



Sharing Expertise

The Story of Cooperation

Levi, 17 September 2013





Where do you come from?

1. Finland
2. Sweden
3. European Commission, INTERACT
4. Other



Have you worked with INTERREG before?

1. YES
2. NO



European Territorial Cooperation (ETC / INTERREG) – Status Quo

- *Evidence* on what INTERREG delivers for Europe still vague and not heard on policy levels -> proposal to increase funding for INTERREG has not been supported by the Member States. BUT also Programme reports tell little about the results!
- The proposed funding envelope for INTERREG for the 2014-2020 is very much the same as in 2007-2013 -> *MORE* (bigger impact) is expected *with LESS* money



Ex-post Evaluation of INTERREG III

Only around half of the programmes focussed their financial resources on a limited number of priority topics (*Strand A*)

Programmes generally adopted broad intervention strategies which did not concentrate financial support on a limited number of priority topics (*Strand B*)

Mixed results were obtained with regard to improving the effectiveness of instruments for regional development and cohesion policies. (*Strand C*)



What did INTERREG III programmes deliver?

- New and maintained jobs
- Support to business development
- 18.000 km of roads, routes, railways etc
- Investments in environment, waste management, energy efficiency

BUT

Similar outputs are delivered also by the Objective 1 and 2 programmes. Why finance the same?



Programmes also produced

- New and extended cooperation networks
- Cooperation agreements
- Joint cultural, natural, urban and rural actions
- Trainings and events with half a million participants

BUT

What has changed as a result of these for the people and businesses in the programme area?

Remember: the goldfish might fail at the climbing test,



But in the swimming test, she'd...

SHINE!*



Clarification of Cooperation Objective

European Territorial Cooperation programmes contribute to the overall (economic, social / societal and territorial) cohesion of the EU

by supporting **cohesion** of respective cross-border or transnational programme areas and

by working together with **shared assets and/or common challenges**

EU level vision & strategic framework

Vision / strategy and mission for the programme area



Types of change (=results) INTERREG delivers

Integration related: common identity; integrated services, business & education frameworks; common branding; improved cross-border flows & accessibility; territorial governance; cooperation on community level

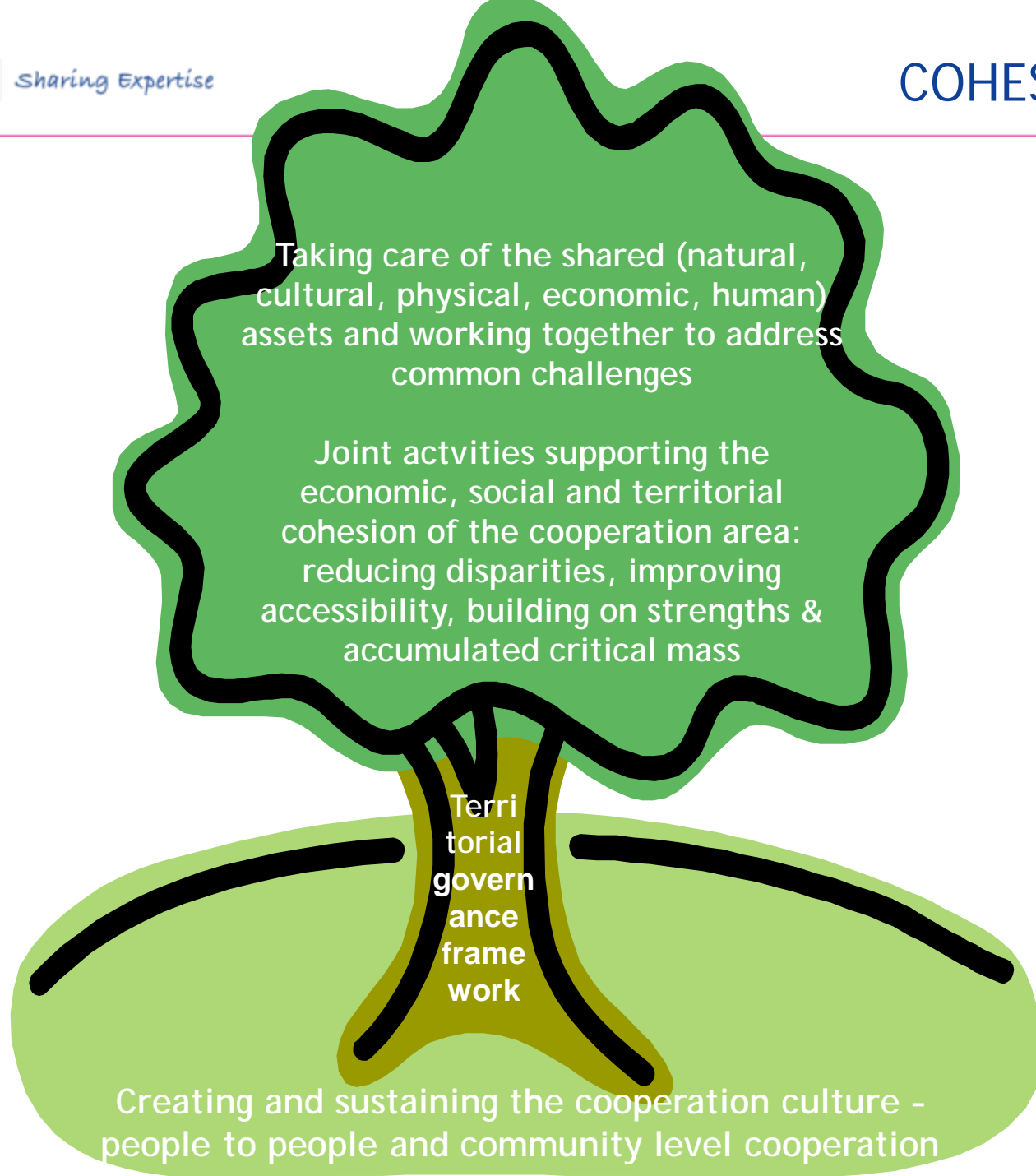
Investments in physical, economic and social infrastructure (filling in the gaps); in environment; in common assets; preparation of such investments; development of solutions for joint challenges

Performance related: improved organisational / governance capacity; improved regional performance



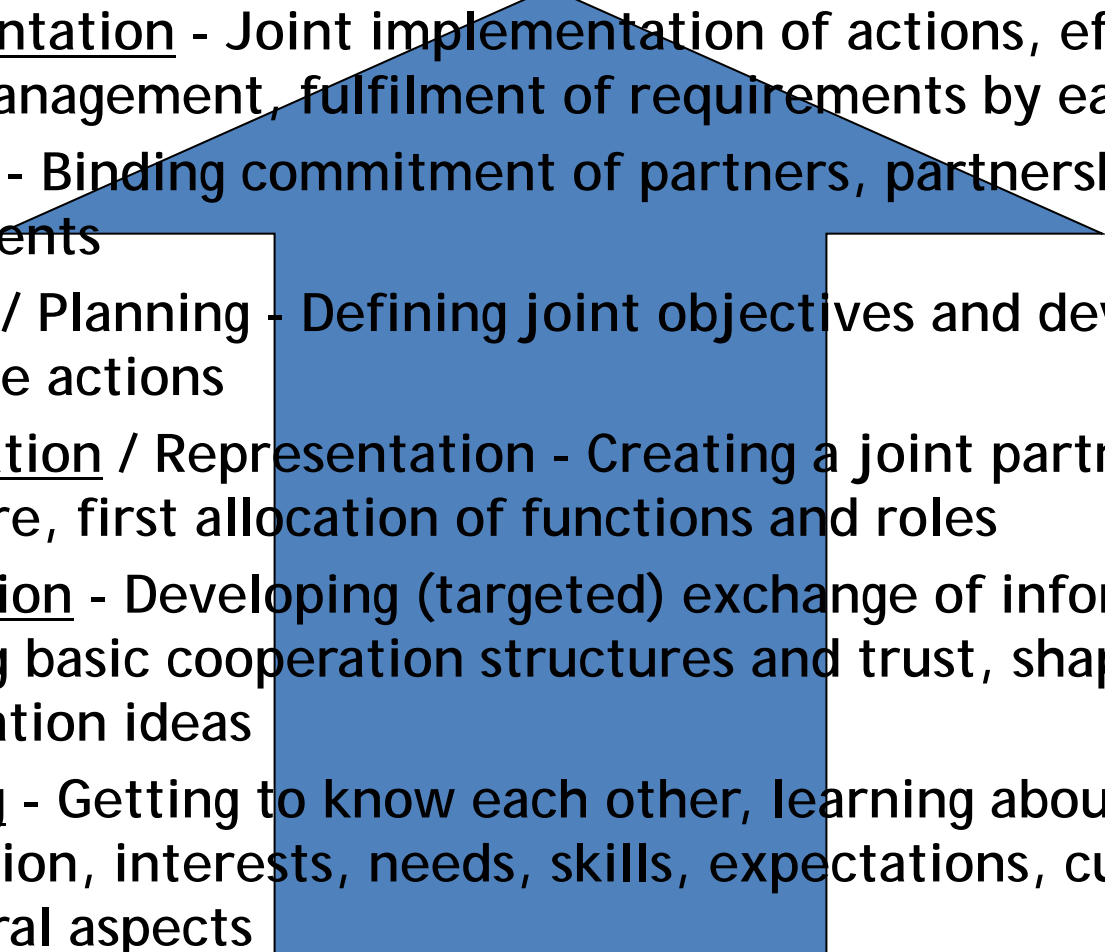
Cohesion / integration

1. Joint management of cross-border territories (cross-border urban areas, mountains, coastline, rivers, seas)
2. Improving accessibility and flows across borders (transport, telecoms, energy)
3. Joint actions to address cross-border risks (floods, forest fires, accidents on land and water, diseases)
4. Cross-border services for citizens, companies, visitors
5. Working together to increase global competitiveness of businesses and economy sectors
6. Working together for better education and research
7. Community integration, common identity building
8. Other





Growing cooperation

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1. Meeting - Getting to know each other, learning about motivation, interests, needs, skills, expectations, cultural and structural aspects
 2. Information - Developing (targeted) exchange of information, building basic cooperation structures and trust, shaping cooperation ideas
 3. Coordination / Representation - Creating a joint partnership structure, first allocation of functions and roles
 4. Strategy / Planning - Defining joint objectives and developing concrete actions
 5. Decision - Binding commitment of partners, partnership agreements
 6. Implementation - Joint implementation of actions, efficient joint management, fulfilment of requirements by each partner



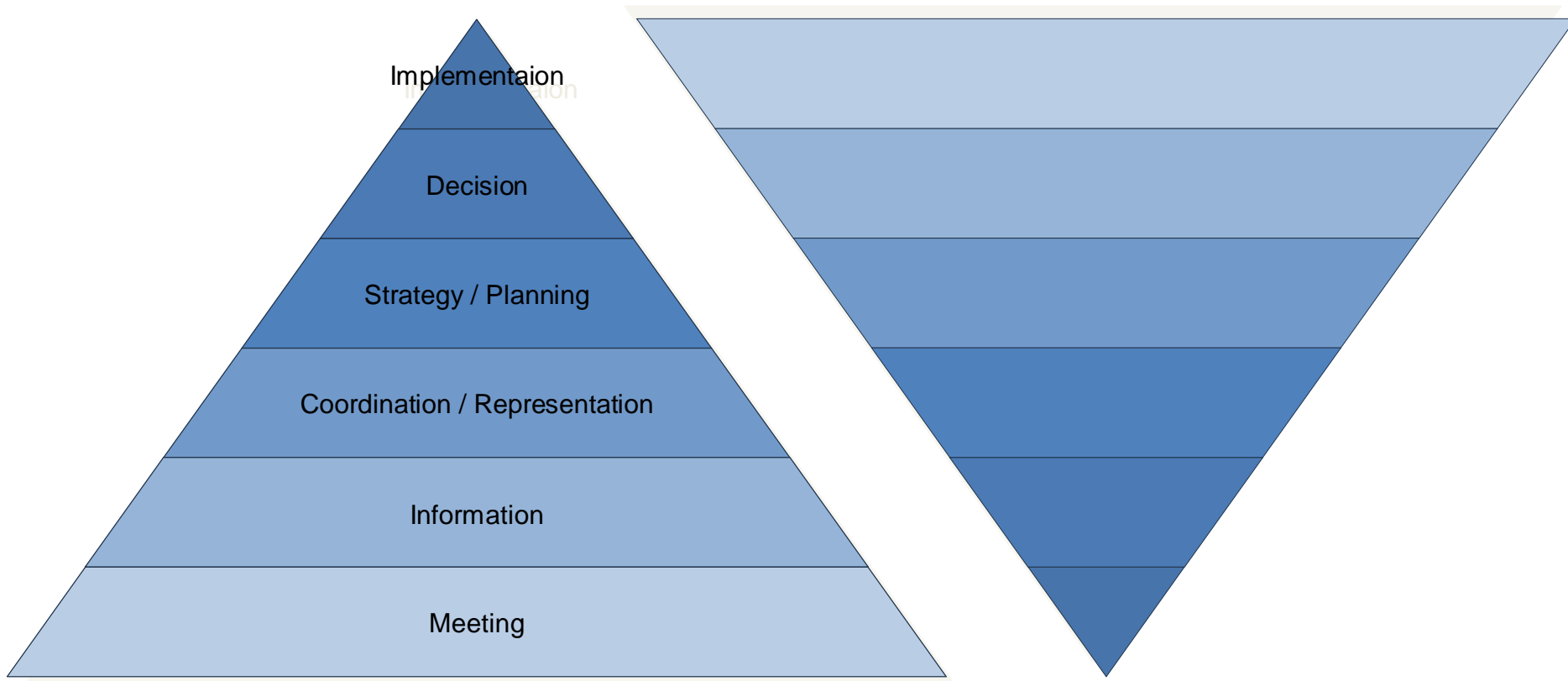
What stage is our partnership in?

1. Have not yet started or have just met
2. Exchanging information, learning from each other, building trust
3. Coordinating (parallel / similar) actions
4. Working on joint strategies and planning together
5. Joint strategies and plans are followed in local decision making or decisions are made together
6. Joint implementation of strategies and plans



Maturity of Cooperation plays a role

Maturity of Cooperation Project results and Policy Impact





Lessons learnt for future?

Focus is essential to deliver visible change from INTERREG Programmes! Which common assets and/or challenges do we consider a priority for joint action?

We are fish, not an animal! Which aspects of cohesion / integration are most desired? Where does cooperation makes most sense and adds most extra value?

Cooperation culture matters! Cooperation across borders is not natural and needs to be nurtured and supported. The maturity of cooperation is an important factor in delivering change