

# SMEs and INTERREG

Chambre de Commerce, 25.11.2013

Sabine Stölb:

Responsible for INTERREG Northwest Europe, Europe,  
INTERACT



# INTERREG what is it?

|

**INTERREG =** since more than 20 years a European cooperation programme - part of the Structural Funds

**What for?** To overcome borders as barriers of development, to help European regions to learn from each other and to commonly develop solutions  
(a more cohesive and competitive Europe)

**What topics?** Themes and topics connected with smart, sustainable, inclusive growth, depending on the needs of the cooperation area  
(innovation, labour market, transport, environment, energy, etc.)

- Who?** Relevant actors to achieve the expected results: public and public equivalent bodies, NGOs, Enterprises, including SMEs, etc.
- How?** Projects (in average 2-4 years) for exchange and transfer of experience, development of action plans, commonly developed solutions – pilot investments, creation of networks
- Results:** People, institutions, enterprises better trained, networks for cooperation and such increased capacities, new technical solutions, new service solutions in place, new management solutions in place...

# INTERREG Cooperation areas for Luxembourg (2007-2013)

Luxembourg partners cooperate on three different geographical levels:

Greater Region\*

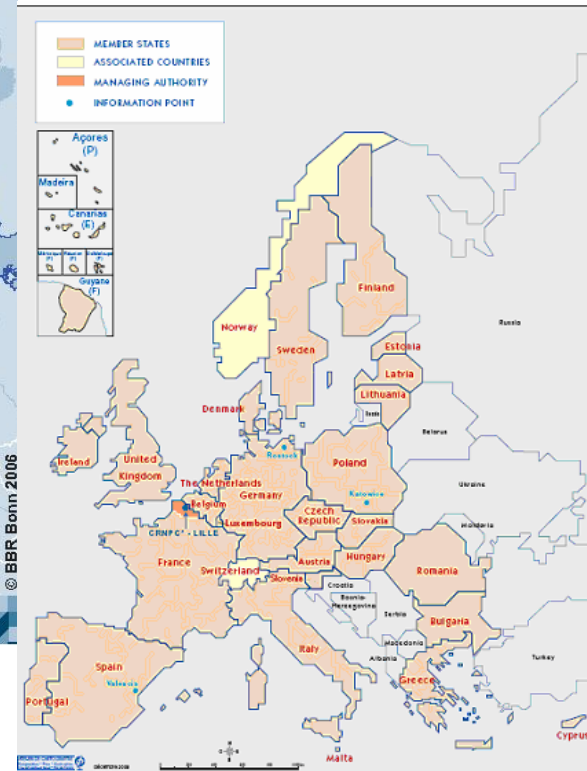
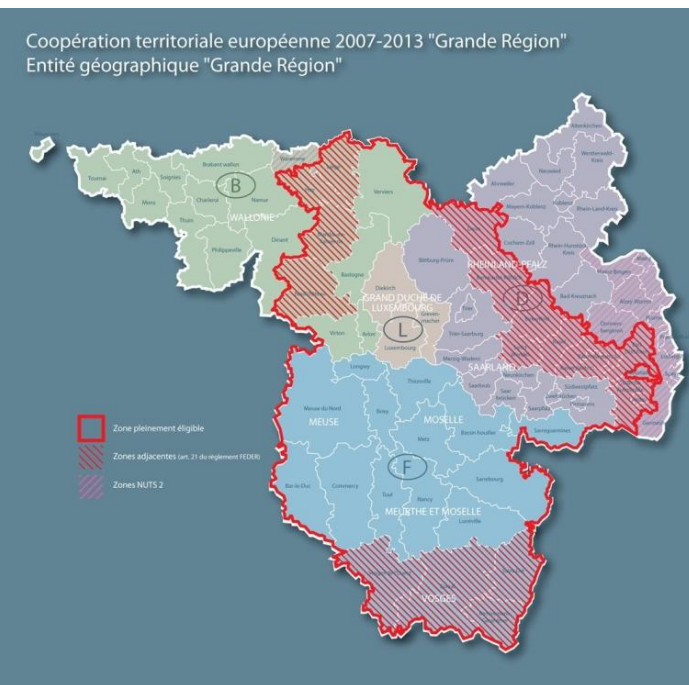
106 millions € ERDF

North West Europe\*

355 millions € ERDF

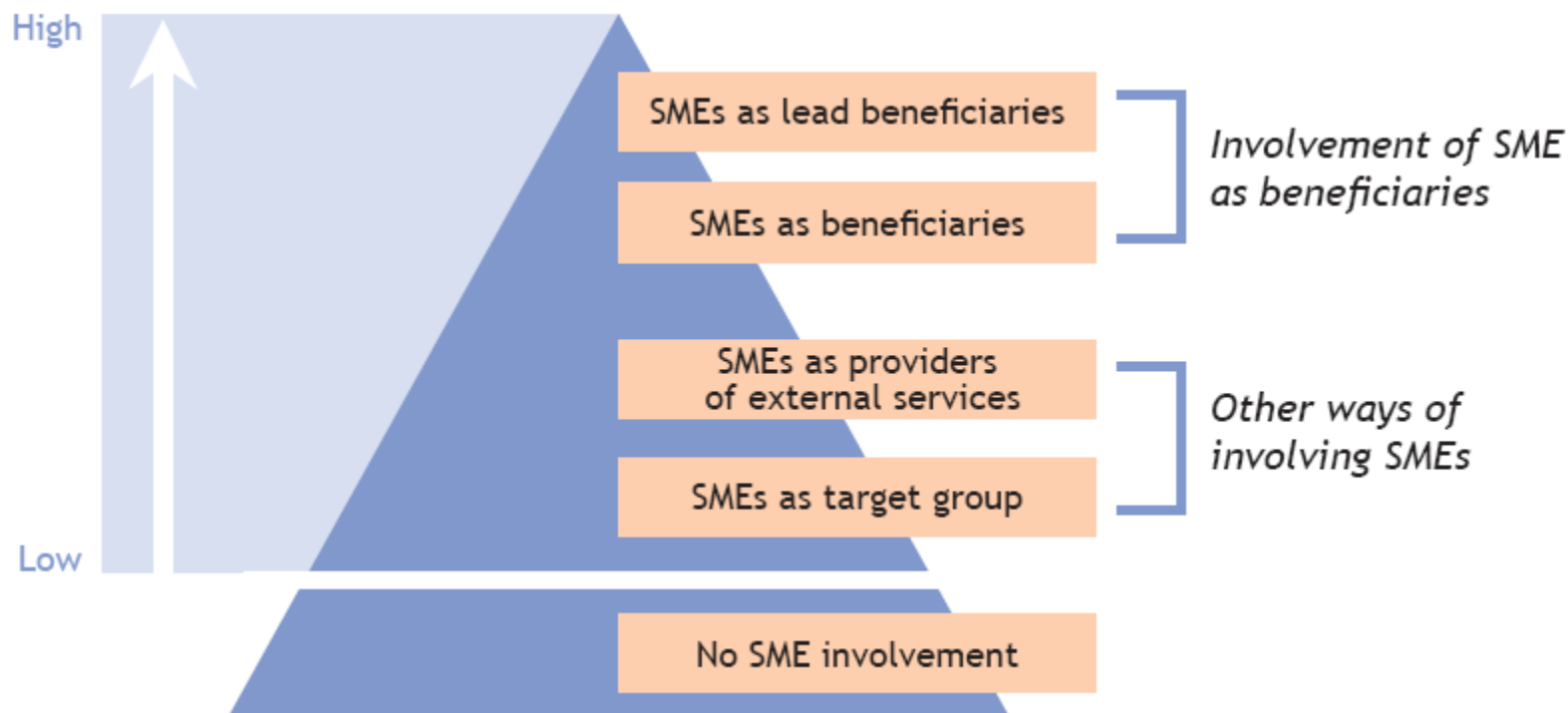
Europe

321 millions € ERDF



\* SMEs are eligible for funding

# SMEs: possible ways/roles to be involve in INTERREG



## **Aim:**

Reinforce innovation and technology transfer in composite materials among companies in North-West

## **12 European partners:**

CRP Henri Tudor LU(Lead Partner), [Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de l'Aisne](#) FR, [Chambre Régionale de Commerce et d'Industrie de Lorraine \(CRCIL\)](#) FR, [Leibniz-Institut für Neue Materialien gGmbH](#) DE, [Multitel](#) BE, [SIRRIS](#) BE, [Institut universitaire de formation continue \(IUFC\) de l'Université catholique de Louvain \(UCL\)](#) BE, [GRETA LAON HIRSON CHAUNY](#) FR, [APAF : Action Plasturgie Artois Flandres Pôle plasturgie Nord-Pas de Calais](#) FR, [CREPIM - Centre de Recherche et d'Etude sur les Procédès d'Ignifugation des Matériaux](#) FR, [Université de Liège \(UL\)](#) BE, [Skywin Wallonie ASBL](#) BE.

**Budget:** € 4,9 Mio. (of which 50% ERDF)

## Some project products (examples):

[Training Platform](#) – a collaborative learning environment for training in composites

[Business Intelligence Platform](#) – informs about developments in the field of composite materials with the latest news and events

[Business Club](#) – a professional network opening new business opportunities

**Target group:** SMEs

**Timing:**

Start: 10-2008

End: 06-2014

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

# INTERREG-SME participation and main challenges

Currently SMEs are involved in 22% of INTERREG projects (in programmes, where SMEs are eligible).

## **Main challenges:** (Survey of the INTERACT programme):

- State Aid
- Administrative procedures
- Prefinancing required
- Intellectual property rights
- Revenues
- Public procurement



# Objectifs thématiques indicatives INTERREG 2014-2020

Objectifs thématiques INTERREG	Grande Région	North West Europe	Europe
Renforcer la recherche, le développement technologique et l'innovation	✓	✓	✓
Renforcer la compétitivité des PME			✓
Soutenir la transition vers une économie à faibles émissions de CO2 dans l'ensemble des secteurs		✓	✓
Encourager le transport durable et supprimer les obstacles dans les infrastructures de réseaux essentielles.		✓	
Protéger l'environnement et encourager l'utilisation durable des ressources	✓	✓	✓
Favoriser l'emploi et la mobilité de la main-d'oeuvre	✓		
Investir dans les compétences, l'éducation et la formation tout au long de la vie	✓		

# INTERREG programmes 2014-2020

- Reinforced focus on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- SMEs as important target group/beneficiaries (how exactly, not decided yet by all programmes).
- Simplifications concerning accounting rules, reporting, etc.
- First calls for projects expected by autumn or late 2014.

# State of discussion INTERREG Northwest Europe 1

## INNOVATION

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1:** Enhanced innovation capacity through international cooperation in NWE

### Types of actions:

**Building innovation capacity of regions and territories.** Actions may include:

- Bringing together stakeholders who do not normally work together (e.g. quadruple/triple helix approaches, cross-sectoral partnerships) from across NWE to improve innovation capacity and know-how in NWE regions
- Etc.

These actions lead to an improved and increased cooperation among quadruple helix actors on a transnational level to increase innovation capacity

# State of discussion INTERREG Northwest Europe 2

- **Improving the innovation performance and competitiveness of companies** through actions aimed at applied innovation and cooperation projects focusing on a specific product, service or process to test the market-readiness level. Actions will focus mostly on the concept/technology validation phase of innovation including the design, testing and development phases of the idea (basic research projects and marketing/commercialisation actions are excluded). These may include:

Demonstration projects testing technologies, products, services and processes under real-life conditions or to demonstrate feasibility/refine design and development plans (e.g. with end-user-involvement, co-design approach)

# State of discussion INTERREG Northwest Europe 3

- Larger-scale demonstrations of service delivery models/ improved business processes (proof of concept)
- Transnational actions which support the internationalisation of NWE companies through shared know-how and cross-sector collaborations.
- These actions contribute to the progress in the Market Readiness Level of innovative products, technologies, processes or services

# State of discussion INTERREG Northwest Europe 4

## LOW CARBON

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2:** Improved energy performance through international cooperation on the implementation of energy strategies in NWE territories

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3:** Reduced GHG emissions through international cooperation on the uptake of low-carbon technologies, products, processes and services, in high energy consuming territories and sectors.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4:** Reduced GHG emissions through international cooperation on low carbon solutions in transnational transport systems

# State of discussion INTERREG Northwest Europe 5

## RESOURCE AND MATERIAL EFFICIENCY

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 5:** Optimised (re)use of material and natural resources through international cooperation in NWE

### Types of activities:

- **Developing new technologies and products to improve resource efficiency or reduce the impact of resource use** by optimising the use of material resources (like eco-innovation solutions) for production processes and delivery of services or the design and production of less material-intensive products and services, which can be disposed in a more sustainable way.
- **Tackling problems of waste through its reduction and re-use** through the optimisation of recycling processes, strategies and technologies and the use of waste and secondary raw materials.

# Support to SMEs

## **In preparation:**

Overview for INTERREG 2014 -2020 and clear communication to SMEs as soon as programmes have been developed.

## **Aim (together with other partners):**

- to offer comprehensive information about all EU funding options in a comparable way.
- to inform about the challenging topics, like state aid, intellectual property, options for prefinancing.
- to facilitate contacts to European SMEs with a view to cooperation projects.



# Final considerations for SMEs as financial beneficiaries

Do you just want money?

*Do not use INTERREG!*

Do you want to get information on what works well for other SMEs in Europe?

*Do not use INTERREG!*

Do you want to

- Recieve and transfer know-how within a European partnership
- Jointly develop new solutions with wider European input
- Network and establish new relations for cooperation
- get financial support in doing so

*Consider to use INTERREG!*

# Thank you for your attention!

