Rocha

CoP 2 - Green and Just Transition

- Greater Porto
- Chihuahua
- Valle del Cauca
- Hunedoara

- CoP Manager: Francisco Rocha

CoP 3 - Hydrogen Value Chain

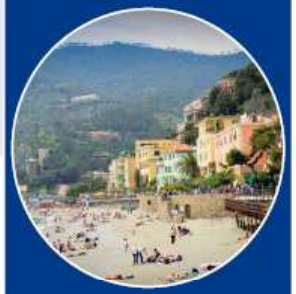
- Ostrobothnia
- Magallanes
- Yucatán
- Alentejo

- CoP Manager: Maria Toptsidou

CoP 4 - Blue Economy Skills

- Brest
- Tierra del Fuego
- Coimbra

- CoP Manager: Sara Medina / Igor Lopes



CoP 5 – Blue Economy Data & Plastic Pollution Action

- Catalonia
- Paraná

- CoP Manager: Sara Medina / Igor Lopes

CoP 6 - Smart Agri-food

- Rio Minho
- Mendoza
- Bozen/South Tyrol
- Amazonas
- Loreto
- Tacna

- CoP Manager: Kirsti Hagemann/ Marcela Mäder

Region to Region

IURC
INTERNATIONAL URBAN AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

START UP REPORT

The Autonomous Province of Bolzano-South Tyrol is the Managing Authority of the EU territorial cooperation program Interreg Italy-Austria, one of the EU's main instruments to support cohesion policy between regions and countries. As the name suggests, Interreg IT-AT covers the border region between Italy and Austria in a territory that includes six regions.

Thematic Network & Cluster of Interest

- **Cross-border cooperation**: Multi-Level Governance, cohesion
- **Community-led local development**: bottom-up approach, local actors

What are we good at? What can we share with others?

Interreg IT-AT is best known for its **CLLD approach**. CLLD stands for Community-led Local Development. In other words, citizens in these areas, which have cross-border historical roots, are **directly involved** in managing and decision-making for local small- and medium-scale projects. By adopting this bottom-up approach and devolving power, peripheral areas can become **'territorial laboratories'**, engage in networking, and build new partnerships. Since its initial implementation, this system of multi-level governance and cooperation has proven successful.

Autonomous Province of Bolzano-South Tyrol, Interreg VI A Italy-Austria:

City: Bolzano/Bozen - South Tyrol

Country: Italy

Population: 539,386 (in 2024)

Size (km.): 7,399.97 km2

Program priorities (2021-2027): innovation, entrepreneurship, climate change, biodiversity, sustainable tourism and culture, community-led local development (CLLD), cross-border cooperation between public administrations

In our exchanges, we would like to be inspired on:

We want to share our experience of the CLLD approach with as many people as possible because we believe that local development and the involvement of local stakeholders (the general population, economic and social interest groups, and representatives of public and private institutions) strengthens democratic processes and drives rural development. The results and positive feedback from those areas confirm it.

Furthermore, we want to engage in dialogue with other actors, strengthen cooperation for territorial development, and generate synergies.

Who will be involved in the exchanges?

MAIN CONTACT:
Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat of Interreg IT-AT
Email: gs-sc@provincia.bz.it
Email: irene.covi@provincia.bz.it
Website: https://interreg.net/en/

Interreg Italia–Österreich
Co-funded by the European Union
Autonome Provinz Bozen
Provincia autonoma di Bolzano
Provizia autonoma de Bulsan
SÜDTIROL · ALTO ADIGE

"Prioritising local knowledge to address local problems with local solutions."

Mr Slawomir Tokarski, Director, DG, Regio, European Territorial Cooperation, Macro-regions, Interreg and Programme Implementation

IURC
INTERNATIONAL URBAN AND REGIONAL COOPERATION
Funded by the European Union

This document was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of IURC and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

Autonomous Province of Bolzano- South Tyrol Interreg Italy-Austria

***Interreg Italy-Austria* in a nutshell:**

Region: Autonomous Province Bolzano-South Tyrol

Country: Italy

Population: 539,386 (in 2024), multilingualism

Main sectors: RIS3 strategy
Automation & Digital, Food & Life Science, Green & Alpine Technologies, 4 cross-cutting areas (sustainability, digitalisation, creative industry, lifelong learning)

Entity/Organisation: Europe Department – Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen-South Tyrol, Northern Italy

Ssolbergj, CC BY-SA 3.0 , via Wikimedia Commons

Autonome Provinz Bozen
Provincia autonoma di Bolzano
Provizia autonoma de Bulsan
SÜDTIROL · ALTO ADIGE

Interreg Italia–Österreich

Co-funded by the European Union

Interreg Italy Austria | Interreg Italy Austria

Thematic focus and interest:

Cross-border cooperation programme promoting territorial cohesion between European regions, stimulate balanced and sustainable development of territories, and foster bottom-up local and cross-border development through multilevel governance in designing interventions to address social, economic and environmental challenges.

What are we good at:

South Tyrol brings together different cultures and languages, and it has a long-standing history of cross-border and international cooperation. Several Interreg-projects have been very successful:

- **EuropeanFamilyPass**: increases the mobility of families, overcomes borders, and promotes cultural exchange;
- **Albina**: daily news about what is happening weatherwise in the Alpine regions;
- **Re-Cereal**: optimizes the cultivation methods of cereals, their processing, and the development of analytical methods for quality determination;

Which experience can we transfer:

EU pioneers with 10 years of experience with **cross border Community-Led Local Development** (CLLD), where local stakeholder are directly involved in the entire project process - and embody what is really meant with bottom-up approaches; successful regional development of peripheral and mountainous areas.

What are we looking for:

A place where we can share our experience in local development and where we can learn about similar formats and projects addressing smart innovation, climate change, sustainable tourism, multilingual cultures and overcoming cross border obstacles.

Networking for regional development

partnership

area-based approach

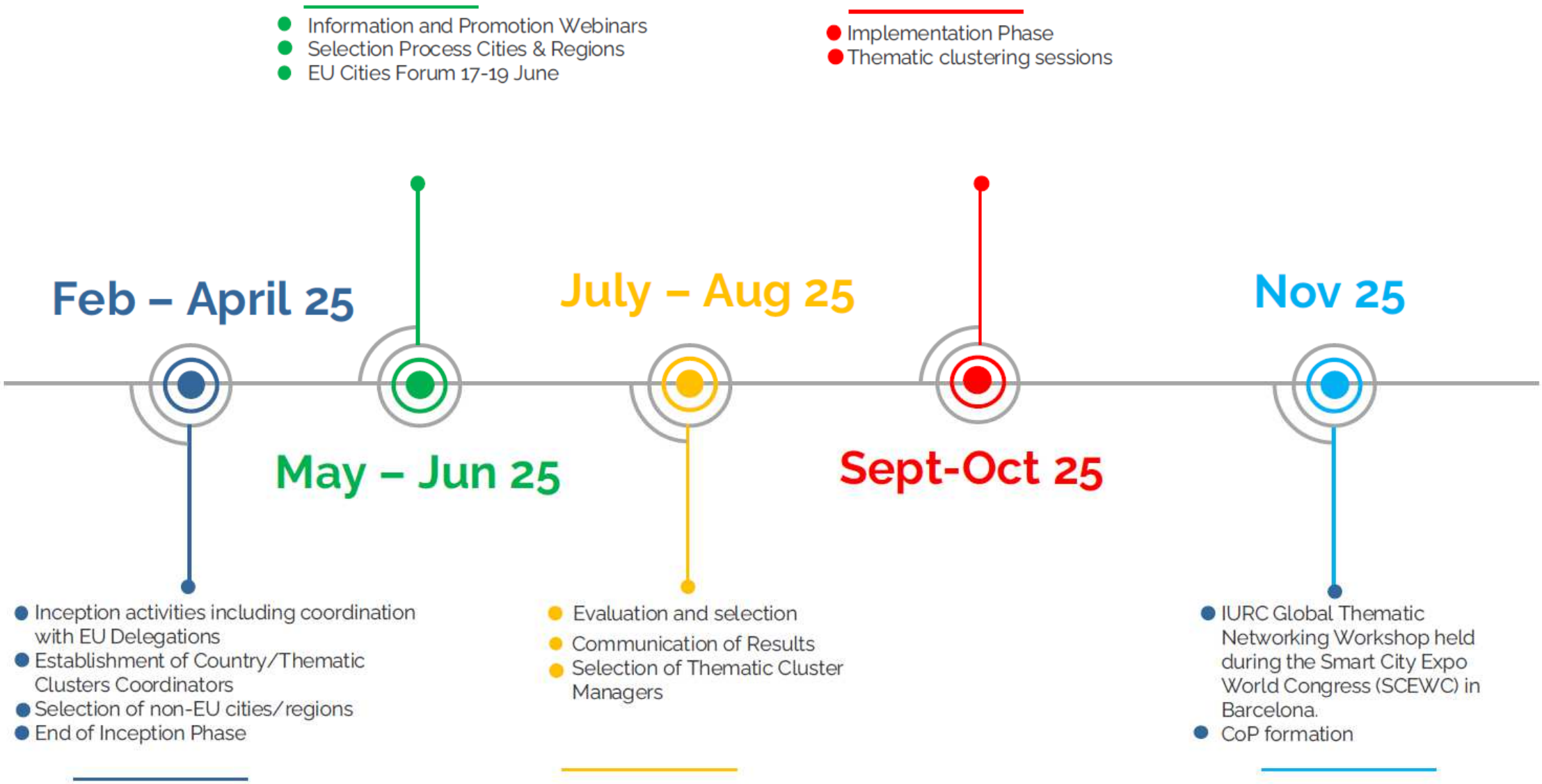
devolution of decision-making

Multi-level governance and cooperation

bottom-up, place-based, people-to-people

Local development strategy

Innovative dimension – territorial laboratories


Information and Promotion Webinars
Selection Process Cities & Regions
EU Cities Forum 17-19 June
Implementation Phase
Thematic clustering sessions
Feb – April 25
May – Jun 25
July – Aug 25
Sept-Oct 25
Nov 25
Inception activities including coordination with EU Delegations
Establishment of Country/Thematic Clusters Coordinators
Selection of non-EU cities/regions
End of Inception Phase
Evaluation and selection
Communication of Results
Selection of Thematic Cluster Managers
IURC Global Thematic Networking Workshop held during the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC) in Barcelona.
CoP formation

Regional Networking Event in Cali, Colombia (14-17 April)
Advanced Cooperation Missions
Implementation of pilot actions
Final Results Event in Brussels (European Week of Regions and Cities)
We are here!
Dec 25- March 26
Oct 26 – Dec 26
Dec 27
April - Sep 26
Jan-Oct 27
CoP Online Meetings
UCAP/RCAP Roadmap development
Pilot proposal submission (13 November)
Pilot proposals evaluation
Final report and dissemination
Best- practices capturing

Regions: CoPs progress overview

- All CoPs had several meetings in December and January to plan their cooperation, current discussions on the focus of cooperation and activities
- Planning is ongoing, all CoPs work on the Roadmap document (R-CAP)

UCAP/RCAP

Deadline: 20 March

The **Urban/Regional Cooperation Action Plans** (UCAP/RCAP) are the **core planning tools** of each Community of Practice (CoP).

They define:

- Cooperation objectives and activities (2025–2027)
- Stakeholders involved
- Expected results and knowledge products
- Study visit plans (EU + LAC)
- Early ideas for pilot actions (to be funded in 2026)

Global EU
CLLD goes international

- **Activity: Cross-Border Community-Led Local Development Laboratory (CLLD-LAB)**
  When: during the Study Visits
  Where: Both regions
  What: To promote territorial development in border areas through citizen participation, cooperation among local actors, and bottom-up strategies. The model integrates civil society, public administrations, and economic stakeholders, fostering networks, local innovation, and multilevel governance.
- participatory diagnosis and thematic groups;
- creation of a cross-border working group;
- development of innovative micro-projects with partners from both States;
- training in participatory methodologies;
- exchange of experiences and dissemination of results;
- evaluation and transfer to regional policies.

The added value lies in cross-border cooperation, innovation applied to local challenges, and the strengthening of community participation in decision-making.

Interreg Italia–Österreich

Co-funded by the European Union

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (CLLD)

CLLD Projects | Interreg Italy Austria

Conclusion
.. this is just the beginning

Crossborder CLLD-approach raises interest…

Europe in my Region?
Follow us….

www.interreg.net

Instagram · europedirect_southtyrol
800+ followers

Europe Direct Südtirol - Alto Adige
(@europedirect_southtyrol)