

SEMPRE docking project

**#SOCIALINTERREG**

Social Innovation in Interreg

Welcome  from the Diaconie!

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# About the docking project

- Forerunner



SEMPRE – „Social Empowerment in Rural Areas“  
(Interreg Project of the Baltic Sea Region Programme, 2016-2019)  
<https://www.sempre-project.eu/>

- Why a docking project?

- social innovation seemed to always be secondary to technological innovation in the BSR Programme
- projects in the funding priority „non-technological innovation“ were very heterogeneous
  - ⇒ without networking, platform project or clustering initiative!
- German Federal Programme for Transnational Cooperation supports cross-programme networking of Interreg projects

## STEP 1

**Taking stock of social innovation** in the Interreg Funding Period 2014-2020 (only Interreg Programmes with German participation):

- What projects have been funded?
- What aspects of social innovation have these projects covered?
- What have been their main achievements?
- What has been their experience with Interreg funding?
- What are their expectations towards the new funding period?

### ❖ METHOD

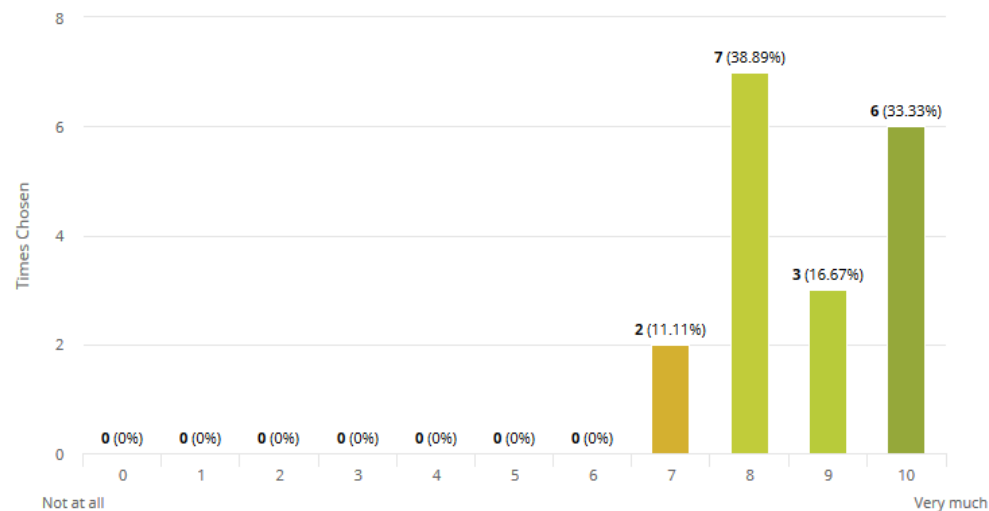
**Two workshops and a questionnaire survey.**

## ❖ SURVEY RESULTS - CONCLUSIONS

- The participating projects **identified themselves** with the theme “social innovation” and **supported its funding in the future**. Interreg Programmes should therefore be encouraged to keep it in their portfolio.

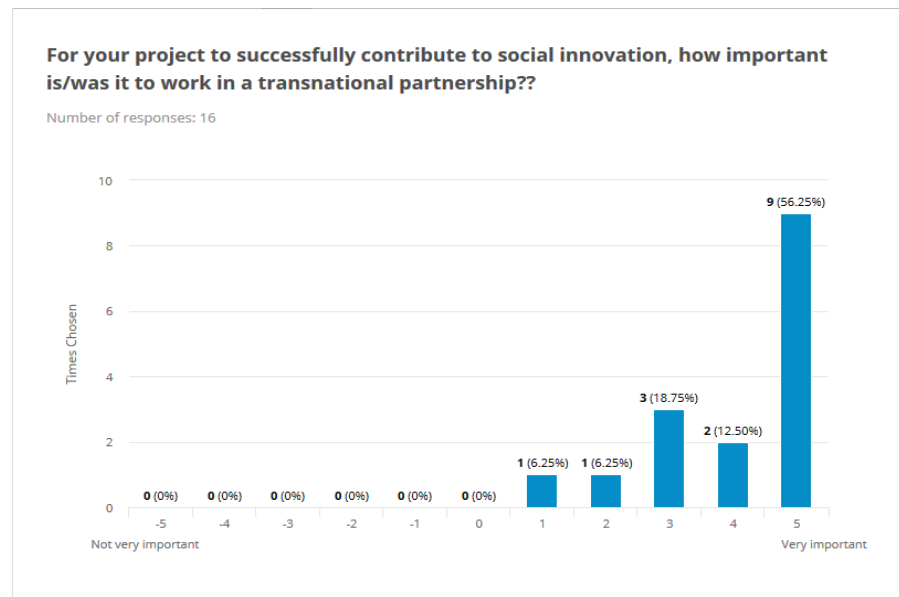
**To what degree would you identify your project with the headline "social innovation"?**

Number of responses: 18



## ❖ SURVEY RESULTS - CONCLUSIONS

- The participating projects **considered working in a transnational partnership to be very important for their success**



- Transnational cooperation provided an innovation laboratory, encouraged thinking outside the box and created a critical mass for social innovation

❖ SURVEY RESULTS - CONCLUSIONS

- However, the range of topics and projects is very broad, and **a more harmonised definition** of what is considered as social innovation between the Interreg Programmes **could be useful**.
- While the support given by the Interreg Programme was viewed very differently depending on the programme, even those partners who felt the least support from the programme side still saw their projects as successful and would apply for Interreg funding again.
- There are several recommendations for improvements in the coming funding period, some of which are specifically relevant for social innovation projects while others may apply to projects in all themes.

## STEP 2

### Analysing the support of Interreg concerning social innovation

- How have the programmes defined social innovation in 2014-2020?
- How are they planning to cover social innovation in the new funding period (2021-2027)?
- Which definition of social innovation will be used in the future?

#### ❖ METHOD

Interviews with programme representatives – still in process.

## OUTPUT 1

### Showcase of the achievements of social innovation projects

- creating a virtual showcase (website) with project profiles/ video clips  
<https://socialinterreg.eu/>
- promoting joint social media effort: **#socialinterreg**
- Conference on social innovation in Interreg (today)

#### ❖ OBJECTIVE

**More visibility of social innovation projects among decision makers!**

(EC, European Parliament, Monitoring Committee members, National authorities)



# Story of the **#SOCIALINTERREG** Social Innovation in Interreg

## OUTPUT 2

### Position paper on social innovation in Interreg 2021-2027

- Draft is under preparation ...



- Programming is well advanced but in details still under way – so our position is still important for the future Interreg programmes!