

Annual Implementation Report 2020

CITIZENS' SUMMARY

The Annual Implementation Report of the Interreg Euroregion Meuse-Rhine programme (Interreg EMR) for 2020 provides detailed insight into the programme's activities between 1 January and 31 December 2020. This Citizens' Summary presents **key points and highlights** from the year.

The European Union strives to reduce disparities in the levels of development, growth and quality of life in and across Europe's regions. Interreg Euroregion Meuse-Rhine contributes directly to this objective by supporting cross-border collaboration between the **Netherlands, Belgium and Germany**.

The Year 2020 in Numbers*



Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Innovation, Digitalisierung und Energie des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Rheinland-Pfalz

provincie limburg



Ministerie van Economische Zaken en Klimaat



Provincie Noord-Brabant

In 2020, 48 cooperation projects saw **306 partners** in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium work on shared goals and building **long-lasting networks and partnerships**.

Objectives of Interreg EMR

The objectives of Interreg EMR are to support innovative ideas, boost the economy, support educational projects and as well as removing barriers between the three countries. We aim to create **a favourable cross-border atmosphere**, to encourage people to seek and also build business opportunities and other forms of **cooperation** beyond their national limitations.

Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine has selected four investment priorities for the period 2014-2020:

- Innovation
- Economy
- Social inclusion and education
- Territorial development

In 2020 we have supported projects in each one of the **priority areas**. You can find a breakdown according to the priority axes to the right.



The Goals Interreg EMR Support 2014-2020**

To understand more deeply which kind of projects Interreg EMR is supporting, it is helpful to refer to the **thematic objectives and intervention fields** the projects fall into: Each of our priority axes is linked to the European Union's **future vision for Europe**. The Union's goal was and is to encourage **smart development**, support sustainable **economic growth**, and foster an **inclusive society**. This future vision is flashed out in the Europe 2020 strategy.

For a better understanding how Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine is contributing to these goals, you can find the **thematic objectives** that are linked to each priority axis and the respective **intervention fields** of the Interreg EMR projects below. These thematic objectives (big boxes) and investment priorities (small boxes) are **key cornerstones** of the Europe 2020 framework and spell out how our programme is working **towards the European goals**.

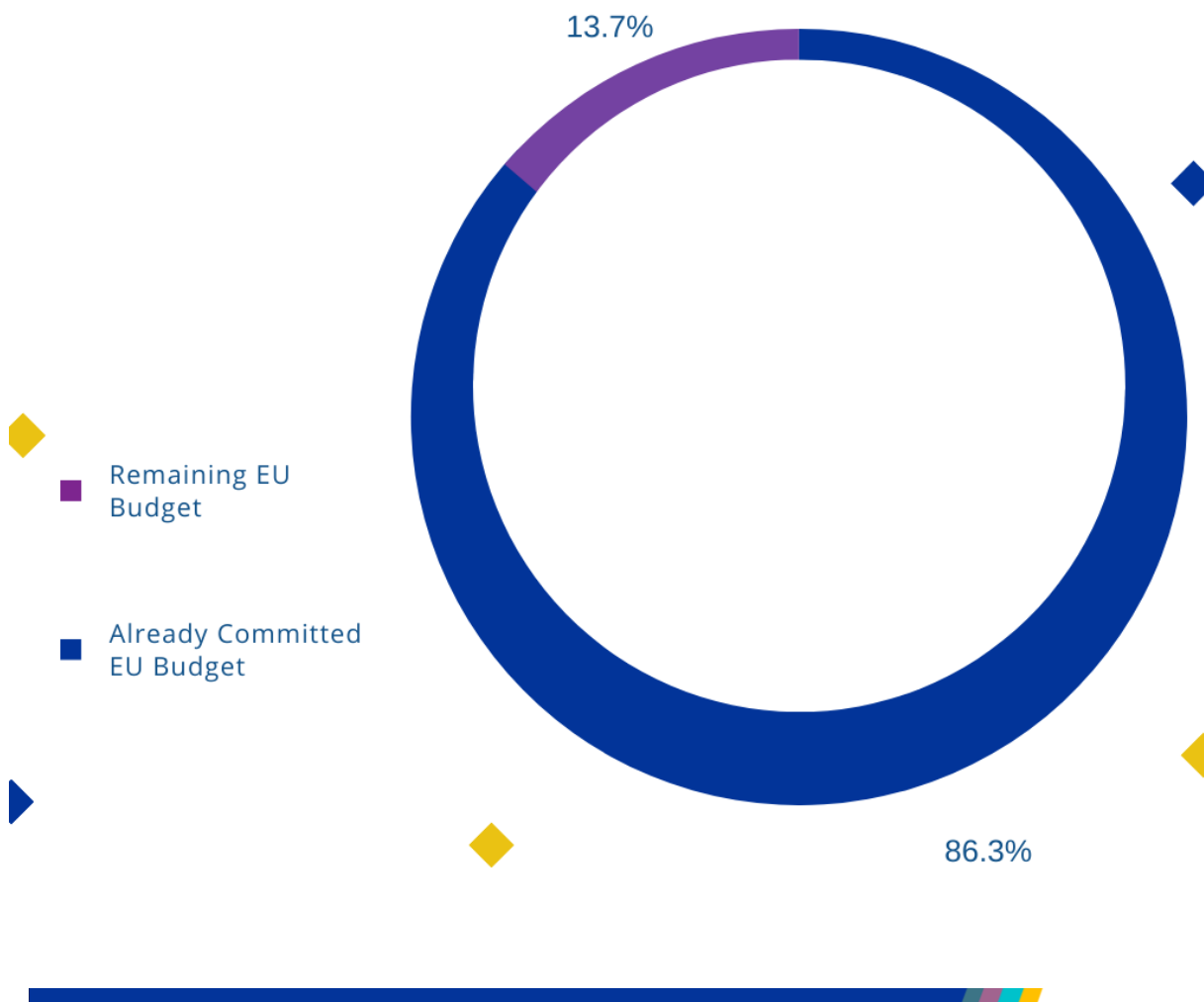


Budget

From 2014-2020, the European Union provided a budget of **EUR 96 million** from the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** for cross-border projects in our programme area, the border region of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Furthermore, **EUR 44 million** are envisioned to be invested in Interreg EMR projects by other means of funding (e.g. regional or private funding) within the programme period.

As indicated below, the programme has committed almost **EUR 83 million** of the European Union funding in 5 regular calls for projects and the specific COVID-call until the end of 2020. Call 6 was launched in 2020, but as the projects only start in 2021, their commitment is not included in the sum.

The **remaining 13,7%** will therefore be committed to the Call 6 projects (commitment early 2021). Any residual budget may be made available for a final call for projects at short notice in 2021.



While the end of 2020 has marked the **end of the programme period (2014-2020)**, the eligibility period for the projects selected in this programme period runs until December 2023.

This also means that funding for this programme period will be continued to be paid out in the **next three years**. This applies in particular to those projects which have only started their work towards the end of the programme period.

Events

On the 3rd of February 2020, Interreg EMR organised a **Lead Partner seminar** in Maastricht for the 6 projects selected in the framework of Call 5. During the event the programme shared useful tips for properly implementing Interreg EMR projects. As part of the seminar, the Lead Partners were also presented with the **grant letters**, the **customized project posters** and **logos**. Additionally, the programme also organised a **training** for the project partners on the **electronic monitoring system** in the different programme languages.

Apart from that, Interreg EMR has organised **webinars on the COVID-Call** as well as on **Call 6**, took part in several external events, such as the **Europe Day** in the programme regions, and organised a big **public consultation** on the upcoming programme as well as smaller expert groups on the future.

COVID-19 Situation

The **COVID-19 pandemic** had a major impact on the Interreg EMR projects. Therefore, a set of measures has been adopted by the programme to help projects navigate the crisis:

- **Project extension** to accommodate to project delays due to the pandemic
- Making **online project events and meetings** the new normal in order to follow public health recommendations

COVID-Call

As part of the ongoing **COVID-19 crisis**, the Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine (EMR) programme published a **special call for projects** to support the crisis

management concerning the COVID-19 outbreak. **Five projects** were selected to better arm the border region against the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Due to the urgent need for support, this call was only available for a limited time, and the programme decided to fund 90% of all eligible costs with money from the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund). Projects also only had to submit a **simplified application form**. This enabled us to **react quickly** to the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis,” said David Grzegorzewski, then Chairman of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg EMR programme.

From the applications submitted, the 13 partners selected five projects **totaling € 4.55 million** in ERDF funds.

COVID-Call Projects

wearIT4COVID, CoDaP, CORESIL, euPrevent COVID and Pandemric have been selected in the COVID-call. Their goals are:

- **wearIT4COVID:** realising a portable and real-time monitoring system for COVID-19 patients.
Further information: [wearIT4COVID | Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine \(interregemr.eu\)](https://www.interregemr.eu/wearIT4COVID)
- **CoDaP:** developing cross-border consensus treatment guidelines, establishing a COVID-19 data platform to anticipate a new wave, a study to improve clinical guidelines and building an efficient and secure IT infrastructure.
Further information: [CoDaP | Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine \(interregemr.eu\)](https://www.interregemr.eu/CoDaP)
- **CORESIL:** developing a coherent offer to strengthen the autonomy of vulnerable people and their natural recovery.
Further information: [CORESIL | Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine \(interregemr.eu\)](https://www.interregemr.eu/CORESIL)
- **euPrevent COVID:** understanding the impact of COVID-19 on the Euregio by investigating the prevalence of antibodies in individuals from the region.
Further information: [euPrevent COVID | Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine \(interregemr.eu\)](https://www.interregemr.eu/euPrevent_COVID)

- **Pandemric:** strengthening cooperation within the Euregio in tackling major crises such as COVID-19, including the exchange of information, cooperation between ICU departments and examining the legal aspects of cross-border ambulance transport. In addition, an early warning system and a centre for the collective procurement of protective equipment are also being rolled out.

Further information: [PANDEMERIC | Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine \(interregemr.eu\)](#)

Call 6

The **sixth call for projects** of the Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine programme has closed on November 10th 2020. Call 6 opened in March 2020 and provides over **EUR 20 million** of means from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a maximum co-financing rate of 50%. Applicants could apply under all **four priority axes** and **19 consortia** have come forward to do so.

The Monitoring Committee has taken the final decision on the selection of projects in the beginning of **February 2021**. As many as **14 new projects** will be able to receive funding under the framework of Call 6 of the Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine 2014-2020. As their starting date falls into 2021, the budget committed to them is not taken into account concerning this report.

Future Programme Period

The next programme period of Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine will run from 2021 until 2027. During the upcoming programming period, we will continue to support **interregional cooperation** in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

The Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine is working hard on the **future programme**. To guide the overall process, take formal decisions on the content of the future programme and select our thematic priorities, we have set up a **working group**. The working group is made of delegates from the partner regions who take the decisions. An observer from the European Commission as well as the programme's managing authority take part, but without any decision-making powers. We have also hired **external experts** to help us draft the new programme.

The current **envisioned programme focus** will be:

- Industrial transition
- Greener society
- Healthier citizens
- Tourism
- Living and working across borders

In November 2020, we have organised our **second public consultation** concerning the new programme period. For this, we had the pleasure to welcome **more than 175 participants** from the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. The consultation was organised as a discussion between the speakers from Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine with several opportunities for the audience to interact and voice their opinions. The public also had the possibility to **comment on the draft programme** until mid-December.

Additionally, the programme has organised an specific **expert meeting** on the topic of tourism. The expert meeting was organised to gather **insights from stakeholders** on this priority axis and the future opportunities within this field. Further expert meetings on the other potential priority axes have followed in 2021.

* These numbers are based on our internal monitoring. Please understand these numbers as a minimal amount, as the possibility cannot be ruled out that further exist.

** For design reasons, some of the titles of intervention fields and thematic objectives have been shortened.

You want to know more about Interreg EMR?

... Please do not hesitate to contact us!

On our **website**, www.interregemr.eu, you can find out more about us as well as all of the projects that we support.



Would you like to receive more information about a call and the application process? Please get in touch your regional contact person.

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