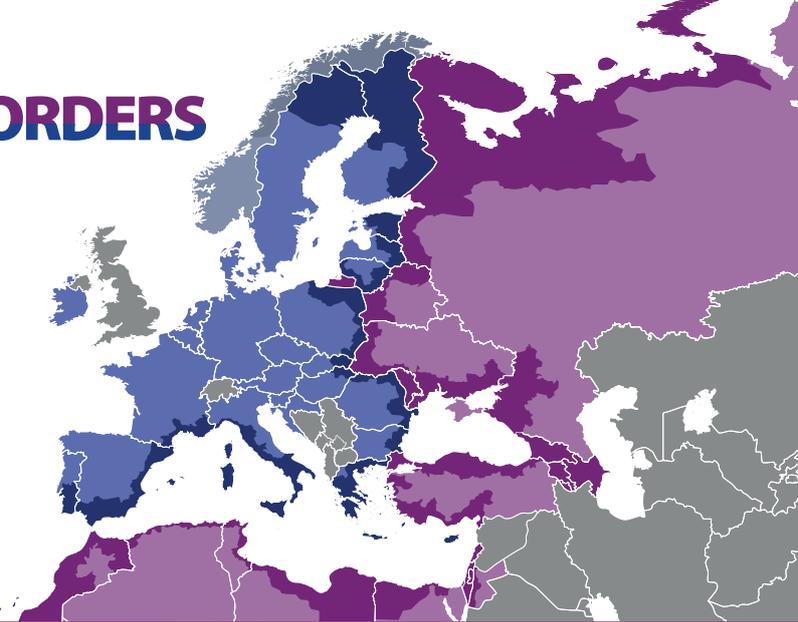


COOPERATION ACROSS BORDERS



Funded by the European Union



P2P

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE COOPERATION IN ENI CBC PROGRAMMES



People-to-people exchanges are the real cement of cross-border cooperation projects: they create direct links between institutions and organisations, authorities and citizens, with the purpose to promote understanding and to develop new solutions to common problems.

People-to-people (P2P) cooperation can hardly be interpreted as an “objective” or a “priority” per se; it is rather to be seen as an approach to territorial/international cooperation “designed to foster the convergence of bordering regions and initiating grassroots contact among people”. In fact, in the Programming Document for EU support to cross-border cooperation under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI CBC), the promotion of local cross-border P2P actions is considered as an important modality to be deployed in support of any of the three overarching strategic objectives (SOs).

On a broader perspective, P2P contributes to the so-called “human development”, currently in line with the overall global framework of the 2030 United Nations’ Agenda for the Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Pillar of Social Rights (EU Social Pillar).



T03 (8 ENI CBC programmes)
Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage

T04 (3 ENI CBC programmes)
Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty

T05 (3 ENI CBC programmes)
Support to local & regional good governance

Strategic objectives

A Promote economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders

B Address common challenges in environment, public health, safety and security

C Promotion of better conditions and modalities for ensuring the mobility of persons, goods and capital

While P2P has a clear link with T0 4 and T05, its reference to T03 is limited to the preservation of natural and cultural heritage in sustainable tourism initiatives having a community-led approach able to stress the P2P principles.

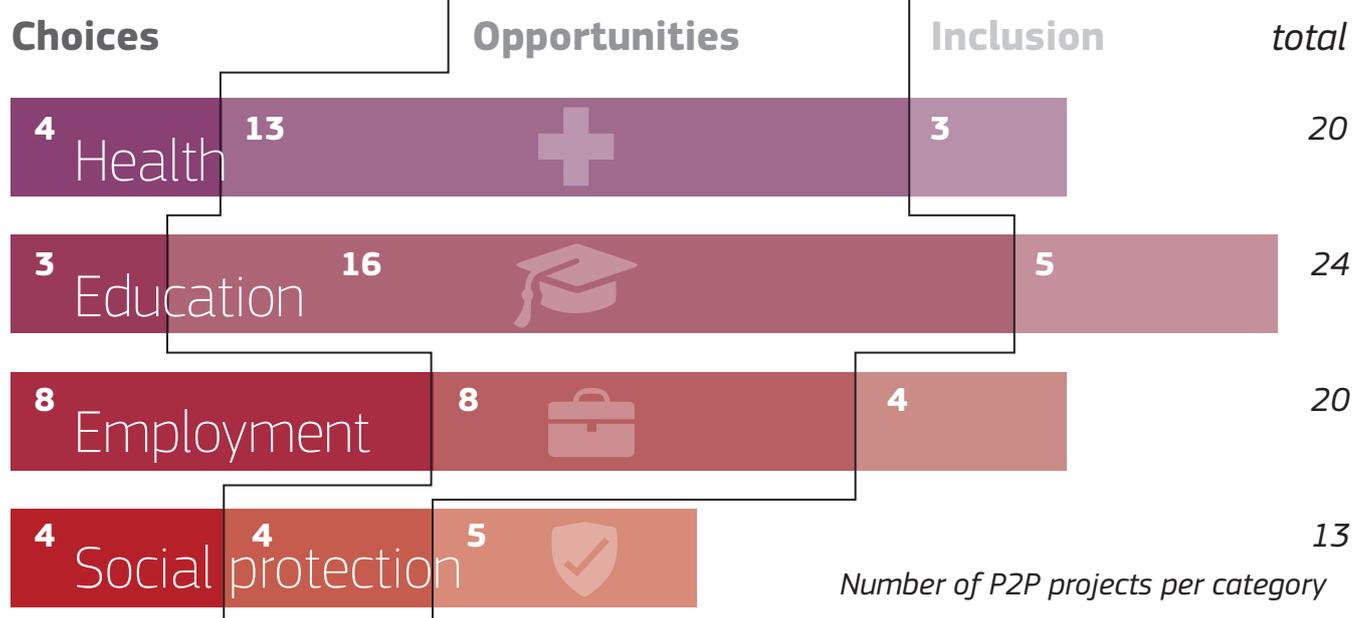
Clusters and subclusters

The analysis of the objectives, priorities and indicators identified in the Joint Operational programmes (JOPs), as well as of the preliminary overview of the funded projects, has led to the identification of three main clusters. Each of the clusters has then been declined in four sub-clusters.

Choices, intended as the capacity to create an environment for people, individually and collectively, to develop to their full potential and to have a reasonable chance of leading productive and creative lives that they value.

Opportunities, meaning to develop people's abilities and giving them a chance to use them, notably through the foundations of well-functioning health, education, social and pro-employment creation services.

Inclusion of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups via the development of dedicated services to fight poverty and exclusion, and fostering of cultural shifts to create a culture of acceptance and cherishing of diversity.



Based on the analysis of the JOPs, the preliminary sub-clustering denoted a foreseeable prevalence of the focus on employment matters under all TOs, with health and social protection being mildly disregarded. The analysis has been completed via a dedicated survey and an in-depth desk research of selected initiatives from five programmes:

- Mediterranean Sea Basin
- Karelia
- Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus
- Lithuania-Russia
- Poland-Belarus-Ukraine

The 77 funded projects subject to analysis have been classified according to one cluster and one sub-cluster (see table above).

The project classification highlights a relatively balanced distribution with a preference towards education opportunities (both standard and lifelong). A more diffused interest towards health-related projects is also perceptible.

In terms of funds, the total budget allocated to the projects funded under P2P amounts to 54.642.391€, with the following distribution per cluster and sub-cluster (approx.):

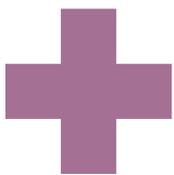
Allocation per cluster	
Choices	14.2M €
Opportunities	26.9M €
Inclusion	13.5 M €
Allocation per subcluster	
Health	12.7 M €
Employment	15 M €
Education	16.6M €
Social protection	10.3M €

Although many projects are still in an early phase of implementation, relevant advancements and results are already noticeable, allowing to hope for long-lasting positive impacts in the considered regions. A more thorough analysis will be delivered via a dedicated thematic publication.

Until this publication is available, and as a result of the preliminary screening, a total of seven projects have been preliminary identified as 'good practices'.

Let's take a look at them!

PROJECT PORTFOLIO



Health

Associating healthcare and social protection measures is key to ensure an adequate level and distribution of social protection, health equity and well-being.

Reinforcing healthcare systems, tackling emergency with greater efficiency and reaching out all social groups is actually the foreseen contribution of project **Reduction of social exclusion and increase in the quality of life of cancer patients in Vilnius and Grodno regions** funded under T04 by the Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus Programme. The initiative, at a crossroad between healthcare and social protection, intertwines the increase in the accessibility to modern, minimally-invasive surgery and social services for the cancer patients in Vilnius and Grodno regions. This is complemented with the exchange of bilateral experience through knowledge management and capacity strengthening activities, involving representatives of non-governmental organizations acting in the field of oncology in Lithuania and Belarus, thus leveraging on the cross-border added value.

www.keep.eu/project/23220/reduction-of-social-exclusion-and-increase-in-the-quality-of-life-of-cancer-patients-in-vilnius-and-grodno-regions



Education

Shared cultural background across border is pivotal also in designing lifelong and vocational education opportunities under

T03 in the Lithuania-Russia Programme, where six partners join forces in the project **Cross-Heritage – Common Heritage of Curonian Lagoon: from Extraordinary to Familiar** <http://special.kantiana.ru/heritage-lt-ru/en>.

The initiative, in its early-implementation phase, foresees actions for tourism promotion of the region and emphasizing the identity of the Curonian lagoon region largely springing from the development of educational programs, the organization and conduct of three seminars (master classes) for 30 students of geography, history, tourism management, workers in the field of tourism, in the crafts of local culture and the creation of tourist products. The connection of these trainings, starting in March 2020, with the rest of the activities will be enacted via concrete actions and development of joint touristic plans based on the educational outcome.

Education initiatives are also propaedeutic to job creation and employment-related projects, as described hereafter.



Social protection

Three different approaches portray the contribution of the Mediterranean Sea Basin and Karelia Programmes to the social protection scheme of their eligible regions.

In the Mediterranean, **TEC-MED** proposes innovative solutions implemented via six dedicated pilot actions to tackle the issue of the growing ageing population. Albeit still in its early phase, TEC-MED has already begun providing a sample overview of social care models in Spain, Italy, Greece, Tunisia, Lebanon and Egypt, involving ten academic researchers: the results of the analysis will support the definition of the pilot actions. The project, framed around a simple yet meaningful set of outputs and indicators, chooses to focus on an evident still widely disregarded issue, such as the social effects of care models for the elderly at risk of exclusion, a matter of growing importance in ageing societies as well as it intertwines with other factors such as disability, gender unbalances, etc. www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/tec-med

Med-Town, on the other hand, ambitiously aims to bring together nine partners from six Mediterranean countries to co-produce social policies from the angle of the social and solidarity economy actors. Being the capacity to generate impacts on public policies yet to be demonstrated and relying on the persuasion capacity of the partners, Med-Town adopts an innovative and courageous approach by focusing on niches such as the development of social experimentation and complementary currencies. www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/medtown

On another note, Karelia's **Culture Open** adopts a rather "traditional" approach to social modelling, addressing two of the most marginalized groups in our societies, namely persons with disabilities and immigrants, by creating and reinforcing accessible and inclusive cultural services in Joensuu (Finland) and Petrozavodsk (Russia). The project is now approaching its conclusion and features actions aimed at the inclusion of these groups, not only by making cultural services more accessible and open, but also to leverage on culture as a tool for employment opportunities via dedicated seminars, workshops and online courses. At a first glance, results and potential for long-lasting impact of the project are most noticeable on the Finnish side, although practical examples of relevant activities can be recognized also across the border.

<https://kareliacbc.fi/en/projects/ka3018-culture-open-creating-culture-together>



Employment

When considering the strong focus on the fostering of job creation, “Employment” is a priority somewhat mentioned in all ENI CBC JOPs. Such creation is foreseen mostly through cultural and sustainable tourism activities leveraging on the historical and cultural heritage of the cross-border region. However, the project analysis allows to highlight interesting practices also in other fields, denoting the capacity of the programmes to allow potentially job-generating opportunities of various nature.

The Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme steers this tendency via two projects

InnovAgroWoMed www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/innovagrowomed

The project proposes to leverage on the principles of sustainable models for the agricultural sectors through rural social innovation and allowing an estimate of 140 women from the north and the south of the Basin to benefit of trainings, workshops and internships, with a goal of creating 112 new female agri-food jobs by the end of the project.

More than a Job www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/morethanajob

The project aims to cross-cut between employment, education and social protection, reinforcing the capacity of the social and solidarity economy actors in enhancing the access to jobs and trainings to refugees and persons with insufficient education.

Both InnovAgroWoMed and More than a Job are still in a relatively early phase of the implementation, meaning that it is too soon to ascertain results, let alone impacts. Nonetheless, they reveal a holistic approach to job creation. The two projects encompass formal and vocational education and capacity strengthening, while tackling societal challenges posed in particular by gender equality, generational gaps in the primary sector, migration and inclusion. In both cases, the cross-border dimension in approaching the matter represents the specific angle of analysis adopted.

PROSPECTS FOR INTERREG NEXT

In the post-2020 scenario, P2P-oriented initiatives contribute to all specific objectives listed under the draft regulation on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and on the Cohesion Fund, with particular regards to priority (d) ‘a more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights’ (‘PO 4’). This contribution takes place throughout different actions such as:

enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure;

improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and life-long learning through developing infrastructure;

increasing the socioeconomic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services;

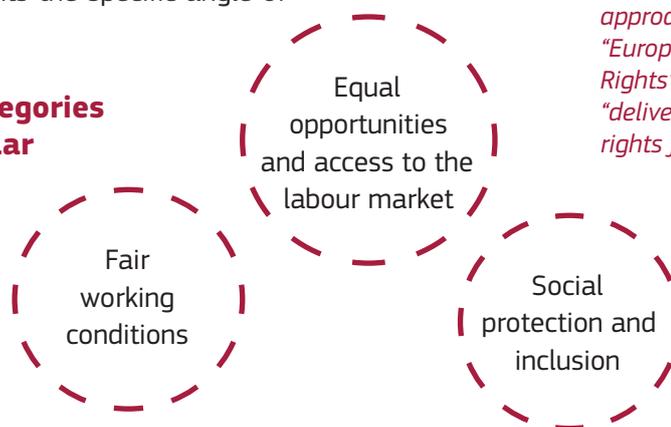
ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care.

Conversely, the new ERDF and PO4-specific indicators determine a dedicated attention to these topics, with particular regards to the improvement of the needed infrastructure to support the socio-economic fabric of cross-bordering regions and territories.

In the next phase, result indicators will ask programmes to demonstrate their numerical contribution to improved employment, education, healthcare and social protection services, but also to prove their capacity to move up a notch in cross-border integration and continuity of their activities beyond project life. In other words, Programmes will have to contribute to scaling up from “Choices” to “Opportunity” and from “Opportunity” to “Inclusion”.

The contribution of the P2P approach will be nestled in the “European Pillar of the Social Rights”, i.e. the 2017 EU blueprint for “delivering new and more effective rights for citizens.

Main categories of the Pillar



Source: consulted on January 5th, 2020

ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights_en