

Small Places Matter Pilot Action

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Interreg Sweden-Norway 2021-2027 Launch

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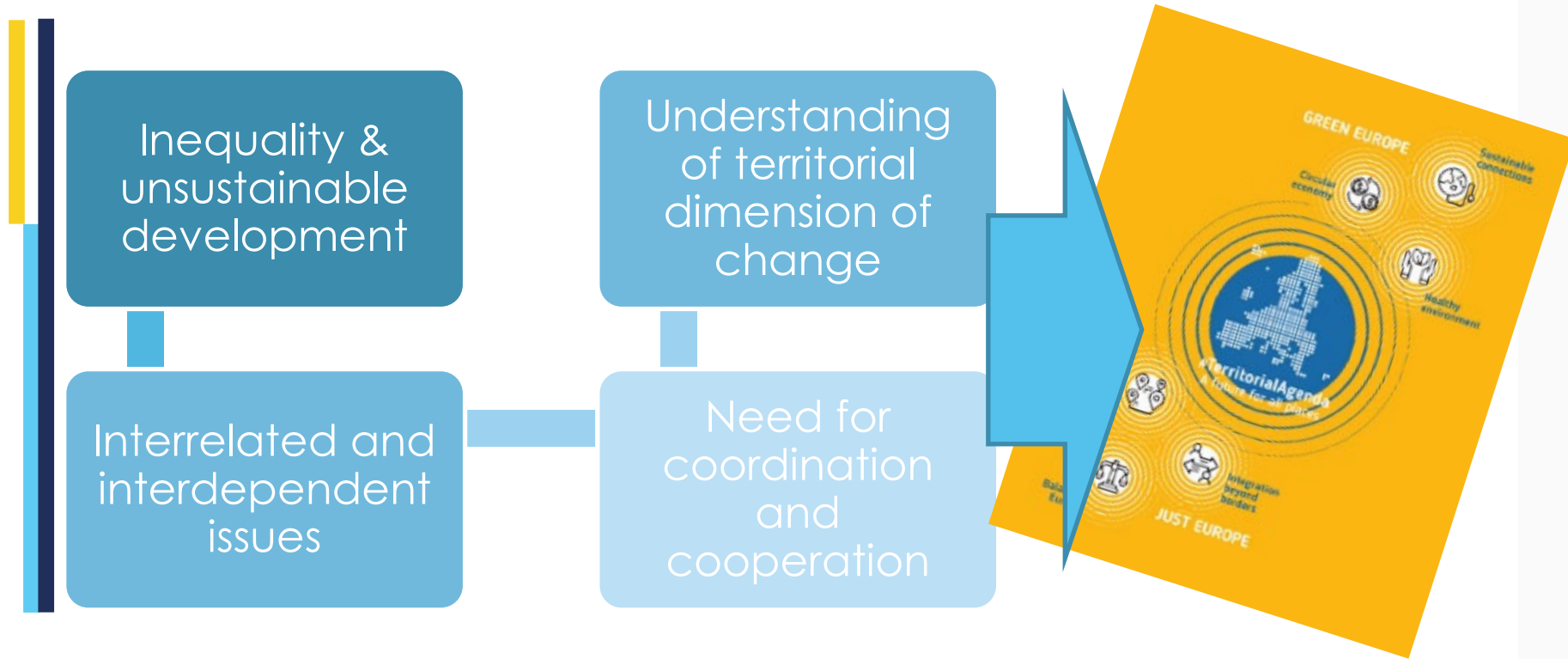


EUROPEAN POLICIES RESEARCH CENTRE

- Research institute founded 1978, 17 staff + associates
 - Based in Glasgow (University of Strathclyde) and in Delft (Technical University since 2017)
- Comparative research on **regional and local development policies**
 - particular interest in ETC
- **Research, knowledge exchange & policy advice** for national governments & sub-national authorities
- **Collaboration** with EU institutions and programmes
 - Interreg and Interact programme evaluations and programming support
 - Spatial and territorial development, ESDP and TA 2030



TERRITORIAL AGENDA 2030



TERRITORIAL AGENDA 2030

For Interreg....all
sounds
familiar...!!!



Just Europe



Balanced Europe

Better balanced territorial development utilising Europe's diversity

Functional Regions

Local and regional development and less inequalities between places

Integration Beyond Borders

Living and working across national borders

Green Europe



Healthy Environment

Better ecological livelihoods and climate-neutral towns, cities and regions

Circular Economy

Strong and sustainable local economies in a globalised world

Sustainable Connections

Sustainable digital and physical connectivity of places

Working with the TA	Benefits	Examples
Strategic territorial focus	Strategic, spatial lens identifies specific combinations of challenges and potentials that influence the development of different places.	<p>Urban areas (sustainable urban mobility, urban fabric and land use)</p> <p>Rural and remote areas (identifying growth drivers, digital connectivity)</p> <p>Areas with specific geographical endowments (islands)</p> <p>Functional areas (metropolitan areas, urban-rural linkages)</p> <p>Cross-border areas (integrated territorial investment in public services)</p>
Policy integration & synergies	<p>Cross-cutting issues viewed beyond single sectoral or institutional boundaries, allowing more sophisticated responses. Combines support from different sources.</p> <p>Allows synergetic cooperation and exchange between different territories.</p>	<p>Cross-sectoral perspectives in the circular economy</p> <p>Integrating public and private sector contributions.</p> <p>Cooperative approach of towns and cities with similar challenges to develop and preserve the multifunctionality of the green spaces.</p>
Innovation & experimentation	New, experimental approaches are often required in addressing territorial challenges and these are often a source of innovative solutions to complex issues.	<p>Geo-spatial tools, mapping, Territorial Impact Assessment</p> <p>Experimentation and piloting processes</p> <p>Territorial networks for innovation</p>
Governance models & capacities	Territorial approaches strengthen governance structures and cultures, boosting capacities particularly at the local level.	<p>Vertical, multi-level coordination between national, regional and local administrations</p> <p>Strengthened horizontal coordination and cooperative dynamics, especially at the local level</p>

ADDED VALUE FOR & FROM INTERREG

Plays to **strengths and added value**

- Themes/focus
 - Tradition of working well on territorial and spatial planning
 - Projects on relevant themes
- Stakeholders
 - A lot of work across levels, sectors and stakeholder type
 - Building critical mass
- Approach
 - Territorial focus in place (just need to recognise it)
 - Innovation and foresight
 - Networking

Programme/project/ partner benefits

- New networks
- Capitalisation
- Impact

Interact

- Series of events
- Working group
- Fiche

ESPON

- Series of projects and data



Pilot Actions

- Demonstrate, test and develop practices that contribute to achieving TA priorities
- Different administrative levels from transnational to neighbourhood
- Flexible in focus and character
- Explore new approaches and/or showcase
- Place-sensitive policy making
- Strengthening the territorial dimension
- Addressing one of TA priorities

TERRITORIAL AGENDA PILOT ACTIONS

#TerritorialAgenda

Functional regions:
Convergent local and regional development, less inequality between places

Healthy environment:
Better ecological livelihoods and climate-neutral and resilient towns, cities and regions

Climate change adaptation and resilience through landscape transition

Lead stakeholder: Ministry of Environment and Climate Action, Portugal

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#TerritorialAgenda

Balanced Europe: Better balanced territorial development utilising Europe's diversity

Integration beyond borders: Easier living and working across national borders

Region-focused Territorial Impact Assessment

Lead stakeholder: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland

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#TerritorialAgenda

Healthy environment:
Better ecological livelihoods and climate-neutral and resilient towns, cities and regions

Functional regions:
Convergent local and regional development, less inequality between places

Climate action in Alpine towns

Lead stakeholder: Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) & Alpine Convention, Switzerland

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#TerritorialAgenda

Integration beyond borders:
Easier living and working across national borders

Healthy environment:
Better ecological livelihoods and climate-neutral and resilient towns, cities and regions

Functional regions:
Convergent local and regional development, less inequality between places

Cross-border spatial planning: A vision for a zero-carbon cross-border functional region

Lead stakeholder: Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning, Luxembourg

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#TerritorialAgenda

Balanced Europe: Better balanced territorial development utilising Europe's diversity

Functional regions:
Convergent local and regional development, less inequality between places

Small places matter: Understanding how small places can boost their role for the development of a wider territory

Lead stakeholder: Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Norway

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#TerritorialAgenda

Balanced Europe: Better balanced territorial development utilising Europe's diversity

A future for lagging regions: Fostering the implementation of spatial strategies







Lead stakeholder: Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development, Germany

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SMALL PLACES MATTER PILOT ACTION



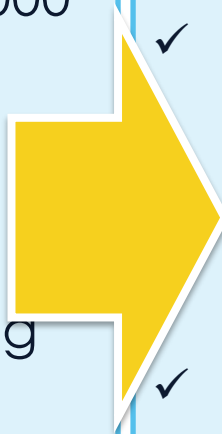


Examples	Focus	Common themes	TA Priorities
Germany 	Small Town Academy Revitalisation of small town centre/ public participation in planning (Rodewisch)	Capacity Participation and engagement, young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Balanced Europe• Functional regions• Integration beyond border• Healthy Environment,• Circular economy• Sustainable connections
Ireland 	Town Centre First Framework	Strategic Coordinated 'livability' of small towns	
Poland 	Programme for Local Development Intermunicipal cooperation	Capacity Territorial cooperation Intermunicipal cooperation	
Norway 	Interreg CBC	Cross border cooperation	
Sweden 	Municipal Cooperation	Intermunicipal cooperation Capacity	
Switzerland 	Role in climate change adaptation and action	Thematic engagement	



THEMES AND INTERESTS

- Small towns 'anchor point'
- Small town focus 5-20,000 inhabitants
- Engagement and capacity (public engagement, inter-municipal, strengthening institutional potential, governance)
- Resilience
- Topics:
 - Demographic change
 - Sustaining and access to services



- ✓ Contribute knowledge and share solutions
- ✓ Inter-municipal cooperation
 - Networks for small town development – European exchange
 - Small town academy - similar initiatives
- ✓ Capacity building - effective and efficient development
 - Analytics and strategic planning
- ✓ Link to pilot action on lagging regions and Alpine regions



- Doesn't always have to be 'big' issue, can start small (but matters to the territory)
- Bottom-up involvement of actors on-site
- Understand role in a wider context
- Cross-border, transnational or supra-region networks can pool expertise



- Bringing levels or sectors together on a personal level of "good collegueship" can strengthen efficiency
- There can be different types of "neighbours"/functional areas
- The development of solutions for local or regional challenges often faces capacity barriers

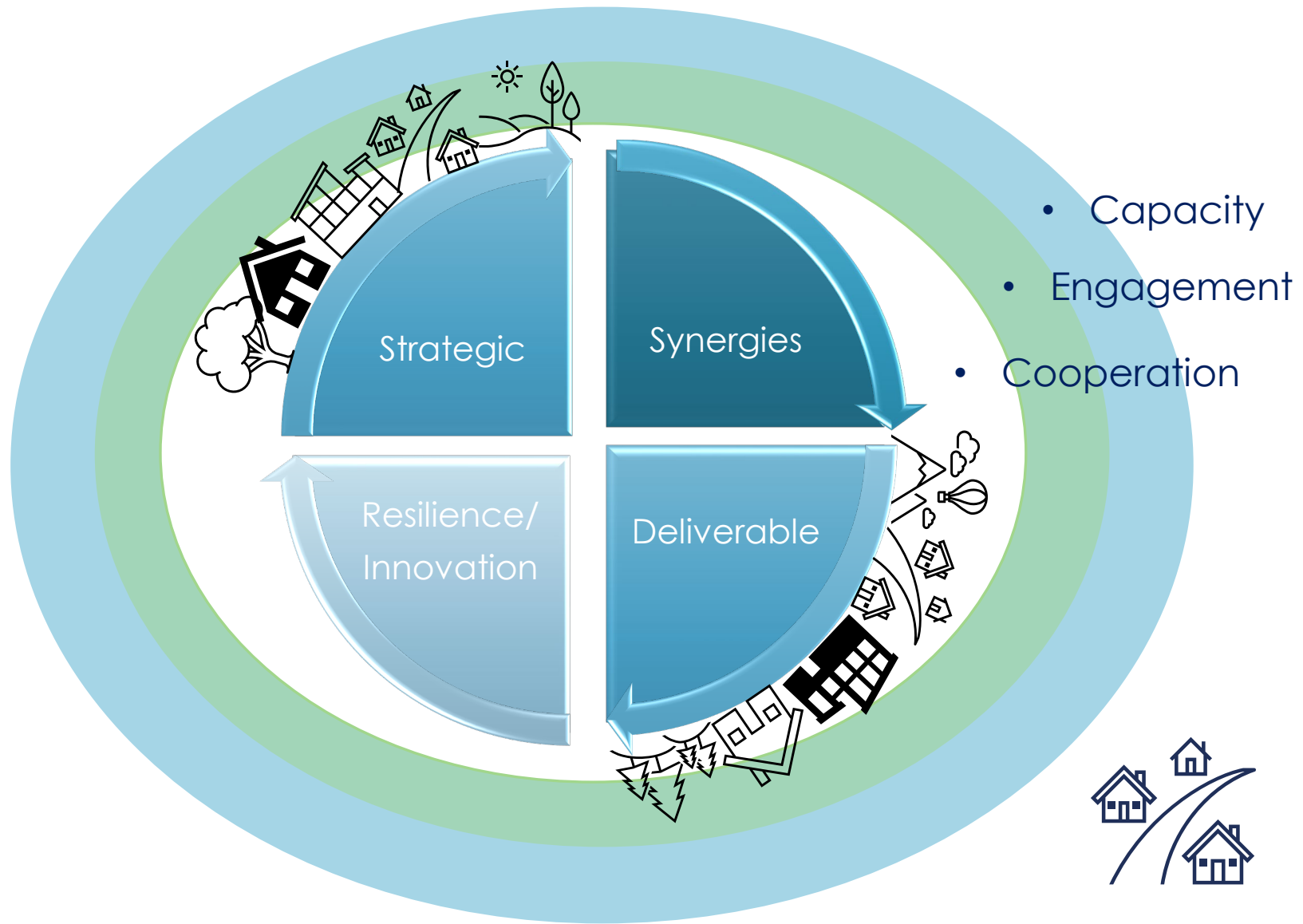


- Prioritise and build cooperation
 - addressing capacity - regional service platform?
 - value of visualization and information bottom-up involvement of actors on-site
- Steering network of representatives with a clear and joint strategy



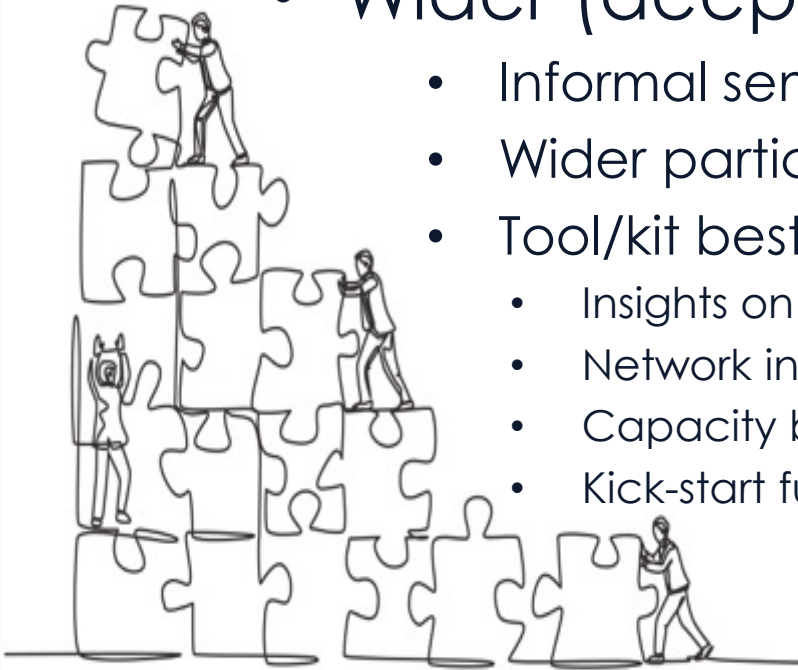
- Change is the main constant
- Demand for innovation, resilience and responsiveness





WHAT NEXT FOR THE PILOT ACTION?

- Strategic Engagement
- Outputs and events
- Wider (deeper) partner engagement
 - Informal seminars and workshops
 - Wider participation, engage with projects
 - Tool/kit best practice guide
 - Insights on intermunicipal and functional cooperation
 - Network information
 - Capacity building
 - Kick-start funding



**Thank you for your
attention!**

**[https://territorialagenda.eu/
pilot-actions/small-places-
matter/](https://territorialagenda.eu/pilot-actions/small-places-matter/)**