

European Territorial Cooperation Programmes 2021-2027

Consultation

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What are European Territorial Cooperation programmes?

European Territorial Cooperation (otherwise known as Interreg) programmes are EU funding programmes that give money to organisations from different countries to work together on a project.

These programmes cover different geographical areas and have different aims. Each of the projects funded by the programmes help the programme achieve its aims. The organisations doing the project must normally be from the geographical area covered by the programme.

Non-EU countries also take part in these programmes.

Scotland is currently part of 7 European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes:

- [Atlantic Area](#)
- [Interreg Europe](#)
- [North Sea](#)
- [North West Europe](#)
- [Northern Ireland-Ireland-Scotland](#)
- [Northern Periphery and Arctic](#)
- [Urbact](#)

Atlantic Area

The Atlantic Area programme covers the following regions:

Country	Regions covered
France	Haute-Normandie, Basse Normandie, Pays-de-la Loire; Bretagne, Poitou-Charentes, Aquitaine.
Ireland	Border, Midland and Western; Southern and Eastern.
Portugal	Norte, Algarve, Centro, Lisboa, Alentejo, Açores, Madeira
Spain	Galicia, Principado de Asturias, Cantabria, Navarra, País Vasco, Andalucia (Huelva, Cádiz and Sevilla), Islas Canarias.
United Kingdom	Cumbria, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area, Dorset and Somerset, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Devon, West Wales and The Valleys, East Wales, South Western Scotland, Highlands and Islands , Northern Ireland.

The current Atlantic Area programme has the following aims:

- Stimulating innovation and competitiveness;
- Fostering resource efficiency;
- Strengthening the territory's resilience to risks of natural, climate and human origin;
- Enhancing biodiversity and the natural and cultural assets.

Interreg Europe

Interreg Europe covers the whole of the EU as well as Switzerland and Norway.

The current Interreg Europe programme aims to help regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy.

North Sea

The North Sea programme covers the following regions:

Country	Regions covered
Belgium	Antwerp, Oost-Vlaanderen, West-Vlaanderen.
Denmark	Sjælland, Syddanmark, Midtjylland, Nordjylland.
Germany	Bremen, Hamburg, Braunschweig, Hannover, Lüneburg, Weser-Ems, Schleswig-Holstein.
Netherlands	Groningen, Friesland, Drenthe, Overijssel, Flevoland, Noord-Holland, Zuid-Holland, Zeeland.
Norway	Oslo Og Akershus, Hedmark Og Oppland, Sør-Østlandet, Agder Og Rogaland, Vestlandet, Trøndelag, Nord-Norge.
Sweden	Sydsverige (Skåne län), Norra Mellansverige (Värmlands län), Småland med öarna (Kronobergs län) Västsverige.
United Kingdom	Tees Valley, Durham, Northumberland Tyne and Wear, Northern Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, North Eastern Scotland, Eastern Scotland, Highlands and Islands.

The current North Sea programme has the following aims:

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
- Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency;
- Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management;
- Green transport and mobility.

North West Europe

The North West Europe programme covers the following regions:

Country	Regions covered
Belgium	All regions
France	Île de France, Champagne-Ardenne Picardie, Haute-Normandie, Centre Basse-Normandie, Bourgogne Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Lorraine Alsace, Franche-Comté, Pays de la Loire, Bretagne.

Germany	Stuttgart, Karlsruhe Freiburg, Tübingen, Oberfranken, Mittelfranken, Unterfranken, Schwaben Darmstadt, Gießen, Kassel, Düsseldorf Köln, Münster, Detmold, Arnsberg Koblenz, Trier, Rheinhessen-Pfalz Saarland.
Ireland	All regions.
Luxembourg	All regions.
Netherlands	Overijssel, Gelderland, Flevoland Utrecht, Noord-Holland, Zuid-Holland Zeeland, Noord-Brabant, Limburg (NL)
Switzerland	All regions.
United Kingdom	All regions.

The current North West Europe programme supports the following aims:

- Innovation;
- Low carbon;
- Resource and materials efficiency.

Northern Ireland-Ireland-Scotland (otherwise known as Interreg VA)

The Northern Ireland-Ireland-Scotland programme covers the following regions:

Country	Regions covered
Ireland	Border.
United Kingdom	Dumfries & Galloway, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire mainland, South Ayrshire, Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae, Argyll & But, Eilean Siar (Western Isles) , Belfast, Outer Belfast, East of Northern Ireland, North of Northern Ireland, West and South of Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland-Ireland-Scotland programme aims to support:

- Research & innovation for cross-border enterprise development;
- Environmental initiatives;
- Sustainable transport projects;
- Health & Social Care services on a cross-border basis.

Northern Periphery and Arctic

The Northern Periphery and Arctic programme covers the following regions:

Country	Regions covered
Faroe Islands	All regions.
Finland	Länsi-Suomi (Keski-Suomi), Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi.
Greenland	All regions.
Iceland	All regions.
Ireland	Border, Midland and Western (County Donegal, County Galway, County Leitrim, County Mayo, County Sligo).
Norway	Vestlandet, Trøndelag, Nord-Norge Svalbard and Jan Mayen.
Sweden	Mellersta Norrland, Övre Norrland.
United Kingdom	Northern Ireland (excluding Belfast and Outer Belfast), South Western Scotland (Dumfries and Galloway), Highlands and Islands.

The current Northern Periphery and Arctic programme aims to:

- use innovation to maintain and develop robust and competitive communities;
- promote entrepreneurship to realise the potential of the programme area's competitive advantage;
- foster energy-secure communities through promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- protect, promote and develop cultural and natural heritage.

Urbact

Urbact covers the whole of the EU as well as Norway and Switzerland. It aims to help cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges by networking, learning from one another's experiences and drawing lessons from and identifying good practices to improve urban policies.

Why are we consulting?

The current programmes run from 2014-2020. The new programmes, which will run from 2021-2027, are now starting to be designed.

The Scottish Government is keen to inform our own thinking on the design of the future programmes, so that we can work together with partner countries in the programmes to design something which meets our shared needs.

What is our starting point?

Scotland's Place in Europe sets out the Scottish Government's position following the result of the EU Referendum. It emphasises the importance Scotland places on EU cooperation and although the UK Government has yet to make a decision, the Scottish Government is keen to continue to take part in European Territorial Cooperation programmes.

The 2021-2027 programmes need to be designed according to the requirements set out in the EU Regulations. These have not been finalised, however they are expected to require programmes to support up to three of the following areas:

- **a smarter Europe** by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation
- **greener, low-carbon Europe** by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management
- **more connected Europe** by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity
- **a more social Europe** implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (e.g. increasing the socioeconomic integration of marginalised communities and groups, increasing access to quality employment and training, equal access to health care)
- **Europe closer to citizens** by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural, coastal areas and local initiatives

In addition, programmes can also support two Interreg specific objectives:

- **Better Interreg Governance** (e.g. helping local authorities)
- **A safer and more secure Europe**, in particular: border crossing management, mobility and migrant management, protection and integration of migrants

Over August and September we held a number of stakeholder workshops to get people's views on the design of the future programmes. The European Policies Research Centre wrote a report on these (which is available [online](#)). This consultation builds on these workshops.

What happens next?

You are invited to give consideration and responses to the questions on Citizen Space or using Annex A. If you are using Annex A please return together with the respondent information form (Annex B) to:

ESF_Interreg@gov.scot

or post it to:

ETC Team
Scottish Government
3rd Floor
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

All responses will be published on Citizen Space according to your publication preferences. For more information see Annex C.

Your answers will be analysed and used to inform the Scottish Government's input on future programmes, which will be designed together with the other countries involved.

Each programme has slightly different timescales for the design of the future programme, however ideally all programmes should be ready to start in 2021.

Annex A: Consultation questions

Scotland's Place in Europe emphasises the importance Scotland places on EU cooperation, and although the UK Government has yet to make a decision, the Scottish Government is committed to continuing to take part in European Territorial Cooperation programmes.

The current European Territorial Cooperation programmes run from 2014-2020. The new programmes, which will run from 2021-2027, are now starting to be designed.

Your response to this consultation will be used to inform Scottish Government thinking on the design of the future programmes, so that we can work together with partner countries in the programmes to design something which meets our shared needs.

Please read the consultation paper for more information before answering the questions.

It should take between 40- 60 minutes to answer all the questions.

About you

Are you a:

- Public sector organisation
- Private sector organisation
- NGO
- Social enterprise
- Membership organisation
- Private individual
- Other (please detail)

All programmes

1. What do you consider to be the main aims that the Scottish Government should be seeking to achieve through European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes?
2. How do you think working together with organisations from other countries could help you or your organisation or your members' organisations?
3. How many priorities do you think future ETC programmes should support?

(Programmes can support up to three priorities plus the Interreg specific objectives - see consultation document for more information about the priorities)

- One
 - Two
 - Three
 - Three plus Interreg specific
 - Don't know
4. Please rank the priorities below in order of importance to you/your organisation. One being the most important and five being the least:
 - A Smarter Europe
 - A Greener, Low Carbon Europe
 - A More Connected Europe
 - A More Social Europe
 - A Europe Closer to the Citizens
 5. Do you agree with the conclusions of the [European Policies and Research Centre report](#)?
 - Yes
 - To some extent
 - No

5b. Which conclusions do you disagree with and why?

6. Which ETC programmes have you been involved in?

- None
- Atlantic Area
- North Sea
- North West Europe
- Northern Ireland-Ireland-Scotland (otherwise known as Interreg VA)
- Northern Periphery and Arctic
- Interreg Europe
- Urbacht

7. How could ETC programmes improve communication of funding opportunities, calls, access to information, and application processes and systems?

Programme specific questions

Atlantic Area

8. The 2021-2027 Regulation is expected to require the Atlantic Area programme to spend at least 70% of the funding on projects which help deliver the [Atlantic Maritime Strategy](#). In your view, what should the remaining Atlantic Area programme budget be used for (tick all that apply):
- to support projects under the social priority
 - to help more people benefit from the results of successful projects
 - to encourage projects to link up with others working on the same challenge to improve their work
 - other (please state)
 - don't know

North West Europe

9. What do you consider to be the main aims that the Scottish Government should be seeking to achieve through the North West Europe programme?
10. Which of [Scotland's National Performance Framework](#) outcomes do you think this programme should try to help achieve (tick up to three):
- Children and young people:** We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential
 - Communities:** We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe
 - Culture:** We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely
 - Economy:** We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy
 - Education:** We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society
 - Environment:** We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment
 - Fair Work and Business:** We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone
 - Health:** We are healthy and active
 - Human rights:** We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination
 - International:** We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally
 - Poverty:** We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally
 - Don't know

North Sea

11. What do you consider to be the main aims that the Scottish Government should be seeking to achieve through the North Sea programme?

Due to the geographical area covered by the North Sea programme, there has been a focus on maritime issues.

12. To what extent do you think Scotland should seek to align the new programme with [Scotland's National Marine Plan?](#)

- **Completely** - all projects with Scottish partners should contribute to the delivery of Scotland's Marine Plan
- **To some extent** – the programme should also support projects which are not focused on maritime/coastal communities
- **Not at all** - the programme should focus on something else instead (list ideas below)

Northern Periphery and Arctic

13. What do you consider to be the main aims that the Scottish Government should be seeking to achieve through the Northern Periphery and Arctic programme?

[The Scottish Government's Arctic Policy Framework](#) sets out a prospectus for even closer Scottish-Arctic cooperation. It details how EU programmes have helped countries in the northern periphery and arctic area work together, and suggests areas for future collaboration.

14. To what extent do you think Scotland should seek to align this programme with Scotland's Arctic Policy Framework?

- **Completely** - all projects with Scottish partners should contribute to the delivery of Scotland's Arctic Policy Framework
- **To some extent** – the programme should also support other projects which address the needs of remote, rural and sparsely populated areas
- **Not at all**- the programme should focus on something else (write what in the box below)

Interreg Europe

15. How do you think this programme could help public authorities improve the design and delivery of policies and related services?
16. To what extent should the future Interreg Europe programme also fund the work to deliver the policies developed?
- **Not all** – other sources of funding should be used for this
 - **To some extent** – small scale pilots should be funded
 - **To a greater extent** - a significant amount of the funding should be used for this
 - **Don't know**

Urbact

17. How do you think this programme can help Scottish cities?
18. To what extent do you think Scotland should seek to align this programme with shared priorities in [city-region deals](#)?
- **Completely** - all projects with Scottish partners should contribute to the delivery of the relevant city-region deal
 - **To some extent** – the programme should also support other projects which address the needs of Scottish cities
 - **Not at all** - the programme should focus on something else instead (write what in the box below)
 - **Don't know**

Future cooperation with Ireland and Northern Ireland through ETC programmes

The current Northern Ireland-Ireland-Scotland programme will be merged with the PEACE programme post 2020 to form [PEACE Plus](#), which will focus on the border area of Ireland and Northern Ireland (without Scotland).

SEUPB, the organisation which manages the programme, are carrying out a separate consultation on the design of the PEACE Plus programme.

Ireland and Northern Ireland are part of 3 other ETC programmes that Scotland are also part of (not including Urbact and Interreg Europe).

19. How do you think Scotland can best continue to collaborate with Ireland and Northern Ireland through ETC programmes?

- through the other ETC programmes that Ireland and Scotland are part of
- through setting up a separate ETC programme with Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland
- by Scottish originations being associate partners in PEACE Plus projects/ making the most of the flexibility the programmes have to award funding to organisations outside of the programme area.

20. What do you consider to be the main aims that we should be seeking to achieve through collaborating with Ireland and Northern Ireland in ETC programmes?

Annex B: Respondent Information Form

European Territorial Cooperation programmes 2021-2027: consultation

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:

<https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (without name)
 Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

No

Annex C: Responding to this Consultation

We are inviting responses to this consultation by 27 March 2020.

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space (<http://consult.gov.scot>). Access and respond to this consultation online at <https://consult.gov.scot/economic-development/european-territorial-cooperation-programmes/>

You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date of 27 March 2020.

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please complete the Respondent Information Form to:

European Territorial Cooperation Team
Scottish Government
3rd Floor
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form included in this document.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/>

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.gov.scot>. If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or at Kerrie.Morton@gov.scot

Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.gov.scot>. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.



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