Experiences of Interreg Europe Policy Learing Platform Peer Review

Finnish Interreg Europe - Info Day

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Päijät-Hämeen liitto
The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme

Peer Review What?

An Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform Peer Review is **half-a-year process** that culminates in a **two-day session** in which
- you look at your regional policy challenge
- together with a group of carefully selected peers with relevant experience
- facilitated by PLP Platform experts
- with relevant local stakeholders involved

The **objective** is to give you advice, recommendations and an **action plan** to resolve your challenge.

During the peer review, **you will get**:

- An in-depth analysis of your policy challenge
- An exchange of experience with relevant policymakers
- A presentation of potential solutions

(https://www.interregeurope.eu/peer-review)

Peer Review: to Whom?

For Regional Authorities and actors, currently involved – **or not involved!** – in Interreg projects

With a policy challenge that can be clearly stipulated and has a wider relevance (transferability)

Ready to be open-minded and honest in their engagement

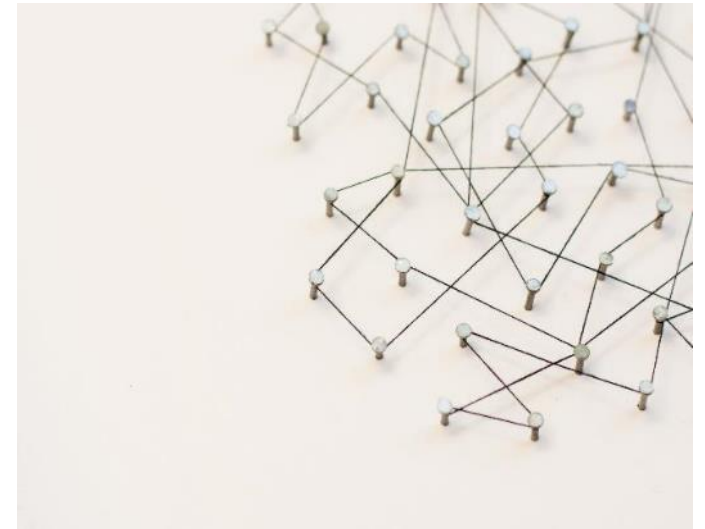Ability and motivation to infuse recommendations

Peer Review: The Process

→ Identification of a policy challenge

→ Application

→ Thematic bgr paper with additional materials

→ Selection of Peers

→ Setting up date & agenda for the session

→ Preparation & exchange of session materials

→ Peer Review session w/ initial recommendations

→ Recovery from the session ;-)

→ Final recommendations

→ Final report

→ Post-closure interview with summary doc

→ Eternal follow-up with PLP and Peers

Peer Review: The Päijät-Häme Case

Scope of the Review:

Regional Innovation Governance – State of Play and Challenges

Main questions from the host:

How to keep things in check? Or is there even a need to do that? / How to coordinate actions to optimise resources and outcomes? / Role play: who does what, responsibilities? / Value chains and money flows / Levels: organisation, city, local, region, national, EU, global / Direction: vertical, horizontal, 3D / Communication tools, platforms, practices / Balance between governance structure (rigidity) and open innovation (agility): how to manage & govern processes and avoid "waste" -and still maintain bottom-up agility? / Project-driven innovation development vs. "normal" RDI activities – is there a difference or is there even an issue? / Definition and meaning of RDI to different actors? / Community engagement: at what level? Citizens, companies, authorities, 3rd sector… engagement takes resources, which are away from something else – what's a good balance? / How to engage smaller companies –"The man with the van" to bottom-up grassroot innovation processes? Or is this even needed?

… And about 468 sub-questions ;-)

Key Takeaways from the Peer Review

Highly professional touch

Peers were really peers

Atmosphere of trust and candor

Importance of preparation

Stakeholder engagement – not sales pitches but honest sit reps and challenges (by e.g. SWOTting)

"Give, and it will be given to you."

See: https://www.interregeurope.eu/find-policy-solutions/expert-support-reports/regional-innovation-governance-key-learnings

Thank you!

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