

Invitation and Programme

INTERREG Conference on Risk Management and Environmental Hazards

29 and 30 November 2005,
Meliá Rey Don Jaime Hotel, Valencia, Spain



Dear Colleague,

Several thousand INTERREG III projects have been carried out or are currently being implemented through cooperation across borders in Europe. All of the people involved in these projects have a great deal of professional and INTERREG experience and learning in common. Some, however, have also been working on handling the same types of challenges – in this case the mitigation, prevention and management of risks. This conference offers those of you working on one of these **INTERREG projects** the opportunity to meet with colleagues dealing with similar issues and confronted with similar challenges.

For those of you not currently working on an INTERREG project, this event will present *what INTERREG as a whole and ESPON have achieved in the field of risk management* and you will be able to meet the professionals involved.

A key objective of the event is to bring together the knowledge generated in INTERREG and ESPON projects and as part of this will participants also receive updates and information from the **ESPON programme** on the territorial development trends in Europe.¹ A particular focus will be on the latest results of the study on spatial effects and management of natural and technological hazards in Europe which shows the spatial patterns of these hazards in Europe at regional level and identifies possible impacts of climate change on selected hazards. A significant input on INTERREG risk management activities will be provided through the INTERACT-ESPON 'Thematic study on environmental hazards and risk management', which the Geological Survey of Finland has been selected to produce. A report with the preliminary findings of the study will be circulated to all participants before the event. If you are working on an INTERREG programme or risk management project, you may also be contacted by the research team as part of their work with collecting information on INTERREG activities in this field.

¹ Covering EU25 and Norway, Switzerland, Bulgaria and Romania

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As a participant at this conference you will also be presented with an example of how different INTERREG programmes are working together on dealing with one specific aspect of handling risks: The INTERREG IIIB Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation deals with safety at sea and offers interesting perspectives for future cooperation in other fields. There will also be an update on information already available about what will happen in the next programme period, 2007-2013, under *the new Objective 3 for Territorial Cooperation*, which will replace the INTERREG initiative.

To support the exchange of experience between INTERREG stakeholders will it be possible for projects and programmes to **make a short presentation** on relevant activities and findings during the parallel workshop sessions. A provisional thematic split of the workshops (outlined in the draft programme) has been made to allow exchange between people working on related themes. If you want to make a presentation, please *remember to tick off the box on the registration form* in the 'Workshop' section and to return the 'Project description form'. If your outline is considered to be within the scope of the conference, you will receive a confirmation together with some guidance for the presentation.

In addition, are all projects invited to describe their activities and results to date in the attached 'Project description form'. These descriptions will be collected in a **project booklet** that will be distributed to participants at the event to give them a good overview of which projects are participating. In addition, the descriptions of all projects which want to be included will be uploaded to the INTERACT project database. The database is accessible through the INTERACT website www.interact-eu.net ("INTERREG", "Project database") and is a resource for programmes and project developers across Europe. As this database has only recently been set up, it only contains a sample of INTERREG projects at present but by the end of 2006 it is expected that the majority of the 5,000 INTERREG projects be included. Make sure your project is included in the project database by filling in the attached project form and make information on your project available to anyone with an interest in learning more about INTERREG activities and findings!

You are also very welcome to **bring publicity material** such as leaflets, posters, brochures or other types of material to provide further information about your INTERREG project or programme during the conference. (Please note that the venue does not have a broadband internet connection.) There will be tables and stands where you can display your material.

We look forward to seeing you in Valencia!

The INTERACT Qualification and Transfer team

If you want to attend, remember that the last day to register for the conference is *Friday 18 November!*

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Practical information

- Time and venue:** 9.30, Tuesday 29 November to 12.30, Wednesday 30 November. Meliá Rey Don Jaime Hotel (www.solmelia.com), Avenida Baleares 2, Valencia
- Language:** Provisionally the language of the event is English only to allow for direct exchange and discussion both during the joint sessions and workshop groups. However, if a significant number of participants request simultaneous translation we will do our best to provide it.
- Registration:** Last day to sign up for the conference is *Friday 18 November*. This is also the last date to submit a project description and to inform us if you want to make a short presentation during the parallel workshops. Please note that *no more than 150 participants* can take part in the conference. If you want to be sure of a place we would urge you to sign up as soon as possible.
- Hotels:** A block booking of 50 rooms has been made at both the Meliá Hotel and Hotel NH Ciudad de Valencia (100 rooms in total). Please indicate which hotel is your first choice and which is the second. If you indicate only one hotel and it is already fully booked, the organisers will not be able to help you in finding accommodation.
- Project presentations:** Please indicate on the registration form if you would like to make a presentation during the workshops and remember to complete the project description form. If the project is considered to be within the scope of the conference will you receive a confirmation and briefing on the outline for the presentation.
- Costs:** Conference participation, including all meals, is free. All participants must however pay their own travel and accommodation costs. Project participation costs should be eligible but all projects should confirm this with their programme. Please contact us if you have any difficulties.
- Contact:** For all questions and further information, please contact ip.qt@interact-eu.net or call +45 8727 1085

Organisers:

INTERACT Point for Qualification and Transfer

www.interact-eu.net/qt

The INTERACT programme has been established to support the implementation of all INTERREG programmes. INTERACT Qualification and Transfer specialises in bringing together programme and project actors to exchange experiences, develop new ideas and learn from each other. All of our activities are based on a detailed understanding of the realities of implementing INTERREG.

ESPON – The European Spatial Planning Observation Network

www.espon.lu

ESPON was set up to support policy development and to help build a European scientific community in the field of European territorial development. Its main aim is to increase the general body of knowledge on territorial structures, trends and policy impacts in an enlarged European Union. This research addresses the 25 Member States of the EU, Bulgaria, Romania, Norway and Switzerland.

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DRAFT PROGRAMME

Day 1 Tuesday 29 September

8:30 – 9:30 *Registration and coffee*

The joint sessions will be chaired by Kai Böhme, ESPON Coordination Unit and INTERACT Point Qualification and Transfer

9.30-12.00 **JOINT SESSION I**

Key note speech:

‘From natural hazards to risk management – a challenge across European borders’

by Jacobus Hofstede, Manager for the INTERREG IIIB Comrisk project, Schleswig-Holstein State Ministry – *TO BE CONFIRMED*

‘Why INTERREG? – Overview of the initiative and its activities’ and ‘Introduction to INTERACT’ by Lindha Feldin, INTERACT Point Qualification and Transfer

‘Introduction to ESPON’ by Kai Böhme, ESPON Coordination Unit and INTERACT Point Qualification and Transfer

- Discussion

Coffee break

‘ESPON findings and natural and technological hazards and their relation to INTERREG’ by Phillip Schmidt-Thomé, Geological Survey of Finland

- Discussion

12.00-13.20 *Lunch*

13.20-16.45 **PARALLEL WORKSHOPS I** – *including coffee break*

The workshops are expected to be split according to the following themes:

- Meteorological hazards – such as storms, drought (with resultant water shortages and forest fires for example), flooding and extreme precipitation.
- Geological hazards – such as landslides, erosion, volcanoes, earthquakes and avalanches.
- Technological hazards – such as risks associated with oil production and transportation, accidental chemical spills and maritime safety issues in general.
 - Short presentations on activities and results
 - Discussion and exchange on the content of projects

16.45-17.00 **ENDING DAY 1 – joint session**

17.00 – 19.30 Extra time available for exchanging ideas, partner search etc

19.30 *Joint dinner for continued networking and exchange*

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DAY 2, Wednesday 30 November

9.00-10.00 JOINT SESSION II

‘The Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation – an INTERREG IIIB cooperation framework’ by Richard Hill, Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation

‘Next INTERREG programme period, 2007-2013’ by Matt Nichols, INTERACT Point for Qualification and Transfer

- Discussion

10.00-12.15 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS II – including coffee break

If needed: Continue presentations and discussions from Day 1 workshops

Continued discussion and exchange on different aspects of developing and running an INTERREG project

The workshop discussions will be facilitated by:

- Bo Löwendahl, Senior spatial planning expert, Swedish National Board for Housing, Building and Planning
- Matt Nichols, INTERACT Point Qualification and Transfer
- Lindha Feldin, INTERACT Point Qualification and Transfer

12.15-12.30 ENDING CONFERENCE – joint session

- Next steps

12.30 *Lunch/ Depart*

This is the second in a series of thematic conferences with accompanying studies being developed by INTERACT Qualification and Transfer in cooperation with the ESPON programme. You can find more information on the first conference on ‘Transport, communications and accessibility’ and the study on the same theme at www.interact-eu.net/qt under ‘Past events’.

Coming themes to be covered are:

- Urban-rural relationships
- Cross-border cooperation
- Spatial visions