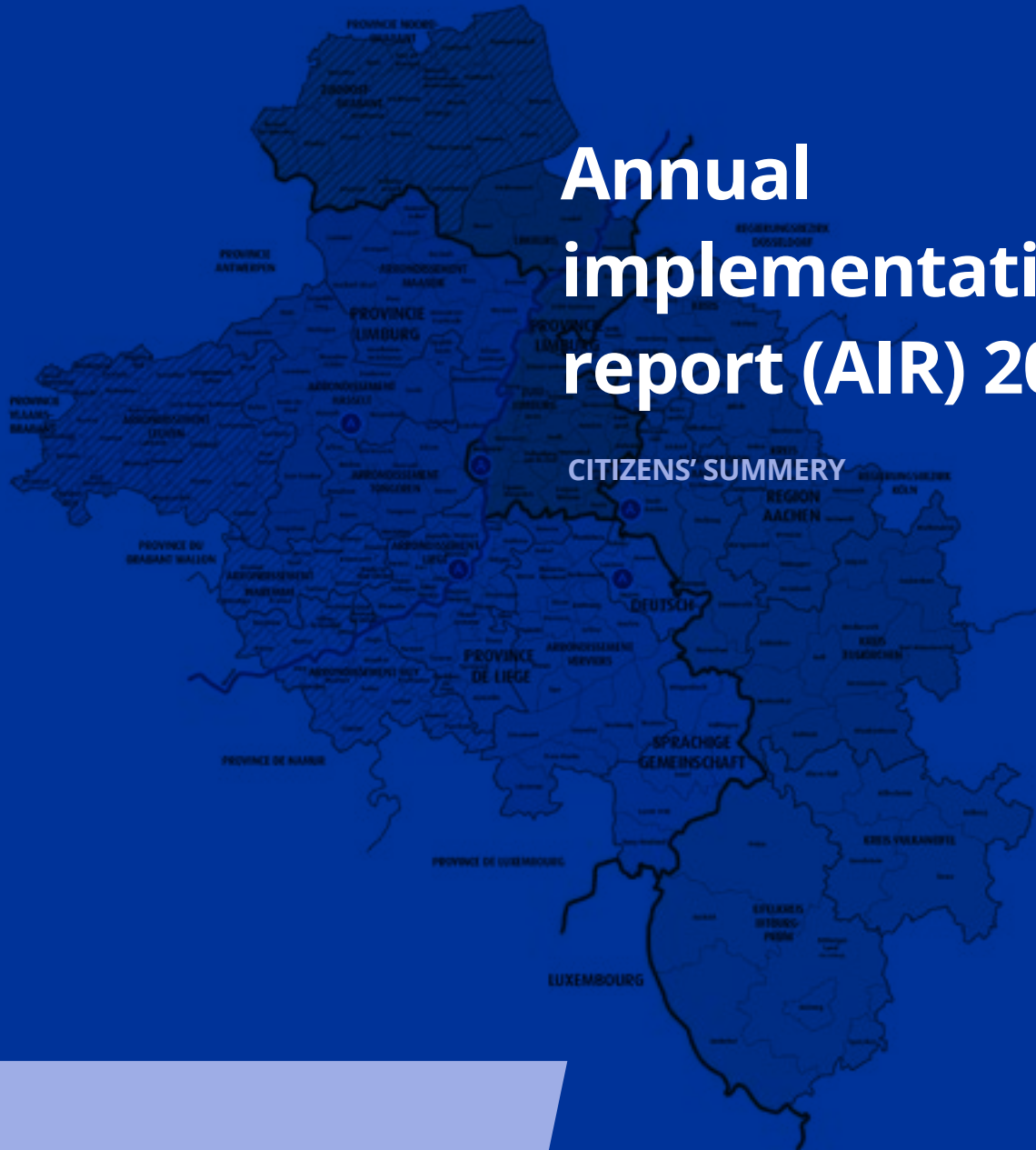


# Annual implementation report (AIR) 2022

CITIZENS' SUMMERY



## Annual implementation report (AIR) 2022

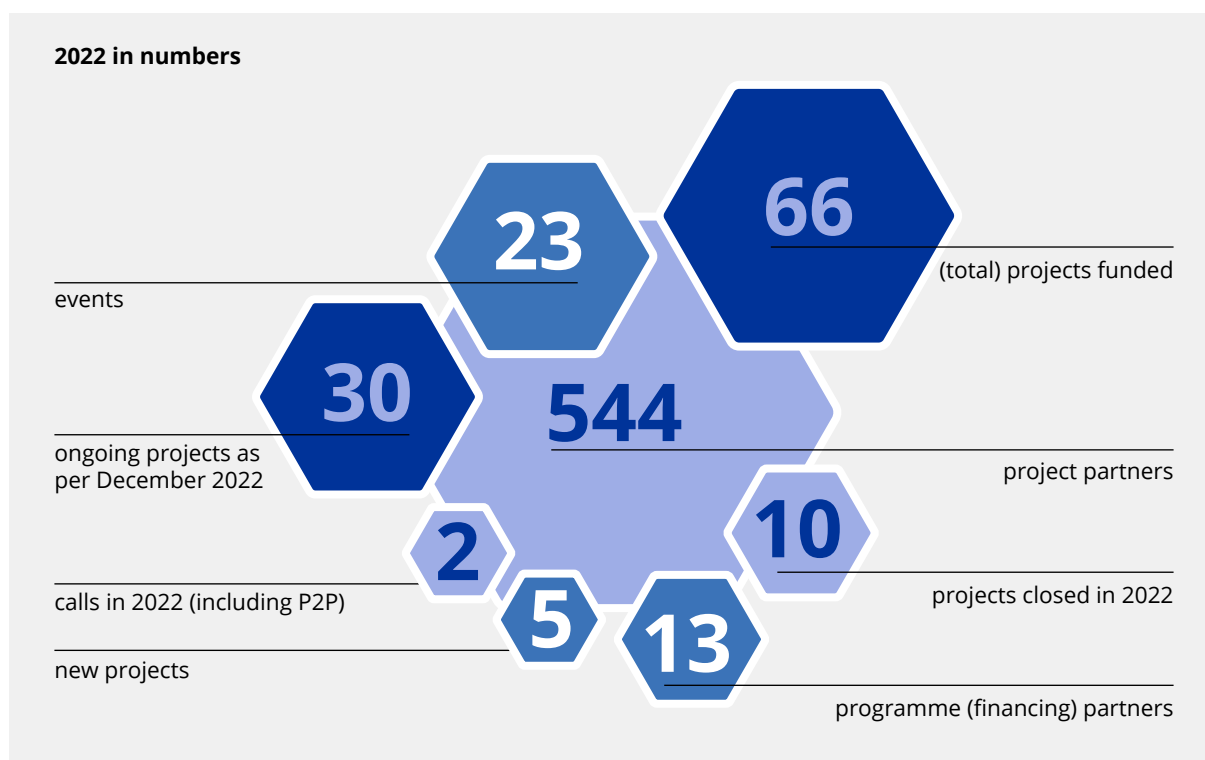
The EMR area is home to approximately four million people. Cross-border cooperation between these regions offers new opportunities and enhances the quality of life of their residents.

Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine (EMR) supports cross-border collaboration between the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. By stimulating cross-border cooperation, the programme not only strengthens the economic and social fabric in these areas but also contributes to one of the European Union's objectives of reducing disparities in development, growth and quality of life within and across Europe.

This Citizens Summary of the 2022 Annual Implementation Report (AIR) of the Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine programme (Interreg EMR) provides a glimpse into the programme's activities between 1 January and 31 December 2022. The report highlights key points and sample projects from the year.

## The year 2022 in numbers

The Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine programme has supported 66 projects in the full programme period, of which 37 projects were still running in 2020. Through cross-border cooperation in these projects, 544 public and private organizations work together to find common answers to similar challenges facing them while creating lasting partnerships. The figure below summarizes significant numbers in 2022.



## Objectives of Interreg EMR

The Interreg EMR Programme aims to create a favorable cross-border atmosphere and encourage people to seek and build business opportunities and other forms of cooperation beyond their national limitations. For the programme period 2014–2022, we invested in four priority areas, including;

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

### Number of projects funded per priority as per December 2022

The programme funded projects in all four priority axes. The graphics below show the number of projects per priority funded in the programme period 2014 - 2020 and the number of projects per priority axis still running as of December 2022.



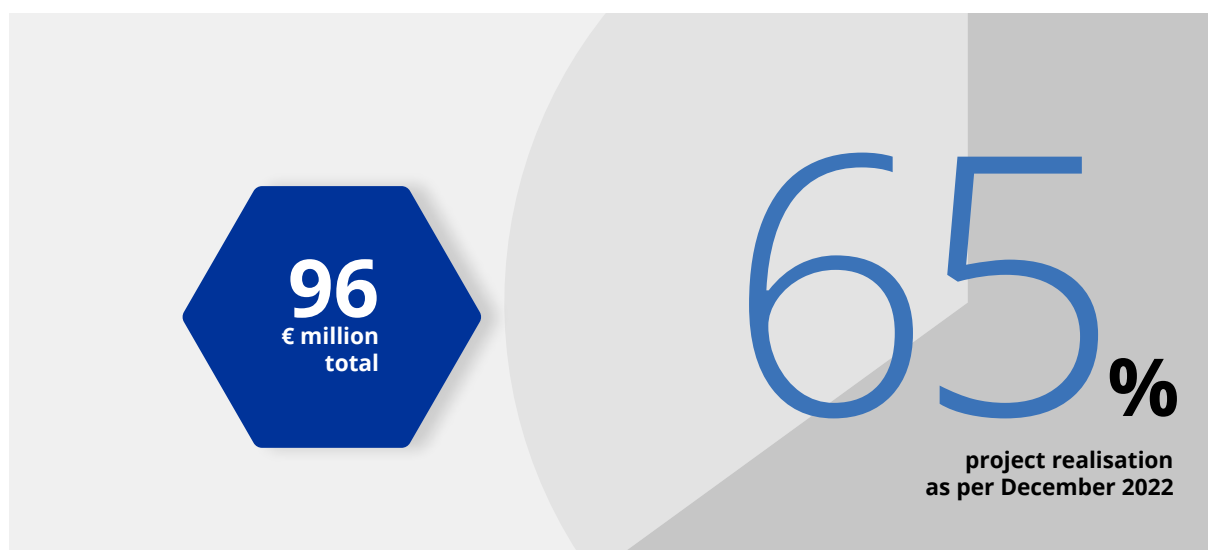
### Number of running projects per priority as per December 2022

## Budget

The European Union made a budget of EUR 96 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) available for cross-border projects in our programme area, the border region of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands for 2014-2020. Further, Interreg EMR projects also received an additional EUR 44.4 million from other funding sources (regional or private) within the programme period.

By the end of 2022, the programme had committed all the EUR 96 million of the Union's funding through nine project calls, including a special flood response call. It registered a realisation of 65% of this committed budget at the end of 2022. The Programme is working towards a complete realization by 31 December 2023.

### Funding 2014-2020 € million



### Realisation EDRF 2014-2020

## Events

2022 was a busy year for our programme. The pictures below give you an impression of some events that occurred during the year. We also further highlight some of the activities of 2022 below.



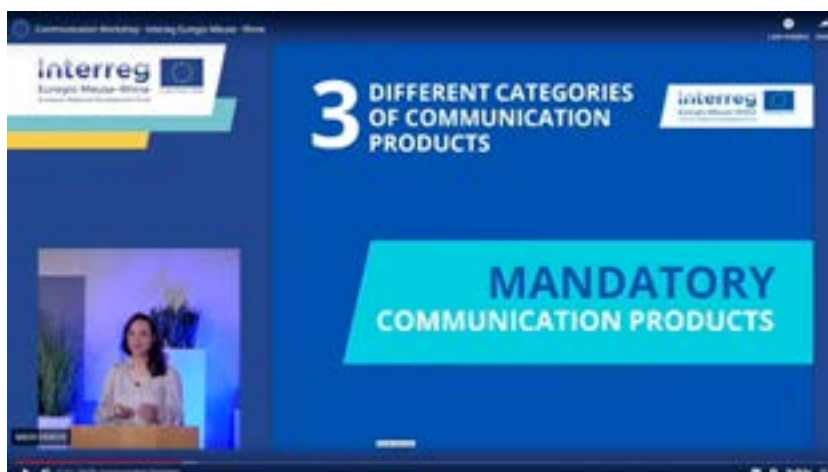


## Seminars

On February 4 and 8, 2022, we organised a seminar for all Lead Partners of Call 8 projects and an applicants' seminar for Call 9 projects. Furthermore, two public launch events for projects focusing on living and working across borders and energy- took place at Technifutur (Seraing)O! Val Benoit (Liège) on October 21 and 25, respectively.

We also organised a Communication Workshop for Lead Partners and communication managers of currently running Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine projects. The recording of this online training is available in a dedicated part of the programme's website at [www.interregemr.eu/for-beneficiaries/communication](http://www.interregemr.eu/for-beneficiaries/communication).

Here is a screen shot of the workshop and QR-code of the training.



## Visits

In February and March, a few delegations visited our programme. Amongst them was the United Commission of Limburg, the European Parliament Delegation (Committee on Regional Development) on flooding, the Dutch Minister of Finance and First Deputy Prime Minister, Sigrid Kaag, and the Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction, Wouter Beke. The pictures below give an impression about the visit.





## Information sessions

On March 22, the EU-funded programme Info-Day was held in Genk. During this event, several of our projects were presented to the public, and participants could see how European funding improves the situation in our region. Our programme also participated in the Grenzlandkonferenz in Eupen on March 31, 2022, and the Info Day for Interreg Grand Region & Meuse-Rhine for the new funding period in Trier on September 26, 2022.

Further, we presented our programme at several events. These events included but were not limited to: an Interreg Annual Event on 26-28 October 2022 in Brussels, where we shared our experiences linked to the preparation and deployment of call 9 using the lump sum principles, and an Introductory Event for the new programme period Düsseldorf November 10, 2022.



## Media

Below is a none exhaustive overview of media coverage (both at regional and European levels) of our programme in 2022. Het Belang van Limburg, Parkstad Actueel, Hortiday and L1 Limburg are some of the media outlets that featured our projects and the programme in 2022.



**horti**daily

**Growers could measure fruit and vegetable vitamin content themselves**

European companies and knowledge institutes are working on a biosensor, which growers can use to measure their fruit and vegetables' vitamin content. The research is part of the Interreg project Food Screening EMR. Here, smart sensor technology is being (further) developed. It must detect food's vitamin content quickly, simply, and cheaply during the production process. This update is from Brightlands Campus Greenport Venlo, in the Netherlands.

This on-site measurement technology offers fruit and vegetable farmers the chance to steer a sustainable, stable vitamin increase in their crops. They get to use state-of-the-art cultivation methods for this. This project also investigates how you can use sensor technology to substantiate claims about products' nutritional value and health benefits.

**The universities: the biosensor**  
Maastricht University (the Netherlands) has teamed up with the Aachen University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and the Universities of Liège and Hasselt (Belgium). They will be working on the biosensor. The technology was initially developed for detecting illegal drugs in urine or powders of unknown origin. That is according to Kasper Eersels. "We'll modify the sensor and use it to detect, for example, vitamin C in fruits and vegetables," says the assistant professor of Sensor Engineering at Maastricht University.

You can already measure vitamin content in a laboratory. But it is quite expensive for growers to submit samples from each batch of crops to an external lab for nutritional analysis. So the current practice is to weigh the product. Growers then consult a table and estimate how much vitamin C per gram, say, a carrot typically contains. That value appears on the packaging.





One example is the L1Radio interview with the Senior Programme Manager, Jean-Philippe Odeurs, for an evening show AvondGasten Europa: Overstromingen 2021. If you want to watch the discussion, please check the link or scan the QR code below.

[youtube.com/watch?v=ssxyX26G-nQ](https://youtube.com/watch?v=ssxyX26G-nQ)



Additionally, two of our projects, Eurlipids and Healthy Aging, were featured in the Interact Publication of *Study supporting Inclusive Growth Network on "Healthy and Active Ageing" in EU Cooperation Programmes 2014 – 2020*, as shown in the link and QR Code below.

[Interact | cooperation works | Library interact-eu.net](#)



On the other hand, the Programme published the first *Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine project magazine* on June 14, 2022. Please check out the link or QR code below.  
[www.interregemr.eu/news/interreg-euregio-meuse-rhine-stories-edition-1](http://www.interregemr.eu/news/interreg-euregio-meuse-rhine-stories-edition-1)



## Kick-offs & closures

Several kickoffs and final events took place in 2022. Among the projects that began in 2022 is the Solar EMR project on January 27, 2022, COMPAS on March 7, 2022, EMR H2 Booster on March 3, 2022, and both EMFlood Resilience and Marhretak on October 8, 2022. The closing events of 2022 included the one of Rolling Solar on September 13, Wohnmonitor on December 1, In Flow on December 7, and XBMob on December 9, 2022.

## Impact Evaluation of Interreg EMR 2014-2022

As the programme period 2014-2021 is ending, we wanted to find out how effectively we worked and explore rooms for improvement. For this process, an external expert researched the effects of 38 projects, 12 of which went through in-depth studies. The report indicates positive impacts of the Programme in all four thematic areas of the 2014-2020 Programme as most projects achieved their objectives, with some even achieving more than initially envisaged. Overall, the Interreg EMR projects brought about a **'large variety of results, from prototypes for innovative tools and approaches, to changed attitudes and increased competences via training programmes and a cross-border public service'**, the report indicates.

Despite the above positive impact of our projects, the evaluation also identified some shortcomings. Restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and administrative hurdles at the programme level were the main challenges to delivering results. Fortunately, the programme could respond swiftly to address these shortcomings. It granted a 6-months extension to allow extra time for project implementations and offered special training on closure procedures to ease the administrative burden.

The evaluation also offers some recommendations **'on operations and strategies, project results and effectiveness, programme impact and contribution to change'** in order to optimise the programme impact in the next programme period.



## Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) 2021-2027

Next to the many undertakings in 2022, the team also worked hard to prepare the Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL,BE,DE) 2021-2027 Programme.

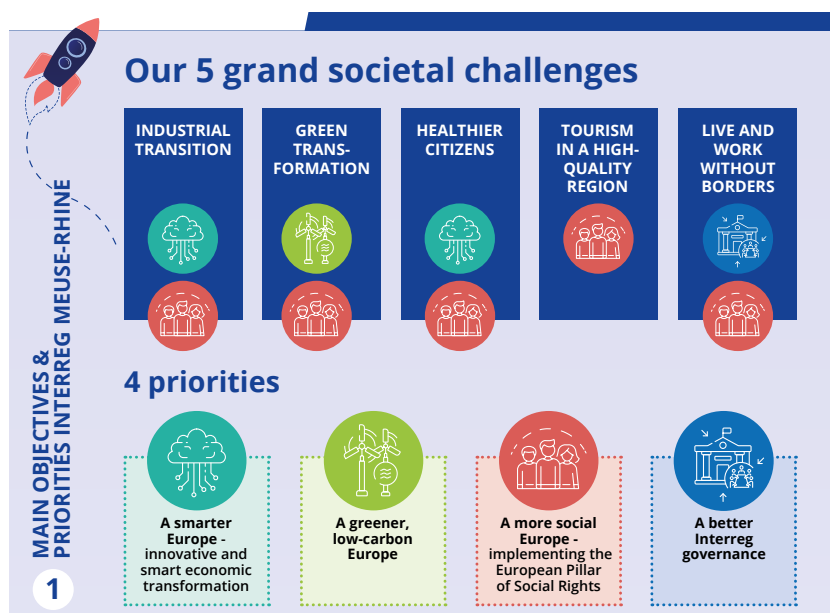
In January 2022, the member states' Working Group (WG) approved the prepared strategic funding document. The first draft of the programme document was submitted to the Commission Service on March 16, 2022, and the final submission was made on October 7, 2022. Ultimately, the European Commission adopted the new Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL,BE,DE) programme on November 14, 2022. During this new programme period we will continue to support cooperation in the border region of the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, with an approximate budget of 176 million euros, of which 125 million euros come from the EU.

On September 28, 2022, we preliminarily launched the Interreg Meuse-Rhine 2021-2027 programme (Interreg VI) to the outside world at the Corda Campus in Hasselt. The event started with a high-level meeting of all programme partners in the morning and a public launch event in the afternoon. An estimated 190 people attended the event. During the launch, the programme informed participants about the new Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) program's content and possibilities. It further announced the first call of Interreg VI would be open in February 2023.

Interreg Meuse-Rhine 2021-2027 identifies **five grand societal challenges** with a cross-border impact on the entire programme area and matching priorities as shown below:

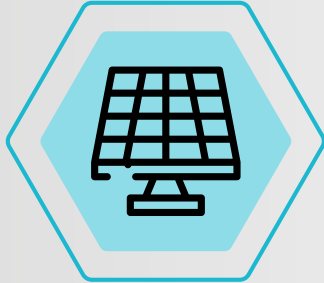
- Industrial Transition;
- Green Transformation;
- Healthier inhabitants;
- Tourism in a High-Quality Region;
- Live and work without borders.

These selected themes guide the allocation of resources from Interreg Meuse-Rhine 2021-2027 (NL-BE-DE). More information on Interreg Meuse-Rhine 2021-2027 programme can be found here on the programme website on the link below or by scanning the QR code. [www.interregmeuserhine.eu](http://www.interregmeuserhine.eu)



# projects started in 2022

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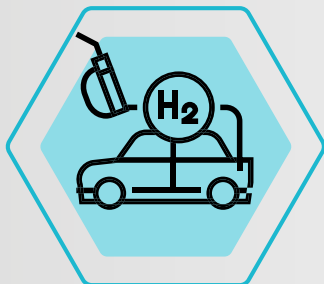


**Interreg**  
Euregio Meuse-Rhine  
**SolarEMR**



## 1. The Solar EMR

SolarEMR demonstrates the cost-effective automated production and integration of customised solar panels in facades, roofs, and infrastructure, such as noise barriers.

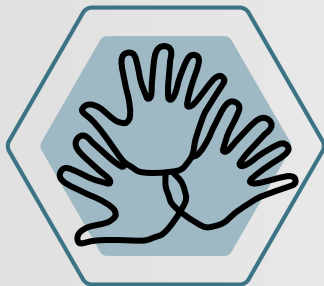


**Interreg**  
Euregio Meuse-Rhine  
**EMR H2 BOOSTER**



## 2. EMR Hydrogen Booster

Focuses on developing hydrogen as an alternative energy source and, more specifically, on the challenge of stimulating business development related to this energy. The project aims to address the lack of interconnection and knowledge between SMEs in the EMR region.



## 3. PtoP2

Stimulates small-scale cross-border projects such as organising expert meetings and developing joint initiatives and tools in different sectors of society.



**Interreg**  
Euregio Meuse-Rhine  
**Marhetak**



## 4. Marhetak

Marhetak improves the flood forecasting models in the border area and redefines the cross-border crisis management system.



**Interreg**  
Euregio Meuse-Rhine  
**EMFloodResilience**



## 5. EMFloodResilience

EMfloodResilience project aims to better prepare for the next extreme flood and thus prevent future loss of life and socio-economic damage.

## Information and communication in 2022

### Website

[www.interregemr.eu](http://www.interregemr.eu)

### LinkedIn

[www.linkedin.com/company/interreg-emr](https://www.linkedin.com/company/interreg-emr)

### Twitter

@InterregEMR

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/InterregMeuseRhine](https://www.facebook.com/InterregMeuseRhine)

### You Tube

[www.youtube.com/@interreg-meuse-rhine](https://www.youtube.com/@interreg-meuse-rhine)

### For general questions about the programme

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