



SURVEY GUIDELINE

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2028-2034 stakeholder consultation

06 2026

About Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

The **Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme**, co-funded by the EU through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) supports transnational cooperation projects aiming at making the central Europe area more resilient to challenges that transcend national borders. It brings together actors from nine countries: **Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia**, covering 81 regions and 148 million people.

The current 2021-2027 programme has a budget of 224 million EUR and funds 125 projects across four priority areas: (1) *Cooperating for a smarter central Europe*, (2) *Cooperating for a greener central Europe*, (3) *Cooperating for a better-connected central Europe*, and (4) *Improving governance for cooperation in central Europe*.

More information on the current programme can be found here: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/>

Preparing for the funding period 2028-2034

As the current programming period is approaching its conclusion, Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE has started preparing the programme for the 2028-2034 period. The preparation process is coordinated by the Working Group for Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2028-34, established by the programme's Monitoring Committee and representing the nine countries participating in the programme. In 2026, the focus is on building a shared territorial analysis for the programme area, extended to Ukraine, and identifying and validating common territorial challenges, cooperation needs and opportunities. The territorial analysis will provide the evidence base for the future programme strategy, which will be developed through an iterative consensus-building process involving the partner countries and key programme stakeholders. This will mark the completion of the first phase of the programming process. The second phase, running throughout 2027, will focus on translating the agreed strategy into the programme intervention logic, including the definition of priorities, specific objectives, actions and implementation arrangements.



Purpose of this survey

As part of the preparation of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2028-2034, this survey seeks stakeholders' input to validate the territorial analysis and identify the cooperation needs and opportunities that should shape the future programme strategy and priorities.

The survey invites stakeholders to provide input on the following aspects of the future programme:

- the territorial challenges and needs where transnational cooperation can generate the most added value;
- the Specific Objectives most relevant for the programme area and for the respondent's organisation or territory;
- the types of cooperation outputs and activities most likely to produce meaningful results;
- the programme's transnational added value,
- the emerging needs or trends not yet fully captured by the proposed SOs.

Results will directly inform the strategic choices to be made by programme partners at the end of 2026.

Structure of the survey

The survey is divided into four sections and takes up to 30 minutes to complete.

Section 1 - Stakeholder profile (~5 min)

Seven questions covering organisation type, country, NUTS 2 region, territorial level of operation, thematic field, and involvement in Interreg.

Section 2 - Selection of Specific Objectives (~5 min)

This section presents all Specific Objectives (SOs) proposed under the draft EU regulations for the 2028-2034 period, grouped under three thematic areas together with two Interreg-Specific Objectives (ISOs). Respondents are invited to identify up to three SOs considered most relevant for transnational cooperation in central Europe. Short open questions are also included on ISO 1 ("Better cooperation governance") and ISO 3 ("More resilient regions bordering Belarus, Russia or Ukraine").

Section 3 - Questions per selected Specific Objective (~5-8 min per SO)

For each Specific Objective (SO) selected in Section 2, a dedicated page is generated automatically. If three SOs are selected, the survey will include three corresponding pages, each focusing on one SO. Each page gathers information on:

- the relevance of the selected SO for the respondent's organisation or territory;
- the main territorial challenges associated with the SO, based on a tailored list specific to each objective;
- the types of outputs considered most likely to deliver added value (e.g. strategies, pilot actions, solutions and cooperation networks);
- existing project ideas, initiatives or partnerships that could provide a basis for future Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE projects under the selected objective.



Section 4 – Transnational added value and emerging needs (~5 min)

This final section is common to all respondents, irrespective of the Specific Objectives (SOs) selected. It seeks views on the added value of transnational cooperation under Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE and invites respondents to identify emerging territorial needs or trends that may not yet be fully addressed by the proposed SOs. The section concludes with an open question for any additional comments or recommendations to inform the preparation of the future programme.

Deadline: 14 August 2026

Survey link: <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/91139086/457-Central-Europe>

For any questions regarding the survey, please contact the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Consultation Helpdesk at InterregCE-consultation-helpdesk@t33.it.

All responses will be treated confidentially and analysed exclusively for programming purposes. Results will be reported only in aggregated and anonymised form.