



# Interreg Sudoe Programme

## Summary for potential beneficiaries

### What is the Interreg Sudoe Programme?

The regions from Southwest Europe have **common problems**: poor investment in research and innovation, low competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises and exposure to climate change and environmental risks.

The European Union considers that the most efficient way to tackle these challenges is working together to overcome national borders. The combination of efforts will lead to the best ideas, the best practices and will avoid the duplication of the work.

The European tool to drive this common search for solutions is the **Interreg Sudoe Programme**, abbreviation of Cooperation Programme Interreg V-B Southwest Europe.

The European Commission approved the cooperation programme on the 18th of June 2015 for the period 2014-2020. It will fund projects created by partnerships of public and private organisations from different countries and regions of Southwest Europe.

### How much budget is involved?

The Programme has a budget of **141 million Euros**: 106 million is provided by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and 35 million by private and public counterparts of the participating countries.

### Who can participate?

The project must be submitted by a partnership composed by public or private entities (with the exception of large companies) from regions of different countries of Southwest Europe. The eligible regions are the following:

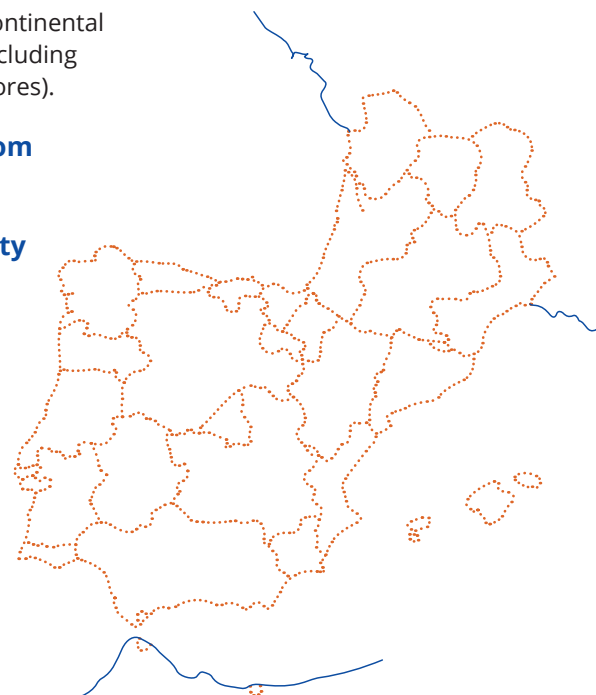
**Spain:** all the Autonomous Communities (except Canary Islands) and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

**The six South western regions of France:** Aquitaine, Auvergne, Languedoc-Roussillon, Limousin, Midi-Pyrénées and Poitou-Charentes.

**Portugal:** all continental regions (thus excluding Madeira and Azores).

**United Kingdom (Gibraltar)**

**The Principality of Andorra.**



## How to present a project

The organisations interested in receiving funds from the Interreg Sudoe Programme must submit their project proposals to one of the five calls for proposals that the Programme will launch during the period 2014-2020.

The projects must deal with one among **five priorities of the Programme**, identified as the areas on which transnational cooperation has its strongest impact in the context of Southwest Europe.



Research and innovation



Competitiveness of SMEs



Low-carbon economy



Combating climate change



Environment and resource efficiency

## Who will benefit?

**All citizens:** higher level of well-being with a more developed economy, improved energy efficiency in buildings, better protection against natural risks and reinforced appreciation of their cultural and natural heritage.

**SMEs:** increased profits due to investment in R&D+i, business development initiatives and internationalisation services.

**Researchers and public administrations:** access to new knowledge and resources collaborating with researchers and administrations from other countries and regions.

## Which indicators will prove that objectives have been met?

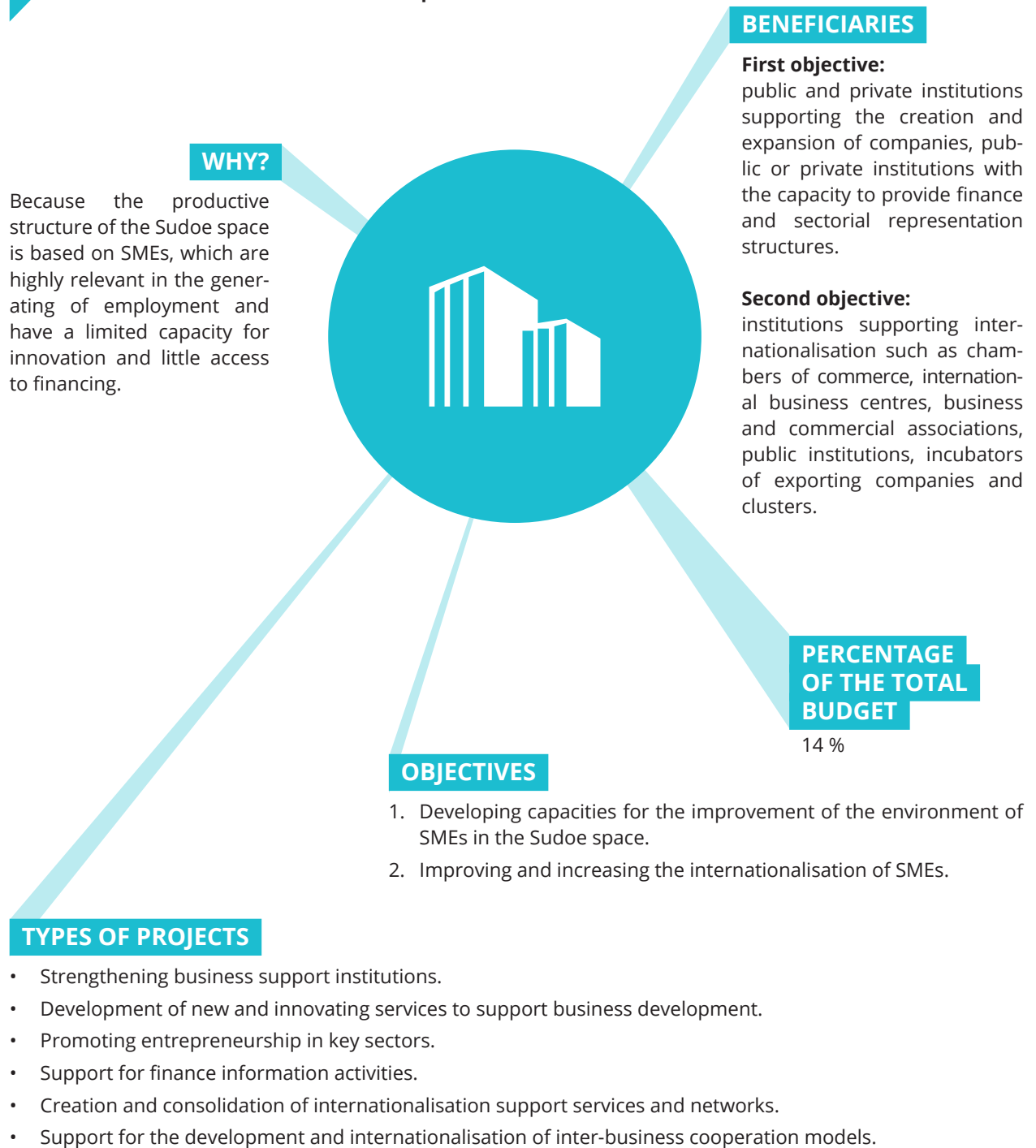
- Participation of 300 companies and 300 research institutions in cross-border, transnational or inter-regional projects.
- Creation or support of 33 business development services.
- 1,100 companies will benefit from financial support and 1,100 companies will benefit from non-financial support.
- Creation or support of 22 internationalisation services.
- Development of 12 pilot actions and strategies, as well as 20 tools and services to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings.
- 13.5 million people will benefit from transnational measures of protection against natural risks.
- Development of 12 transnational strategies or action plans for risk prevention and management.
- Support and enhancement of 50 natural areas, enrolled in management processes for sustainable development or preservation of the environment and mitigating the impact of human activities.

## The priority axes

### 1 **Research and innovation** Promoting research, technological development, and innovation



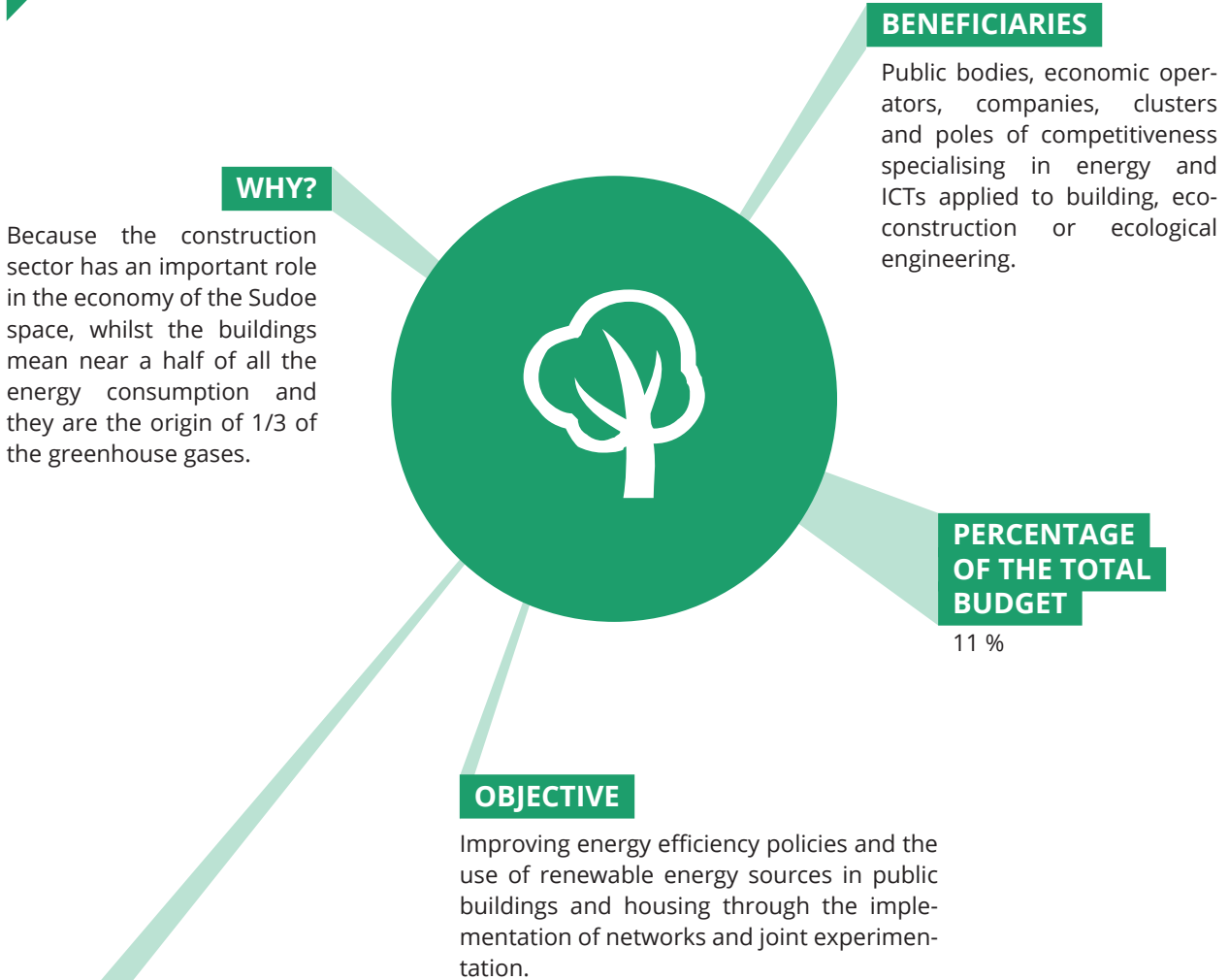
**2** **Competitiveness of SMEs**  
**Promoting the competitiveness and internationalisation of the SMEs of Southwest Europe**



**3**

**Low-carbon economy**

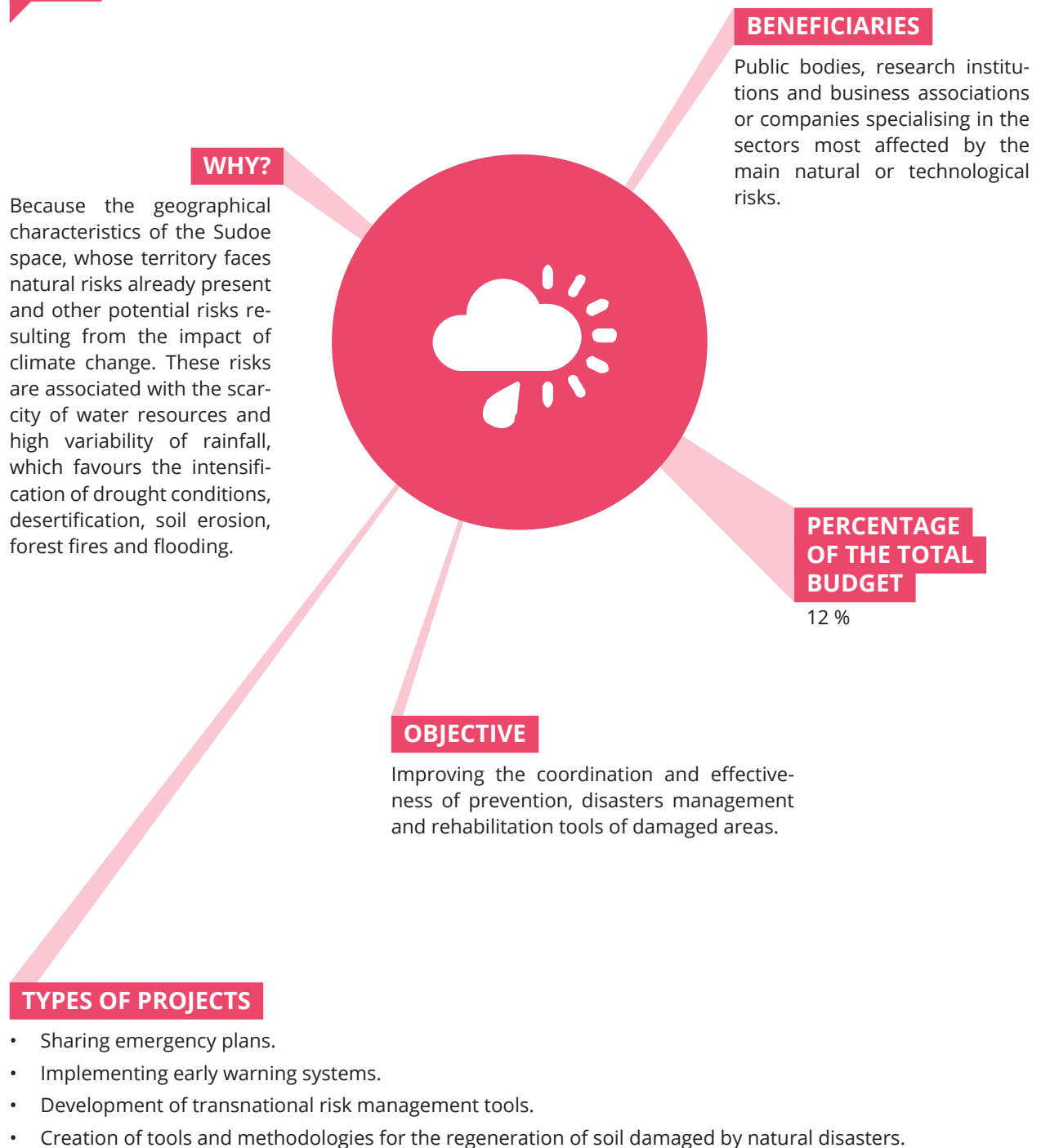
**Contributing to a higher efficiency of the energy efficiency policies**



**TYPES OF PROJECTS**

- Stimulating the transferring of innovation and its assessment and application.
- Promoting the modification of the behaviour of decision-makers, economic actors and the general public.
- Creation of observation and analysis tools.
- Support for energy saving projects in public buildings and homes.
- Actions in favour of the improved use of renewable energy sources in buildings and housing.

**4** **Combating climate change**  
Prevent and manage risks more efficiently



**5** **Environment and resource efficiency**  
**Protecting the environment and promoting the efficient use of resources**

**WHY?**  
 Because the Sudoe space has a marked rural isolation, a great biodiversity and an extremely rich natural and cultural heritage that needs not only to be protected but also to be encouraged as to making use of it and contributing to local development in a sustainable manner.



**BENEFICIARIES**

Public bodies and economic actors specialized in tourism, environmental sector, improvement of local and regional development, agricultural trade associations and livestock breeders, chambers of commerce, industry and navigation.

**PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL BUDGET**

20 %

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Improving management methods of common natural and cultural heritage through the implementation of networks and joint experimentation.
2. Reinforcing the cooperation of the Sudoe stakeholders of the natural sites through the development and the use of joint methods.

**TYPES OF PROJECTS**

- Encouraging sustainable development and environmental impact mitigation strategies in tourist areas and the economic exploitation of natural areas.
- Improving knowledge of common cultural and natural heritage and the economic potential of natural areas.
- Promoting the internationally recognised tourist products from the natural and cultural heritage.
- Economic valuation of products resulting from the exploitation of forests and natural resources.
- Joint strategies for the protection and restoration of ecosystems and the integrated management of resources and natural areas.
- Improving knowledge.
- The creation of tools for joint/shared work.
- Pilot projects or the carrying out of tasks of ecological engineering designed to establish a network of ecological continuity, including urban and peri-urban areas.

## What changes from SUDOE 2007-2013 Programme?

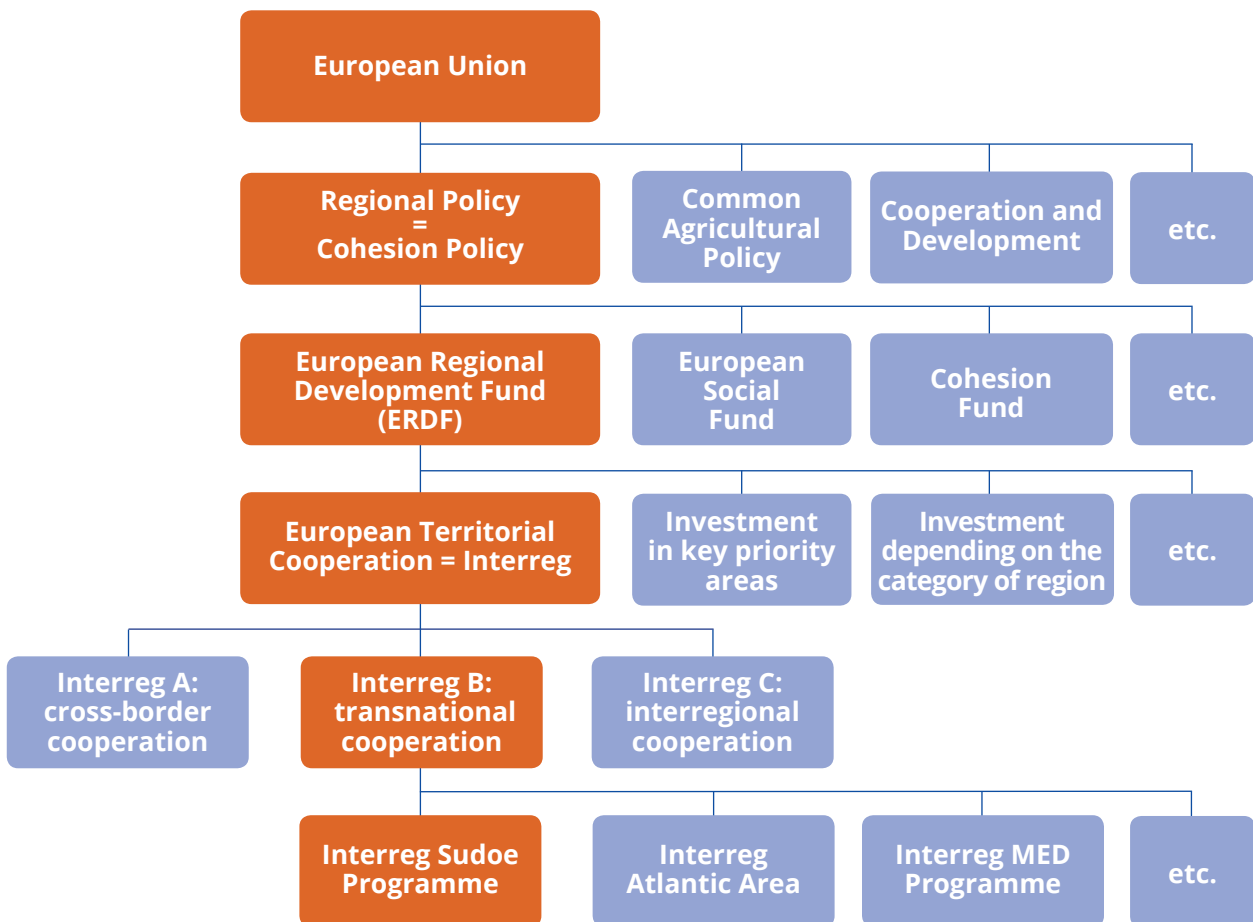
Based on the experience of the 110 projects approved during the 2007-2013 Programme, the current programming period has decided to concentrate all the investment in projects focused on **competitiveness** and **green and sustainable growth**. The reason is that these axis have higher financial capacity but also that these kind of projects have the strongest impact on the solution of the existing problems in the Sudoe space.

One of the most important novelties of the 2014-2020 Programme is that for the first time it will be open to **companies**, although with limitations. With the exception of large companies, all private for-profit entities can participate in the Programme, yet they cannot be the lead beneficiary. Their co-financing rate will be decided according to the activities they will perform.

## What is Interreg?

Interreg Sudoe Programme is part of the European territorial cooperation objective, better known as Interreg, which in turn is part of the most important European tool for regional policy: the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**.

In particular, Interreg Sudoe Programme is one of the 15 programmes of the objective **Interreg B**, which funds transnational cooperation (among regions from different countries). On the other hand, Interreg A supports cross-border cooperation and Interreg C inter-regional cooperation.



**See also:** you can read all information related to the Programme on the website [www.interreg-sudoe.eu](http://www.interreg-sudoe.eu)

**Joint Secretariat:** [scsudoe@interreg-sudoe.eu](mailto:scsudoe@interreg-sudoe.eu) | T. (+34) 942 23 83 62

