

Outlook on projects addressing **environment** in ENI CBC programmes

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particip



Introduction

This publication illustrates the environmental challenges as addressed by the projects financed by the fifteen cross-border cooperation programmes under the 2014-2020 European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI CBC)*. It builds on the general thematic outlook of ENI CBC projects and programmes previously issued by TESIM, with the aim of providing more insights on the *green side* of the cross-border actions along the external borders of the European Union. Using little text and lots of graphs, and based on data available in early September 2022, each of the following pages answers a specific question, contributing to a detailed analysis of 219 environmental cooperation projects, which represent 24% of the total 915 ENI CBC interventions financed to date**.

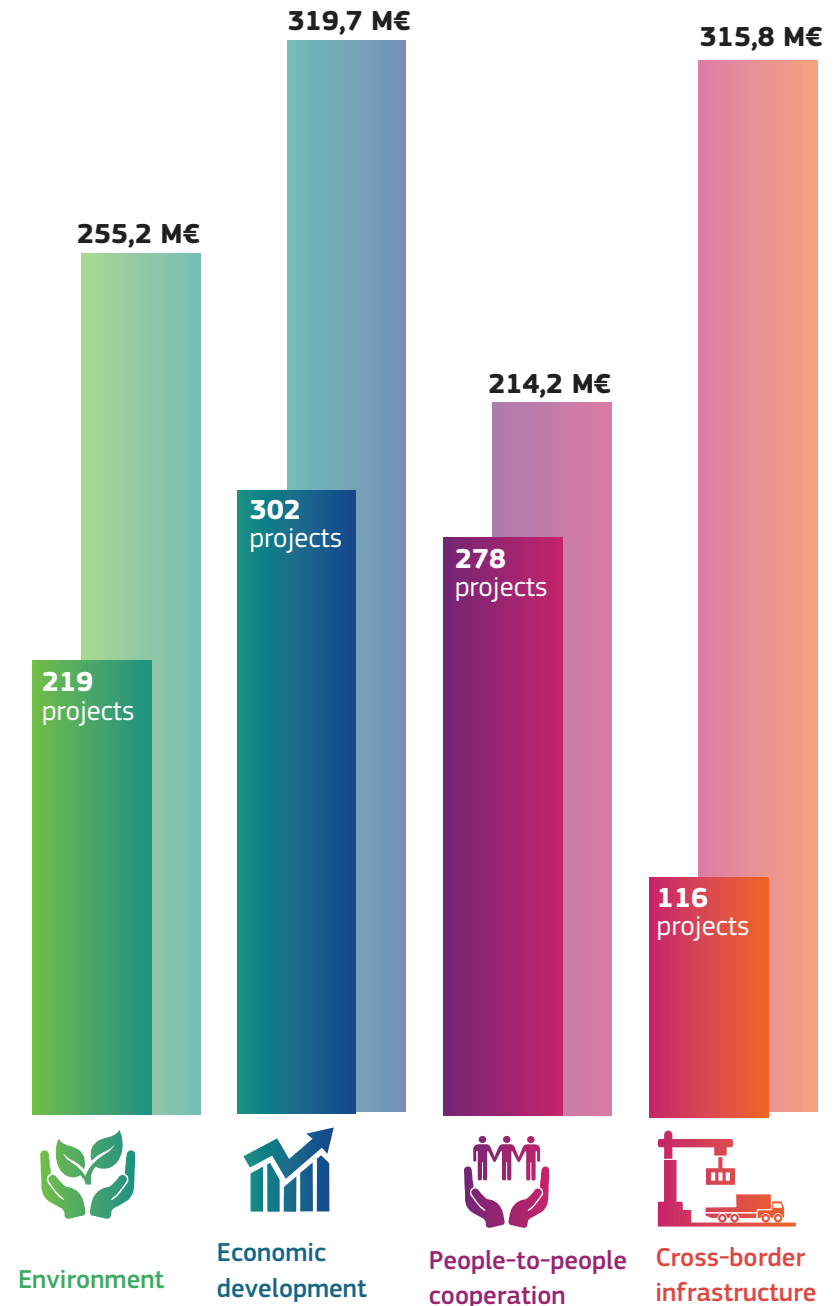
After screening all programmes and analysing how the environment was addressed by the projects in each of them, our experts identified six thematic sub-clusters: energy efficiency, marine and coastal areas, protection of nature and biodiversity, risk and climate change, waste treatment and recycling and water protection. This classification shows the richness and multifaced dimensions of the environmental cooperation and, at the same time, it paves the way for strengthening the link with the 2021-2027 programming period, where the aim of creating a greener low-carbon Europe and its neighbourhood represents a crucial pillar for the cohesion policy. It is with the aim of learning from the experience as a basis for strengthening the new generation of neighbourhood cross-border cooperation programmes and projects that this publication has been issued.

We hope that the reading will be both interesting and useful.

The TESIM team

* Within this document, the term “cross-border” applies to all types of programmes: land borders, sea-crossings and sea basins. This publication considers the fifteen 2014-2020 ENI CBC programmes, including the eight programmes directly concerned by the suspension of the financing agreements with Russia and Belarus following the Russian aggression on Ukraine of February 2022. Despite this suspension, the beneficiaries from the Member States and Norway continue implementing their parts of the projects.

** By September 2022, 26 projects have been suspended and terminated. This includes 16 projects from Poland-Belarus-Ukraine, 3 from Karelia, 3 from South-East Finland - Russia, 2 from Estonia-Russia, 1 from Kolarctic and 1 from Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus.



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Environmental projects at a glance





Programmes

Which programme is operating in each geographical area?

Projects are distributed within fifteen ENI CBC programmes

Northern and Baltic programmes*

- 1. **Kolarctic**
www.kolarctic.info
- 2. **Karelia**
www.kareliacbc.fi
- 3. **South-East Finland -Russia**
www.sefrcbc.fi
- Baltic**
- 4. **Estonia-Russia**
www.estoniarussia.eu
- 5. **Latvia-Russia**
www.latruscbc.eu
- 6. **Latvia-Lithuania -Belarus**
www.eni-cbc.eu/llb
- 7. **Lithuania-Russia**
www.eni-cbc.eu/lr
- 8. **Poland-Russia**
www.plru.eu

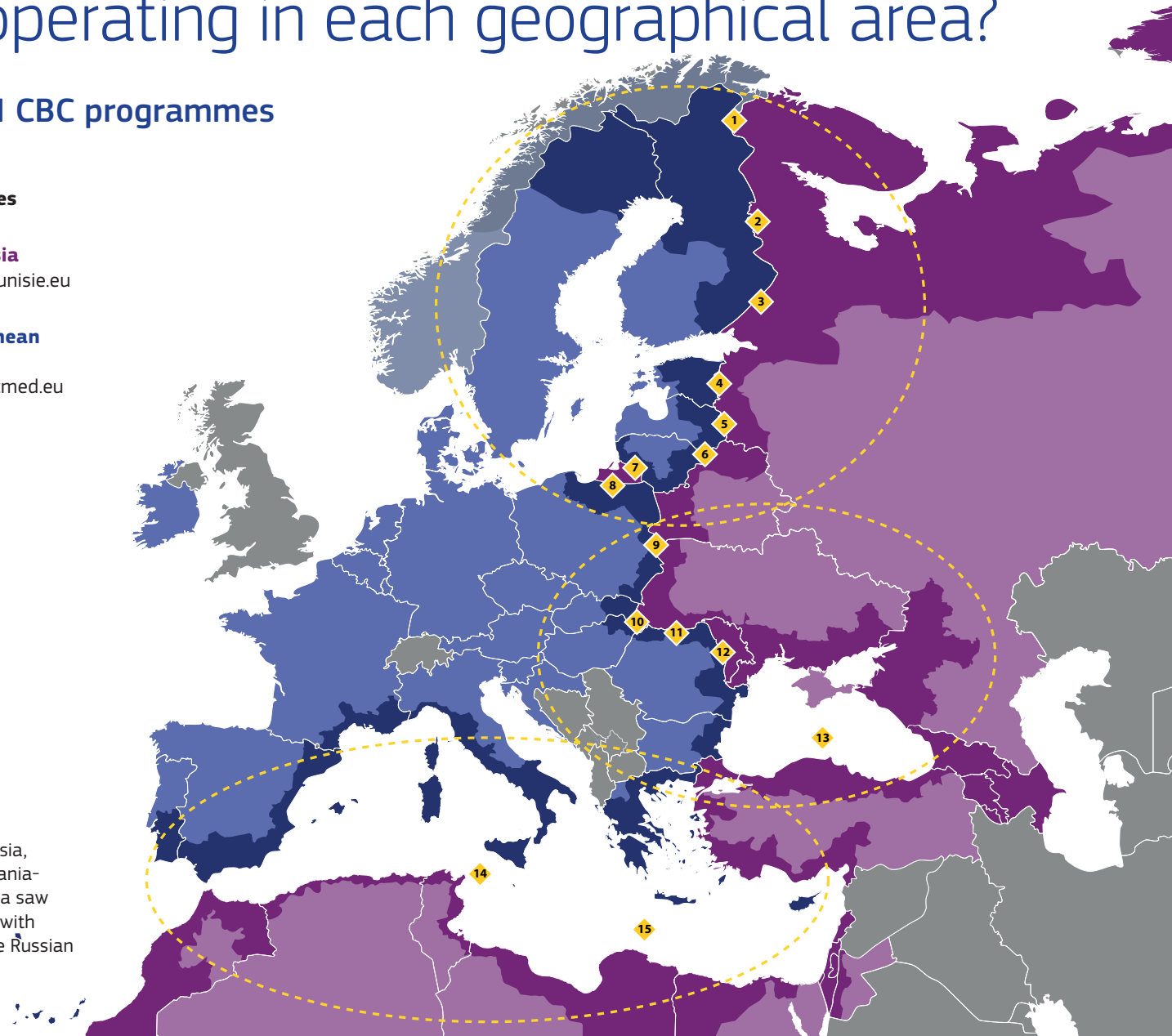
Central and Eastern European programmes

- 9. **Poland-Belarus-Ukraine**
www.pbu2020.eu
- 10. **Hungary-Slovakia-Romania -Ukraine**
www.huskroua-cbc.eu
- 11. **Romania-Ukraine**
www.ro-ua.net
- 12. **Romania-Republic of Moldova**
www.ro-md.net
- 13. **Black Sea Basin**
www.blacksea-cbc.net

Southern programmes

- 14. **Italy-Tunisia**
www.italietunisie.eu
- 15. **Mediterranean Sea Basin**
www.enicbcmmed.eu

* Kolarctic, Karelia, South-East Finland-Russia, Estonia-Russia, Latvia-Russia, Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus, Lithuania-Russia and Poland-Russia saw the suspension of the financing agreements with Russia and Belarus as a consequence of the Russian aggression on Ukraine of February 2022.





Programmes

How are the environmental projects distributed across programmes?



Environment



Economic development

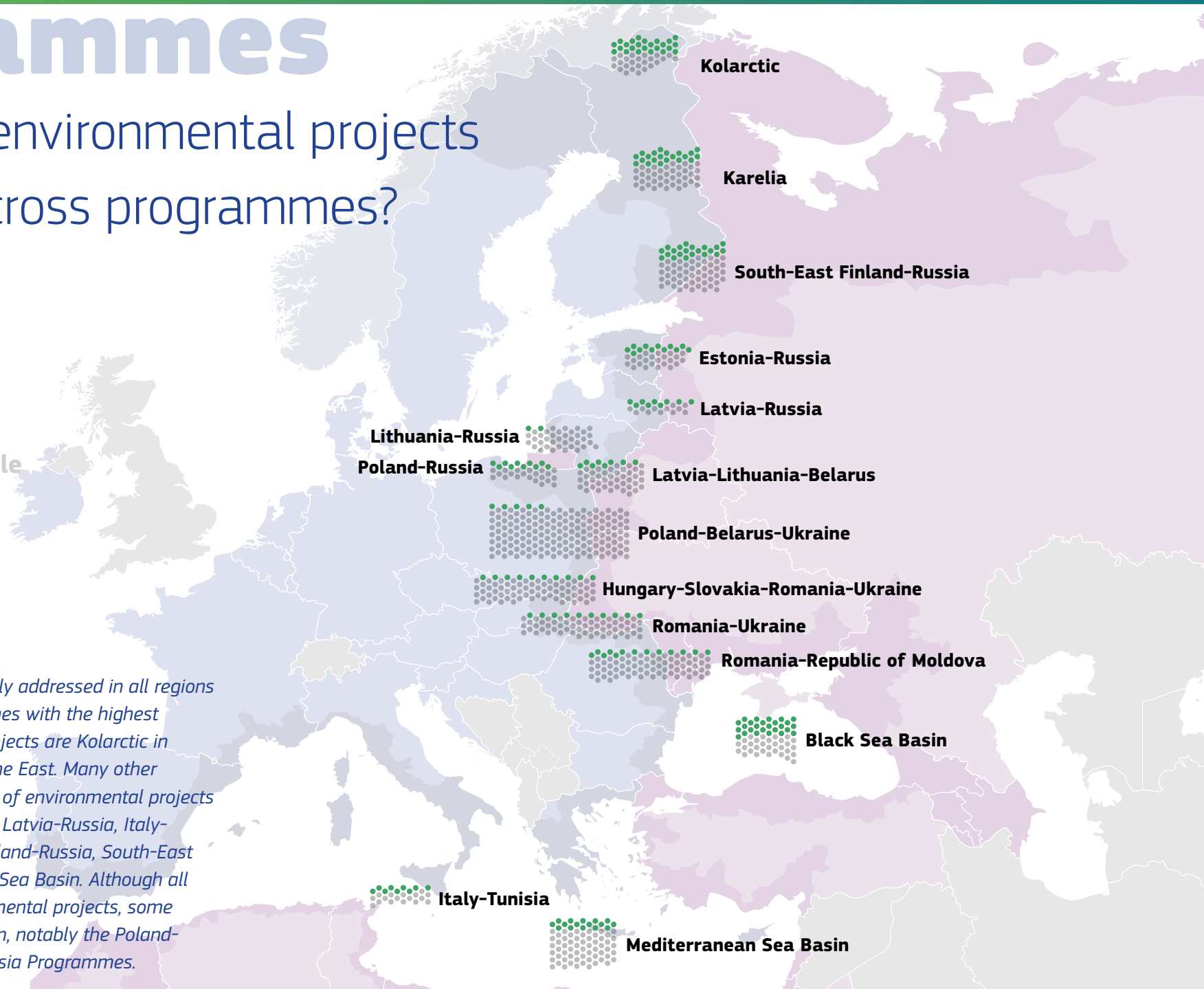


People-to-people cooperation



Cross-border infrastructure

Environmental challenges are widely addressed in all regions covered by ENI CBC. The programmes with the highest concentration of environmental projects are Kolarctic in the North and Black Sea Basin in the East. Many other programmes show a concentration of environmental projects clearly above the average, namely: Latvia-Russia, Italy-Tunisia, Karelia, Estonia-Russia, Poland-Russia, South-East Finland-Russia and Mediterranean Sea Basin. Although all programmes have funded environmental projects, some of them show a lower concentration, notably the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine and Lithuania-Russia Programmes.

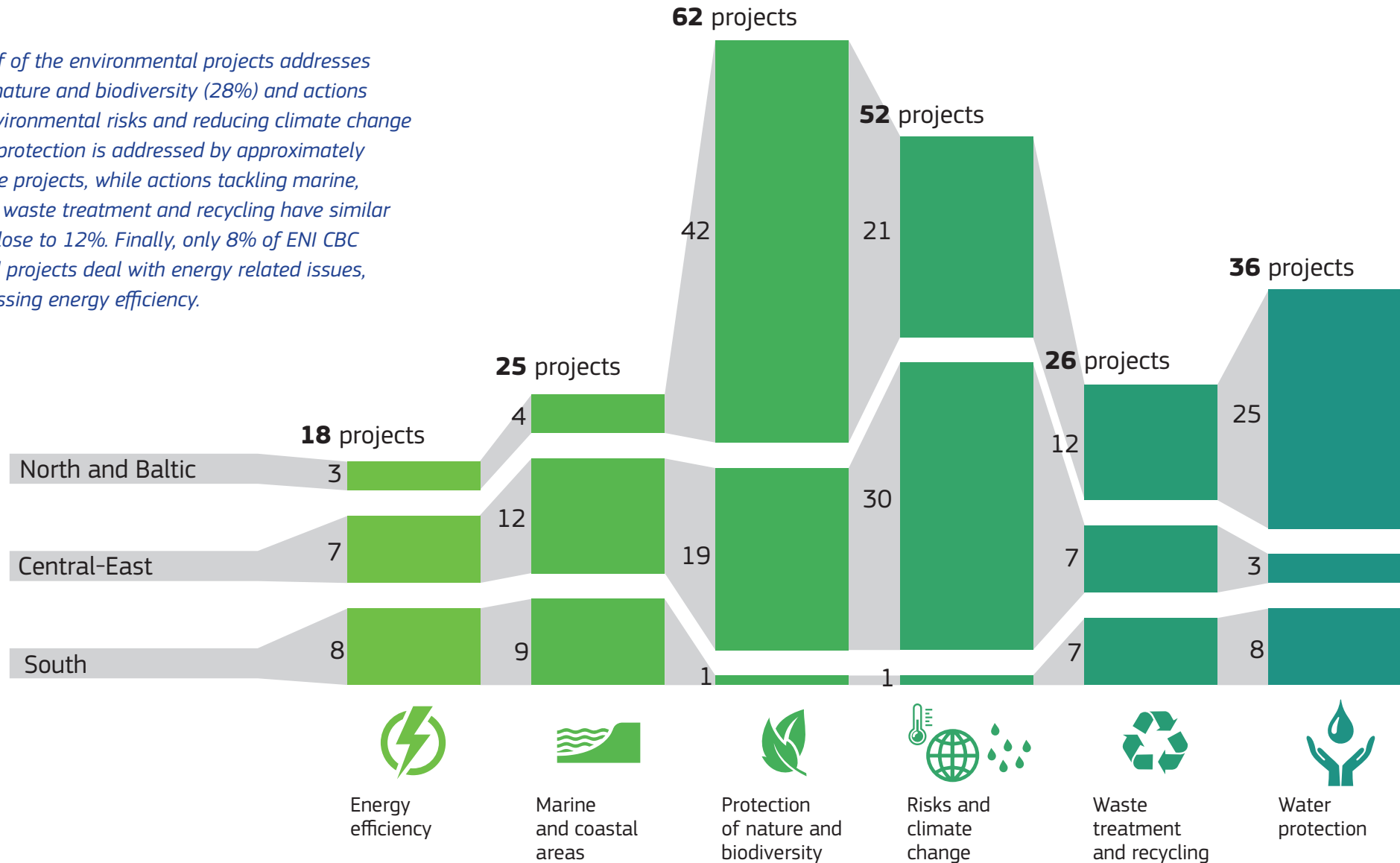




Projects

How are the projects distributed through the environmental sub-clusters?

More than half of the environmental projects addresses protection of nature and biodiversity (28%) and actions preventing environmental risks and reducing climate change (24%). Water protection is addressed by approximately the 16% of the projects, while actions tackling marine, coastal areas, waste treatment and recycling have similar percentages close to 12%. Finally, only 8% of ENI CBC environmental projects deal with energy related issues, notably addressing energy efficiency.

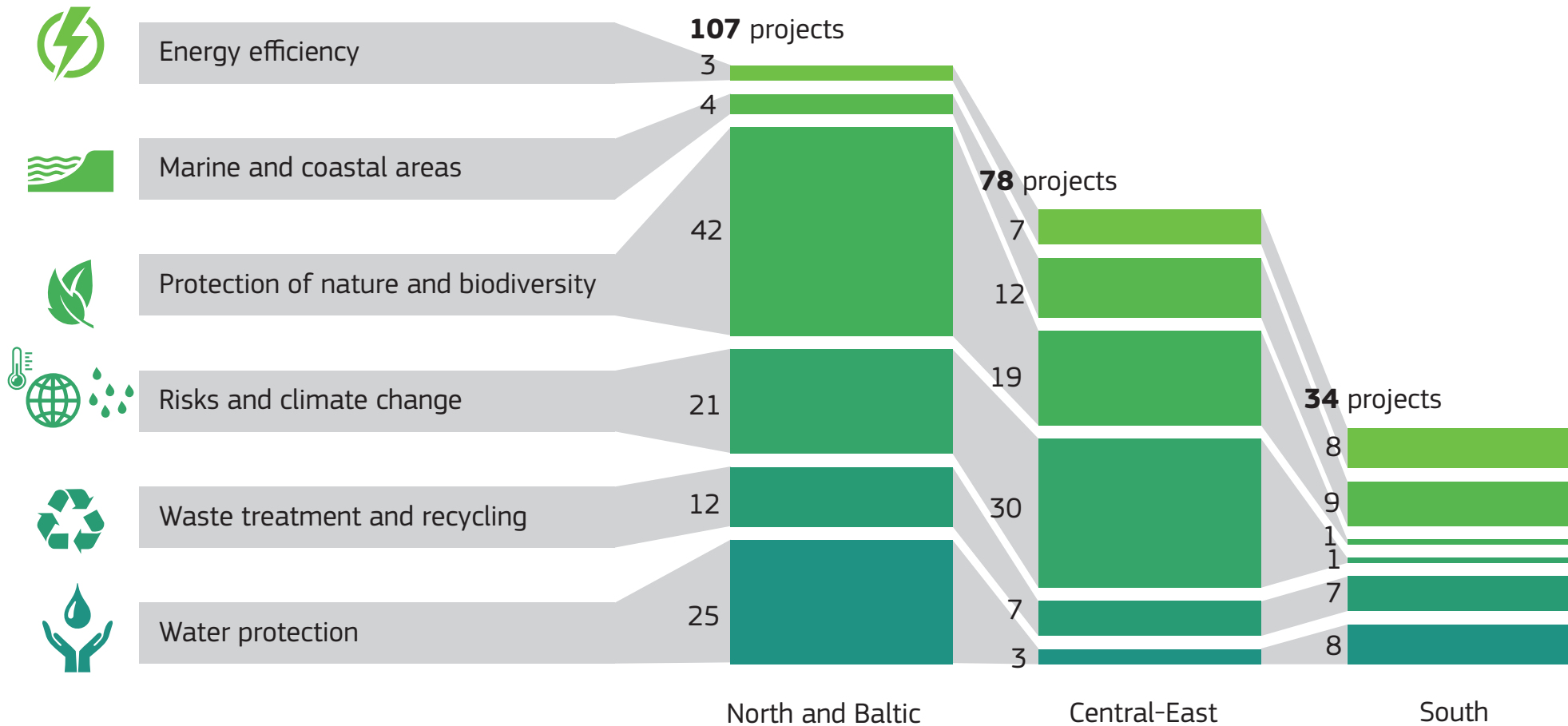




Projects

How are the environmental projects distributed across geographical areas?

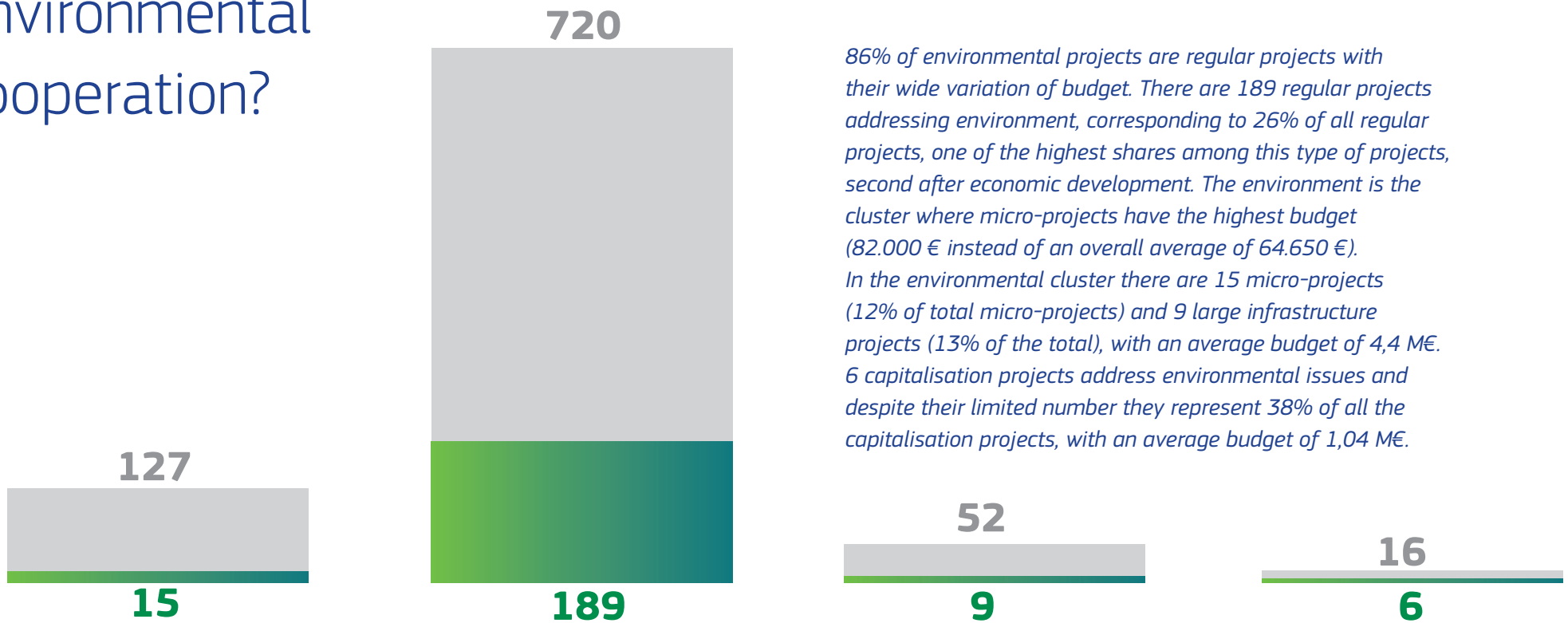
North and Baltic programmes focus on protection of nature and biodiversity as well as water protection. Environmental risks and climate change are tackled strongly in the Central-East programmes. Energy efficiency, marine and coastal areas, waste treatment and recycling have a relatively equal distribution across the different geographical areas.





Projects

Which types of projects are used to address environmental cooperation?



86% of environmental projects are regular projects with their wide variation of budget. There are 189 regular projects addressing environment, corresponding to 26% of all regular projects, one of the highest shares among this type of projects, second after economic development. The environment is the cluster where micro-projects have the highest budget (82.000 € instead of an overall average of 64.650 €). In the environmental cluster there are 15 micro-projects (12% of total micro-projects) and 9 large infrastructure projects (13% of the total), with an average budget of 4,4 M€. 6 capitalisation projects address environmental issues and despite their limited number they represent 38% of all the capitalisation projects, with an average budget of 1,04 M€.

Micro-projects are small-scale projects which provide a short-term response (typically one year) requiring a smaller budget (under 80.000€ – thresholds may differ). They are selected through dedicated calls with simplified procedures for selection, management and implementation, including simplified cost options (lump sums).

15 environmental projects (12% of total micro-projects). Average budget for environmental projects = **81.800€**

Regular projects are the majority of ENI CBC's interventions, with a wide budget from 50.000€ to over 4M€, but which normally ranges from 0,5 to 2,5M€. Under this category, programmes include "standard projects", "strategic projects", "soft projects" and "hard projects".

189 environmental projects (26% of all regular projects). Average budget for environmental projects = **1,1M€**

Large infrastructure projects (LIP), which are often selected using a direct award procedure, have been foreseen in eleven of the fifteen ENI CBC programmes. They include hard construction and plant work and are normally large-scale projects from 2 to over 12M€.

9 environmental projects (17% of all LIPs). Average budget for environmental projects = **4,4M€**

Capitalisation projects are those projects gathering and building upon results of previous programmes / projects. They are normally promoted through specific calls for proposals.

6 environmental projects (38% of all capitalisation projects). Average budget for environmental projects = **1,04M€**



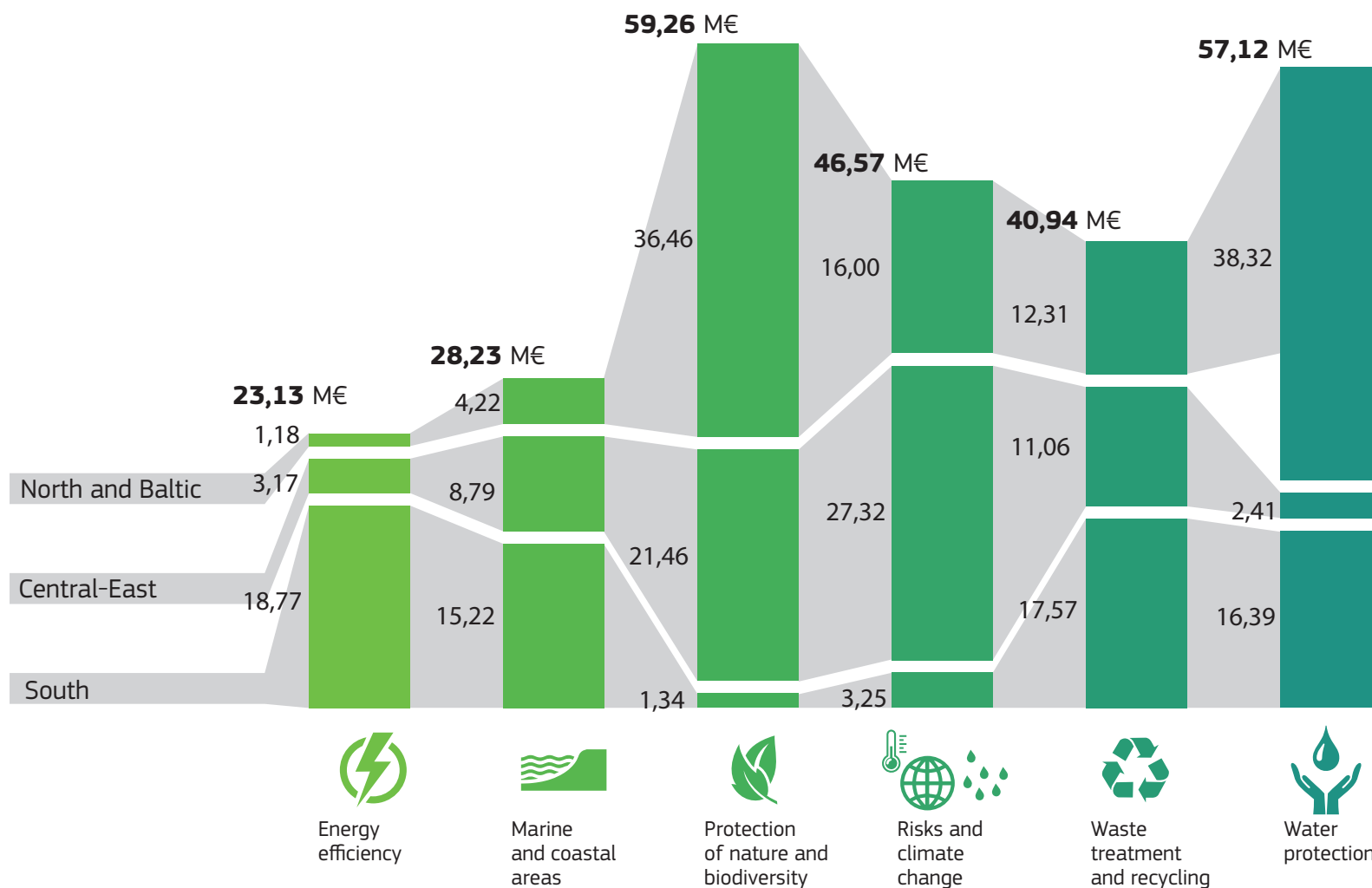
Budget

How is the budget distributed through the environmental sub-clusters?

Energy efficiency has the lowest budget, totalling 9% of the overall budget on environment, though the 13 projects under this sub-cluster have one of the highest budget averages, equal to 1,3 M€.

Opposite, projects under risks and climate change have the lowest average of budget in the environmental cluster, equal to 0,9 M€. Protection of nature and biodiversity is the sub-cluster with the highest budget, 23% of all environmental budget, varying greatly across projects, from 50.000€ to more than 6 M€.

Projects on water protection have an average of 1,6 M€, while 58% of them show a budget higher than 1 M€.

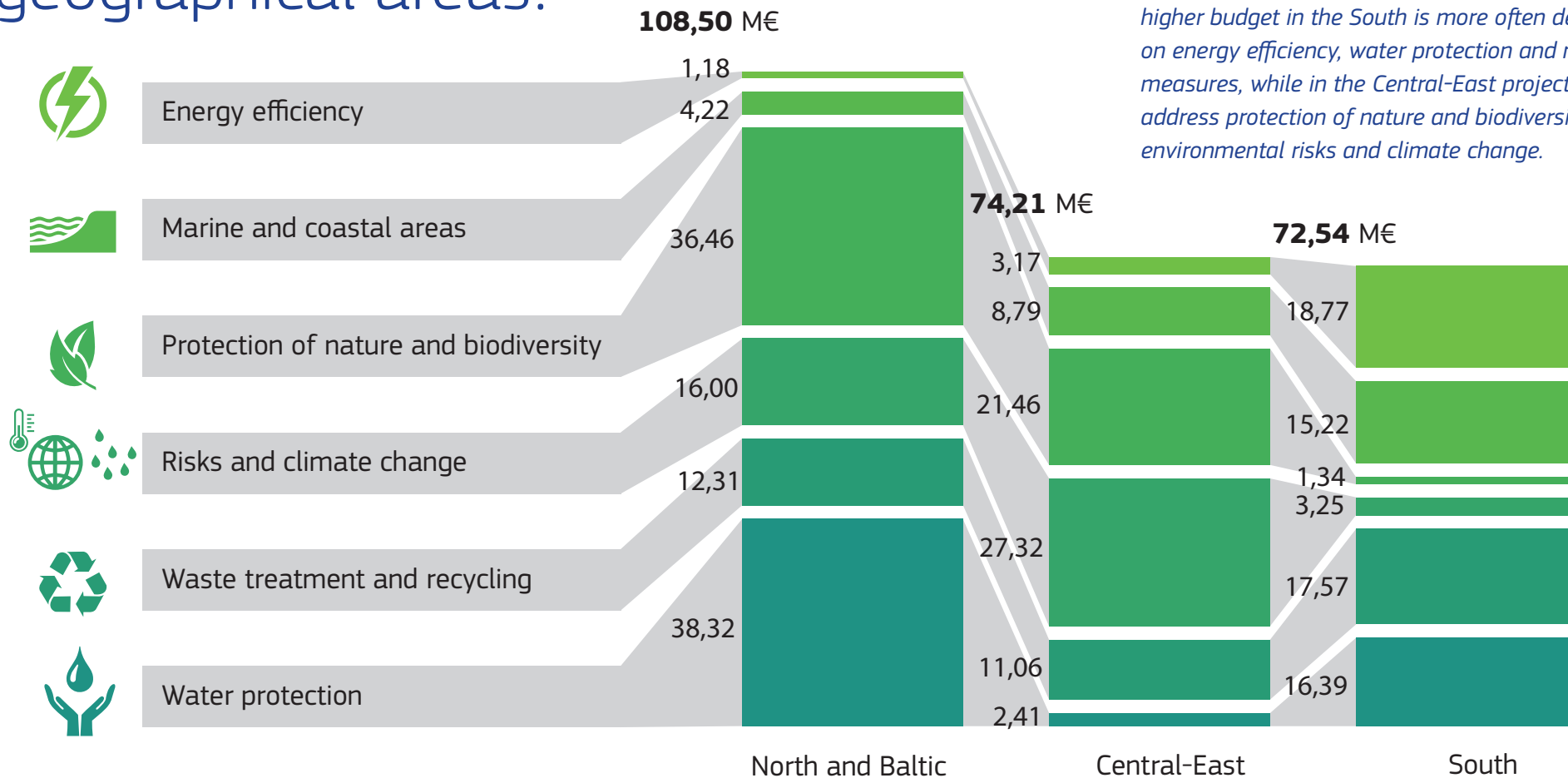


Project budget includes EU and national co-financing.



Budget

How is the budget of environmental projects distributed across geographical areas?



43% of the budget dedicated to the environment in ENI CBC projects is absorbed by the North and Baltic regions, addressing especially water protection and protection of nature and biodiversity. Central-East and Southern regions absorb a similar amount of budget, respectively 29 and 28%, although the number of projects in the South is less than half the number of projects in the Central-East. The significantly higher budget in the South is more often dedicated to pilots on energy efficiency, water protection and marine and coastal measures, while in the Central-East projects more often address protection of nature and biodiversity together with environmental risks and climate change.

Project budget includes EU and national co-financing.



Budget

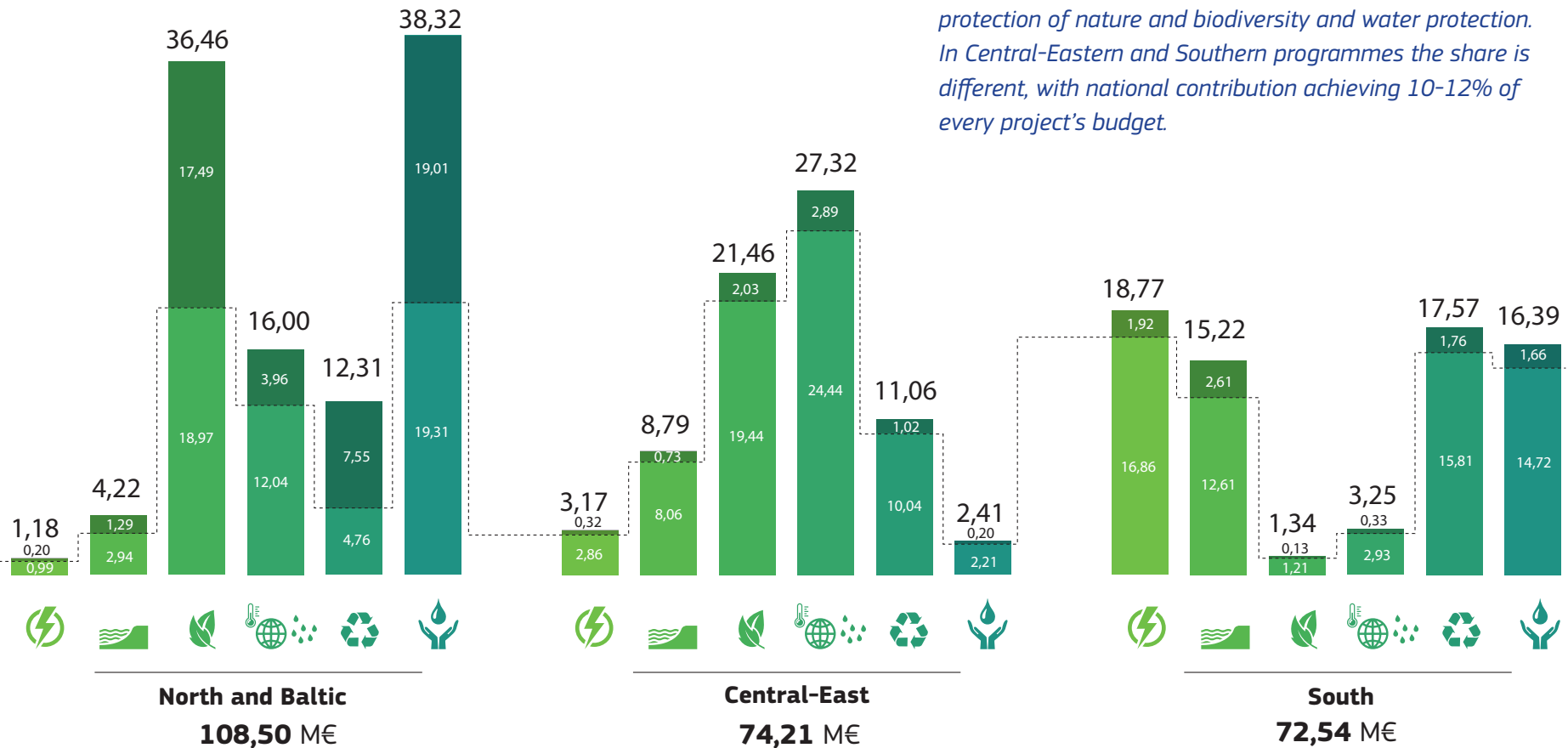
How are funds allocated and distributed among environmental projects?

The percentage of EU funds in the environmental projects is equal to the overall EU contribution for all the ENI CBC projects (75%). In Northern programmes national contribution is higher than in other programmes and clusters, achieving 46% of the total environmental budget in the geographical area, particularly dedicated to protection of nature and biodiversity and water protection. In Central-Eastern and Southern programmes the share is different, with national contribution achieving 10-12% of every project's budget.

National contribution
Co-financing provided by:

- National contribution at programme level
- Beneficiary co-financing at project level
- Contributions to beneficiaries from the State budget
- Contributions to beneficiaries from other donors/institutions.

EU contribution
Grants provided by the EU, which include ENI, ERDF and IPA funds.



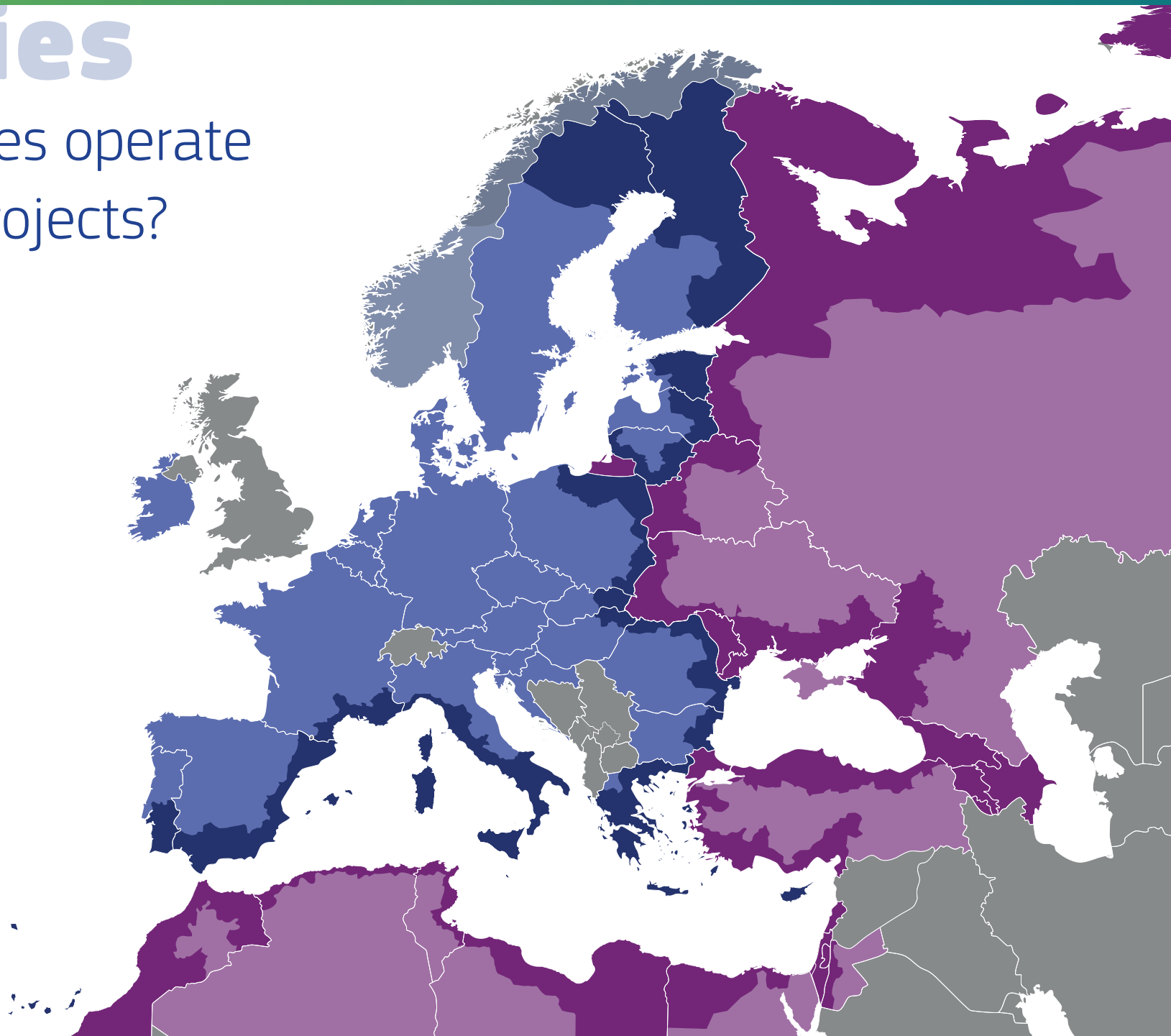


Territories

In which territories operate more ENI CBC projects?

The following maps use the NUTS classification (Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics), a hierarchical system for dividing up the territory of the EU. The data analyses therein take into consideration the NUTS 2 scale, corresponding to basic European regions, or equivalent, for the application of regional policies.

Take a moment to browse the maps on the following pages zooming in on the different regions, to find out where cross-border cooperation takes place.

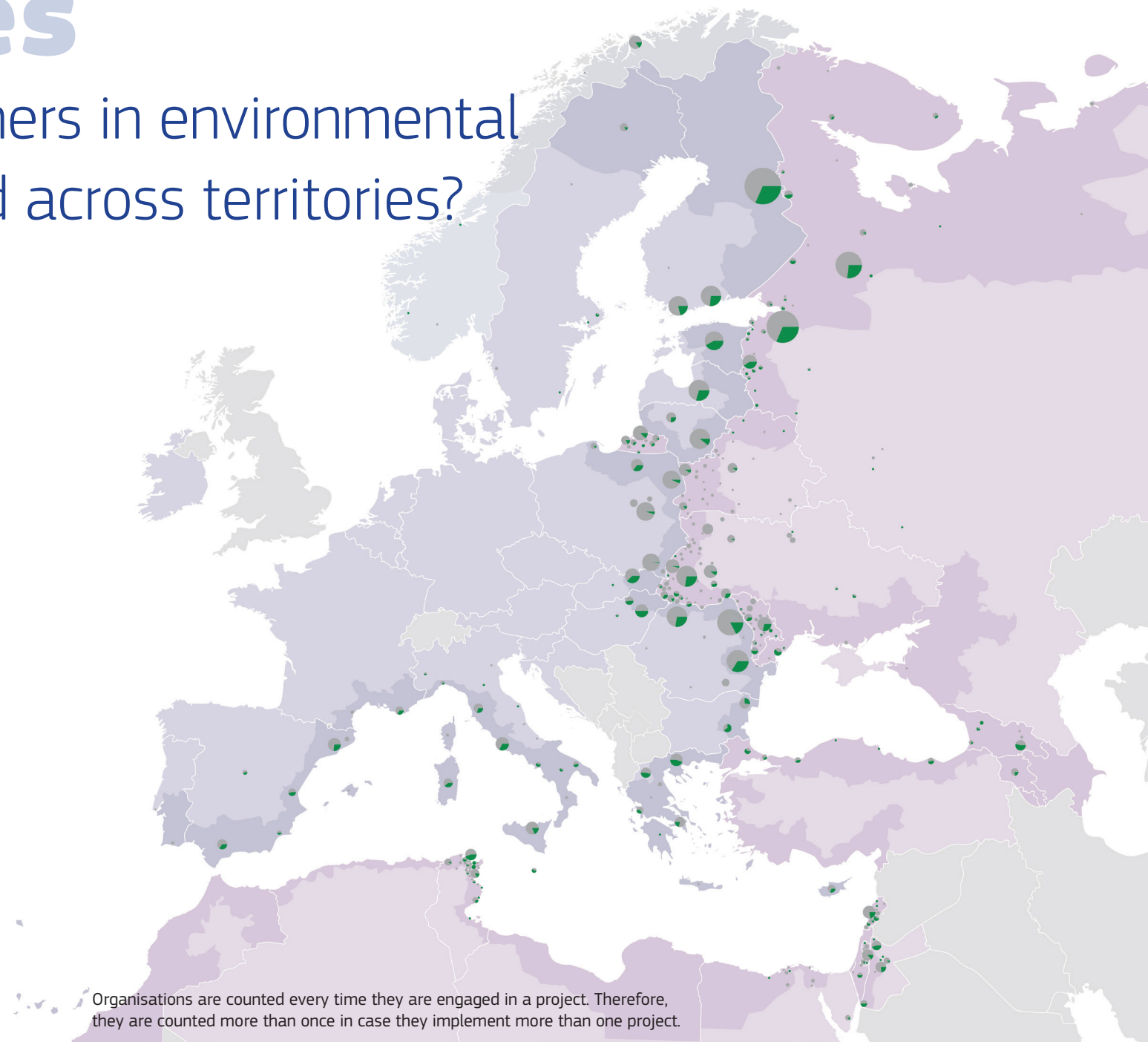




Territories

How are lead partners in environmental projects distributed across territories?

The regions where there is the highest concentration of lead organisations in environmental projects are divided between the North, especially in Finland (Pohjois-ja Itä-Suomi), in Estonia and in Latvia and in the Central-East, especially in the Northern and South-Eastern regions of Romania. In the South, the territories leading environmental actions are more often in Central, Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (Greece), in Lazio and Sicily (Italy), in Cataluña and Andalucía (Spain) and in the conurbation around Tunis (Tunisia).



Organisations are counted every time they are engaged in a project. Therefore, they are counted more than once in case they implement more than one project.

- 1
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- 20
- 50
- 100
- 200

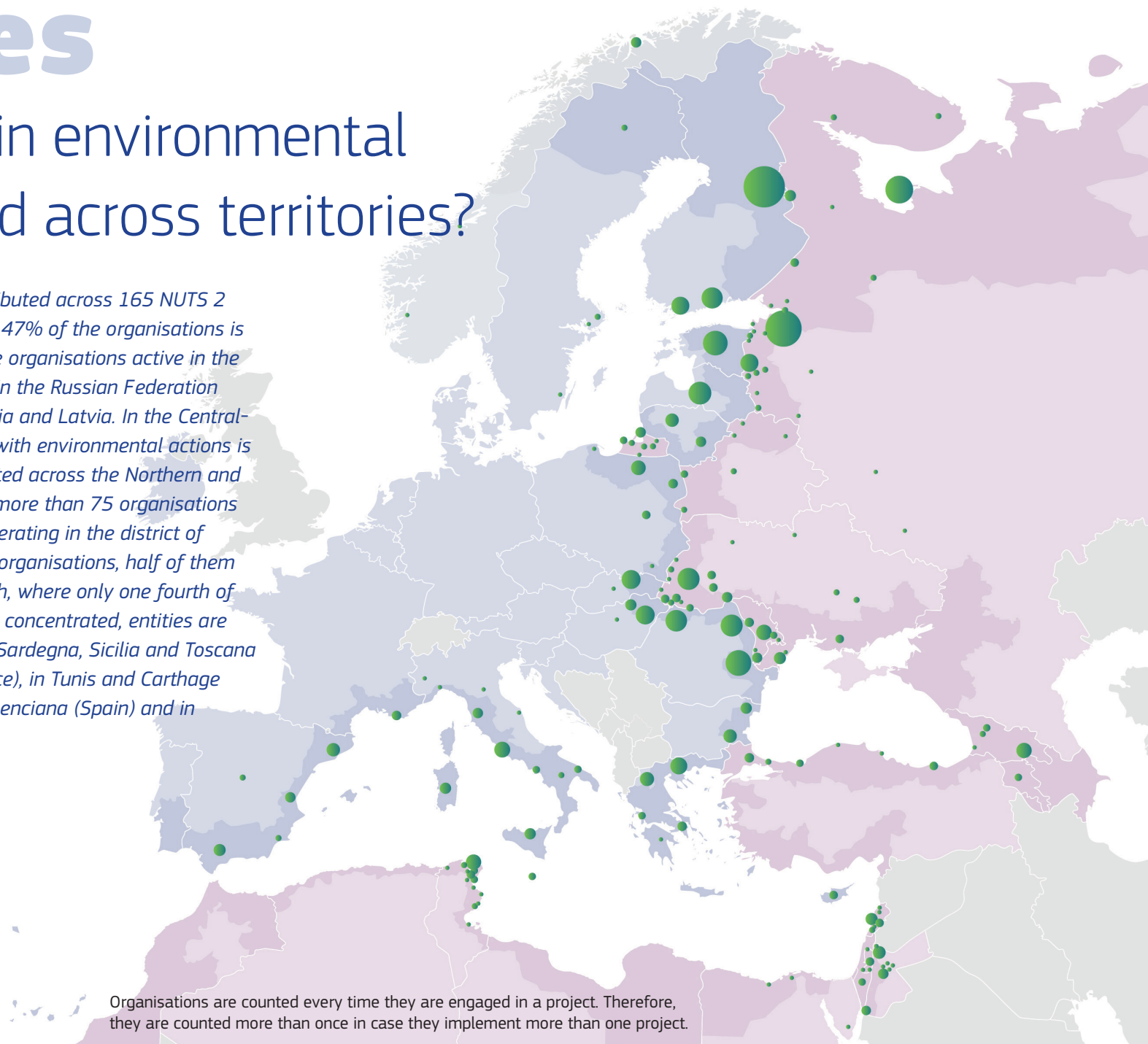




Territories

How are partners in environmental projects distributed across territories?

The environmental actions under CBC ENI are distributed across 165 NUTS 2 territories, with a concentration in the North where 47% of the organisations is operating. In this area, the territories showing more organisations active in the environment are in Finland (Pohjois-ja Itä-Suomi), in the Russian Federation (Saint Petersburg and Prionezhskiy rayon), in Estonia and Latvia. In the Central-East, the country with more organisations dealing with environmental actions is Romania, where more than 90 entities are distributed across the Northern and South-Eastern districts. Close to that, Ukraine has more than 75 organisations operating in the environment, one third of them operating in the district of Uzhhorods'kyi. The Republic of Moldova counts 30 organisations, half of them concentrated in the district of Chişinău. In the South, where only one fourth of the organisations operating in the environment are concentrated, entities are more spread across territories, especially in Lazio, Sardegna, Sicilia and Toscana (Italy), in West Makedonia, Trache and Attike (Greece), in Tunis and Carthage (Tunisia), in Cataluña, Andalucía and Comunitat Valenciana (Spain) and in Wastiyeh, Wadi Essier and Aqaba (Jordan).



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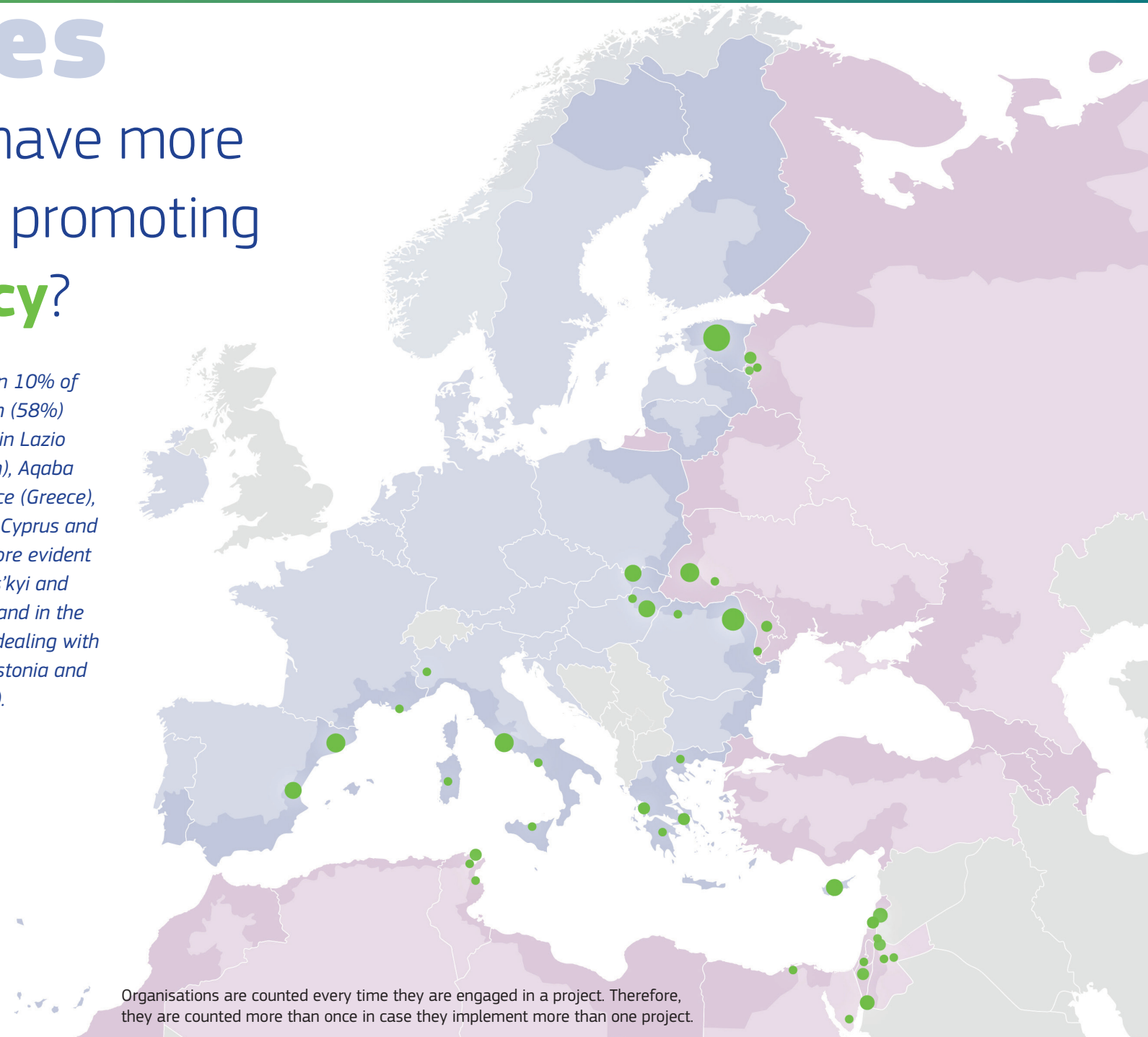
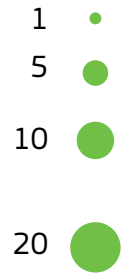
Organisations are counted every time they are engaged in a project. Therefore, they are counted more than once in case they implement more than one project.



Territories

Which territories have more partners active in promoting **energy efficiency**?

Projects addressing energy efficiency are less than 10% of the ENI CBC environmental projects. Most of them (58%) is in the South, well distributed across territories: in Lazio (Italy), Cataluña and Comunitat Valenciana (Spain), Aqaba and Wastiyyeh (Jordan), Attike and Western Greece (Greece), El Metn and Chouf (Lebanon), Tunis (Tunisia) and Cyprus and Israel. In the Central-East, the concentration is more evident in the Northern districts in Romania, in Uzhhorods'kyi and Kolomyis'kyi (Ukraine), in Észak-Alföld (Hungary) and in the East of Slovakia. In the North, the few territories dealing with energy efficiency are especially concentrated in Estonia and partly in the Pskovskiy rayon (Russian Federation).



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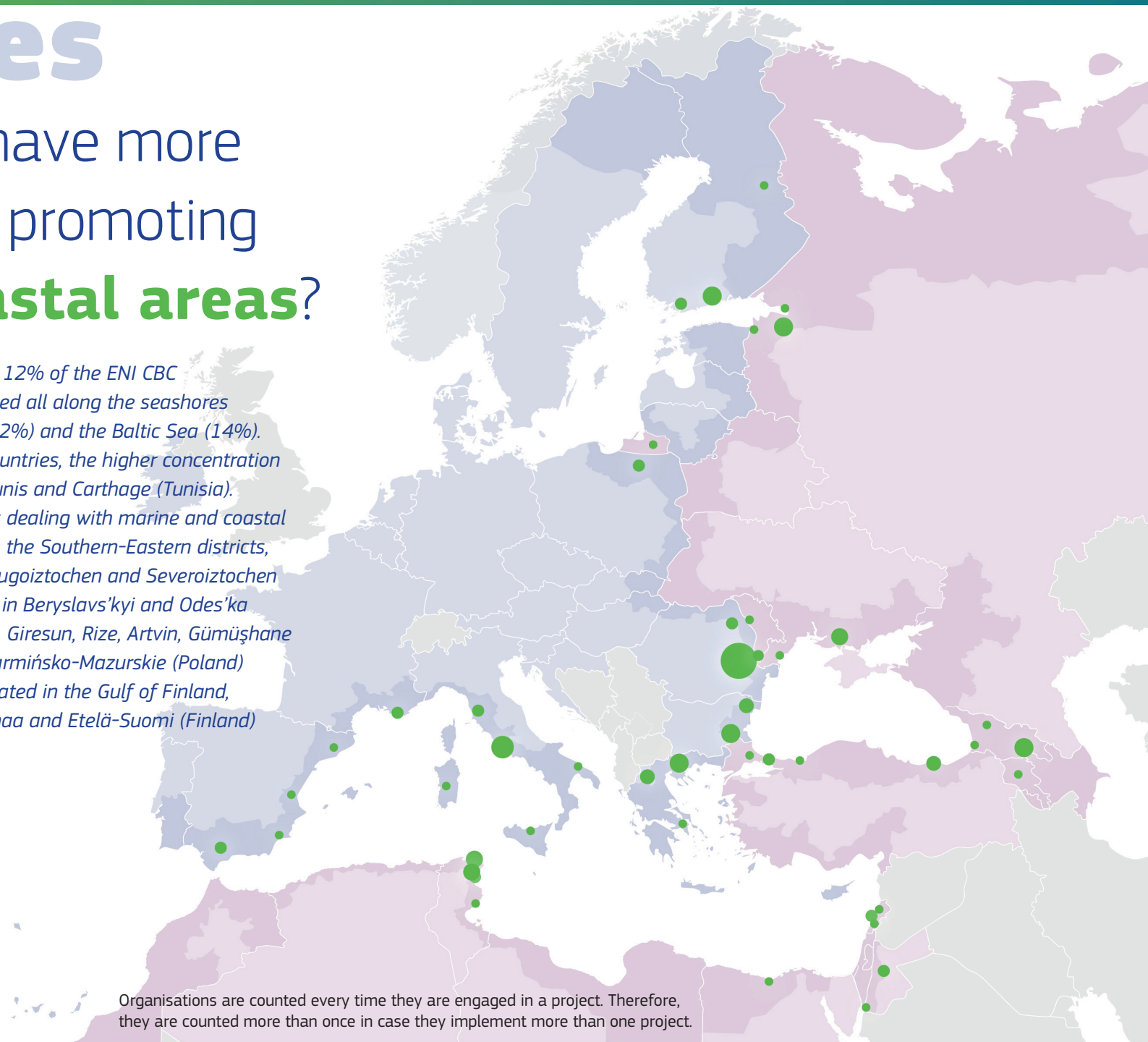


Territories

Which territories have more partners active in promoting **marine and coastal areas**?

Projects addressing marine and coastal areas are 12% of the ENI CBC environmental projects and they are well distributed all along the seashores of the Mediterranean Sea (44%), the Black Sea (42%) and the Baltic Sea (14%). In the South, although well distributed in many countries, the higher concentration is registered in Lazio and Toscana (Italy) and in Tunis and Carthage (Tunisia). In the Central-East, the country with more entities dealing with marine and coastal areas is Romania, not surprisingly concentrated in the Southern-Eastern districts, but several other territories are also involved, in Yugoiztochen and Severoiztochen (Bulgaria), in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi (Georgia), in Beryslavs'kyi and Odes'ka (Ukraine), and in the 6 provinces of Trabzon, Ordu, Giresun, Rize, Artvin, Gümüşhane in Türkiye, including organisations operating in Warmińsko-Mazurskie (Poland) and in Armenia. In the Baltic, actions are concentrated in the Gulf of Finland, especially in the coastlines around Helsinki-Uusimaa and Etelä-Suomi (Finland) and Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation).

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Organisations are counted every time they are engaged in a project. Therefore, they are counted more than once in case they implement more than one project.

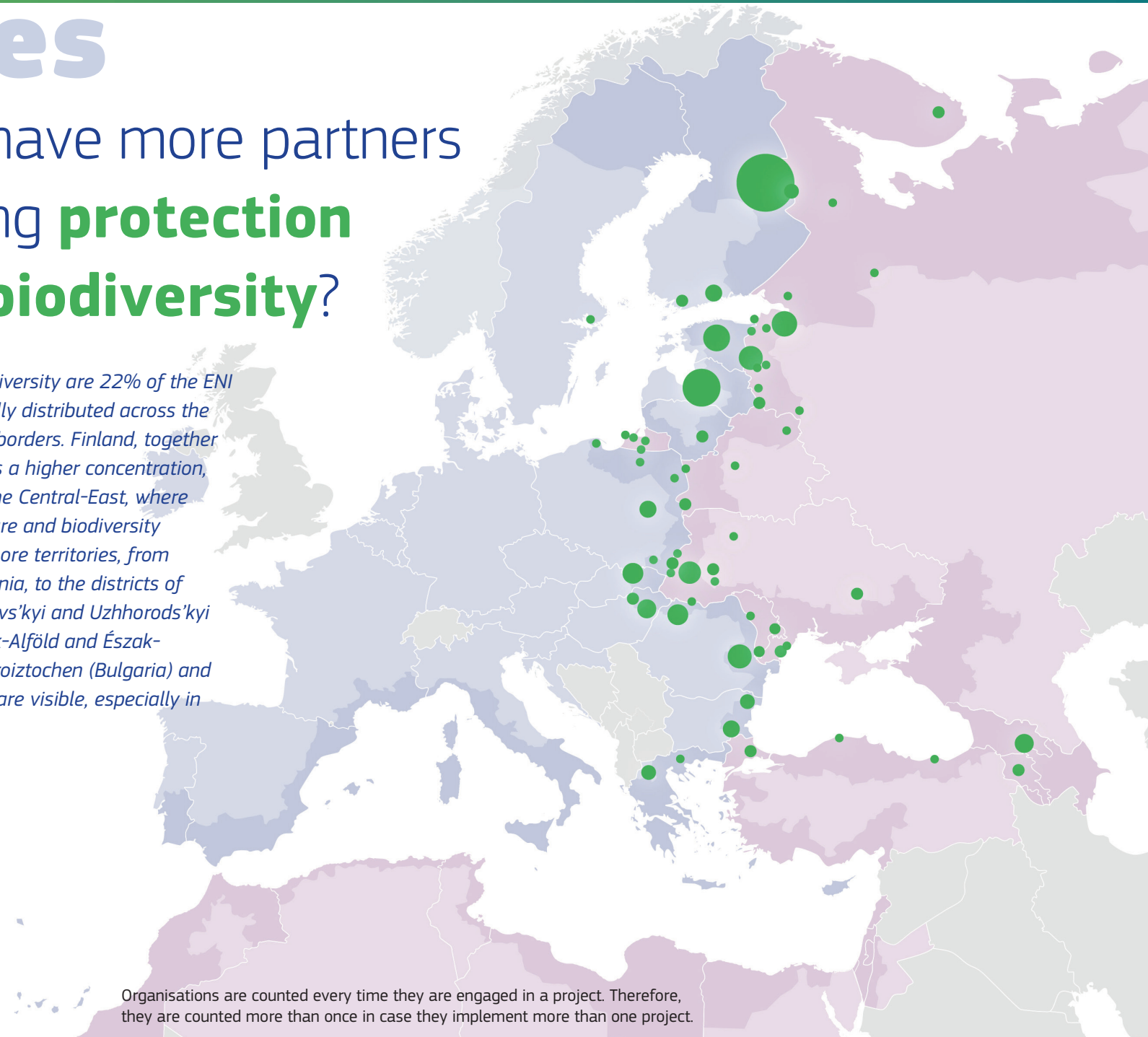


Territories

Which territories have more partners active in promoting **protection of nature and biodiversity**?

Projects addressing protection of nature and biodiversity are 22% of the ENI CBC environmental projects and they are especially distributed across the Northern and Eastern territories of the European borders. Finland, together with Latvia and Estonia, is the country that shows a higher concentration, especially in the Pohjois-ja Itä-Suomi region. In the Central-East, where one third of actions addressing protection of nature and biodiversity is concentrated, the interventions are spread in more territories, from the Northern and South-Eastern districts in Romania, to the districts of Uzhhorods'kyi, Odes'ka, Tysmenyts'kyi, Pustomytsiv'skyi and Uzhhorods'kyi (Ukraine), the Eastern region of Slovakia, to Észak-Alföld and Észak-Magyarország (Hungary), Yugoiztochen and Severoiztochen (Bulgaria) and Lubelskie (Poland). In the South, a few examples are visible, especially in Greece, in West Makedonia and Trache.

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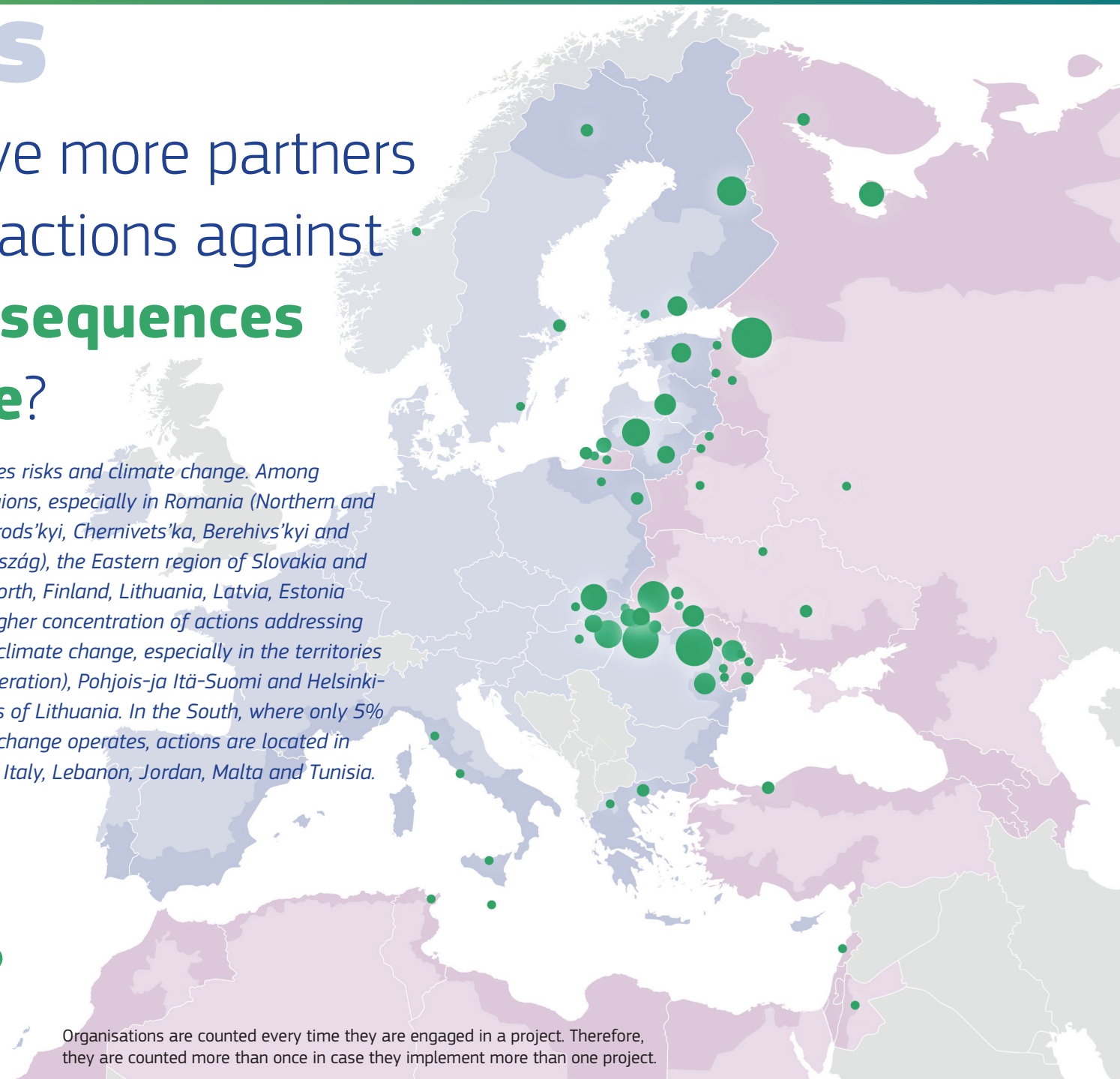
Organisations are counted every time they are engaged in a project. Therefore, they are counted more than once in case they implement more than one project.



Territories

Which territories have more partners active in promoting actions against risks and the consequences of climate change?

One out of four ENI CBC environmental projects addresses risks and climate change. Among them, one out of two operates in the Central-Eastern regions, especially in Romania (Northern and Southern-Eastern districts), Ukraine (especially in Uzhhorods'kyi, Chernivets'ka, Berehivs'kyi and Tiachivs'kyi), Hungary (Észak-Alföld and Észak-Magyarország), the Eastern region of Slovakia and in the district of Chişinău (Republic of Moldova). In the North, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the Russian Federation are the countries with the higher concentration of actions addressing environmental risks and the mitigation or adaptation of climate change, especially in the territories of Saint Petersburg and Prionezhskiy rayon (Russian Federation), Pohjois-ja Itä-Suomi and Helsinki-Uusimaa (Finland) and in the Southern-Eastern provinces of Lithuania. In the South, where only 5% of entities dealing with environmental risks and climate change operates, actions are located in territories scattered in several countries: Greece, Türkiye, Italy, Lebanon, Jordan, Malta and Tunisia.



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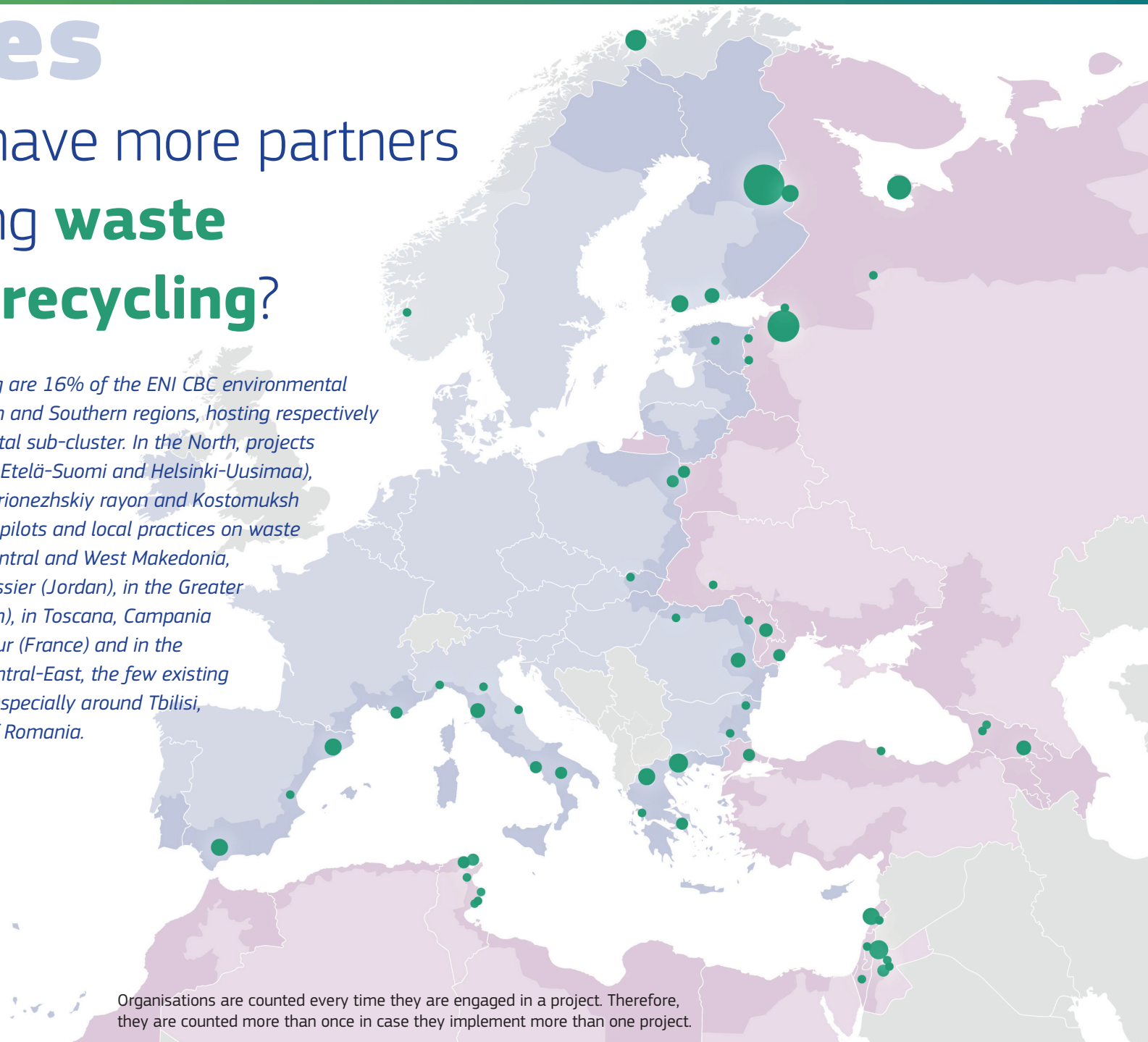
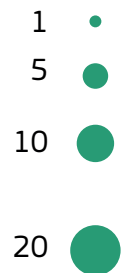
Organisations are counted every time they are engaged in a project. Therefore, they are counted more than once in case they implement more than one project.



Territories

Which territories have more partners active in promoting **waste treatment and recycling**?

Projects addressing waste treatment and recycling are 16% of the ENI CBC environmental projects, with a clear concentration in the Northern and Southern regions, hosting respectively the 48 and 40% of actions under this environmental sub-cluster. In the North, projects are concentrated in Finland (Pohjois-ja Itä-Suomi, Etelä-Suomi and Helsinki-Uusimaa), Russian Federation (especially Saint Petersburg, Prionezhskiy rayon and Kostomuksh gorsovet) and Norway (Nord-Norge). In the South, pilots and local practices on waste are present in several countries, particularly in Central and West Makedonia, Trache and Attike (Greece), Wastiyyeh and Wadi Essier (Jordan), in the Greater Beirut (Lebanon), in Cataluña and Andalucía (Spain), in Toscana, Campania and Basilicata (Italy), in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (France) and in the conurbation area around Tunis (Tunisia). In the Central-East, the few existing projects are more often concentrated in Georgia, especially around Tbilisi, and in the Northern and South-Eastern districts of Romania.



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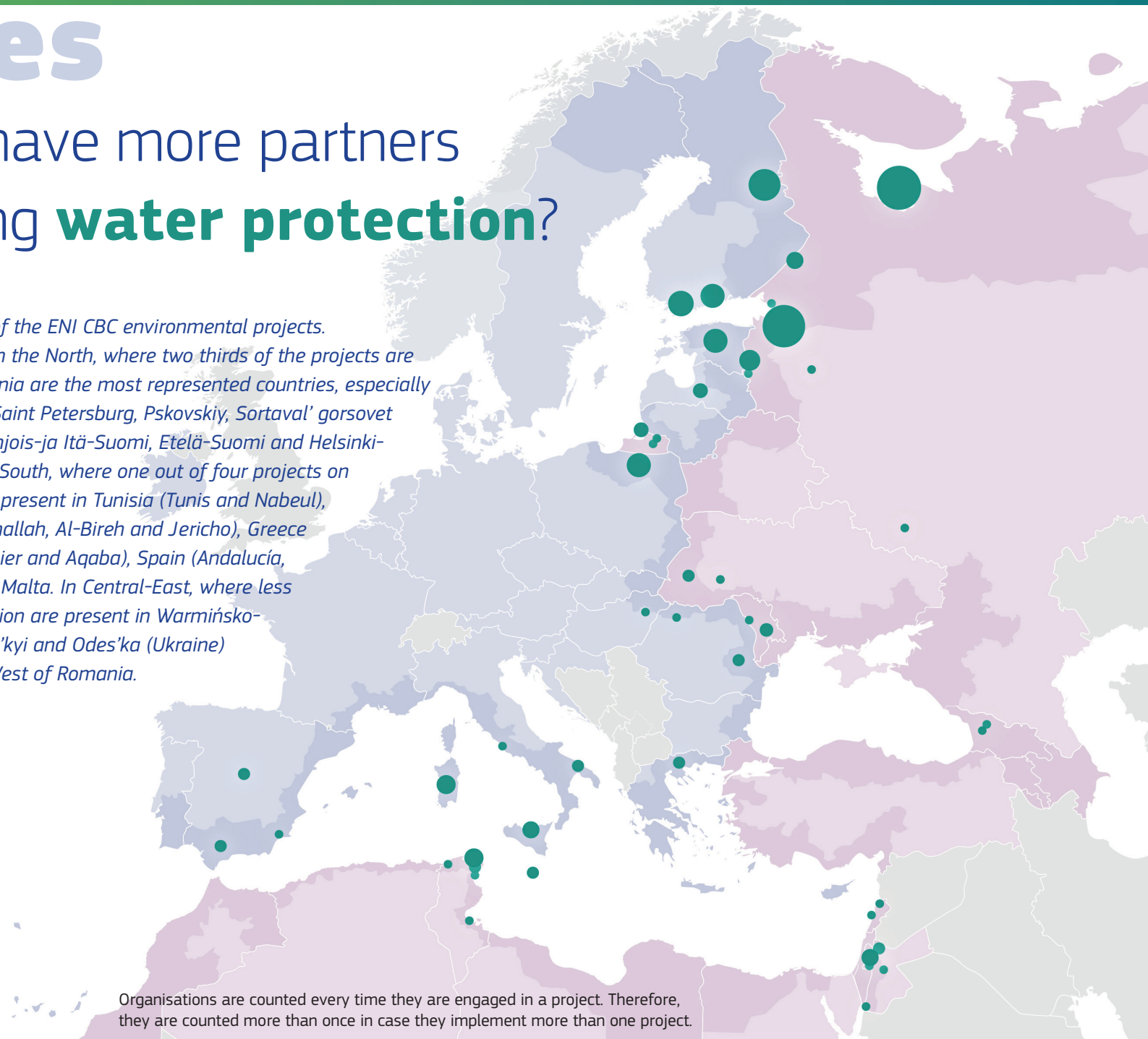


Territories

Which territories have more partners active in promoting **water protection**?

Projects addressing water protection count 18% of the ENI CBC environmental projects. Actions in this field are more often concentrated in the North, where two thirds of the projects are located. The Russian Federation, Finland and Estonia are the most represented countries, especially through actions in the territories in Prionezhskiy, Saint Petersburg, Pskovskiy, Sortaval' gorsovet and Gur'evskiy rayons (Russian Federation), in Pohjois-ja Itä-Suomi, Etelä-Suomi and Helsinki-Uusimaa (Finland) and through all Estonia. In the South, where one out of four projects on water protection is located, actions are especially present in Tunisia (Tunis and Nabeul), Italy (Sardegna, Sicilia and Puglia), Palestine (Ramallah, Al-Bireh and Jericho), Greece (Central Makedonia), Jordan (Wastiyyeh, Wadi Essier and Aqaba), Spain (Andalucía, Comunidad de Madrid and Región de Murcia) and Malta. In Central-East, where less than 10% is established, actions on water protection are present in Warmińsko-Mazurskie (Poland), in the provinces of Uzhhorods'kyi and Odes'ka (Ukraine) and in the districts in the South-East and North-West of Romania.

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Organisations are counted every time they are engaged in a project. Therefore, they are counted more than once in case they implement more than one project.



Duration

Which is the duration of environmental projects?

Although the average budget of environmental projects is close to the overall average of ENI CBC projects, the average time needed to implement an environmental project is over 27 months, slightly longer (1 month) than the average of all ENI CBC projects. Only 19 projects (9%) have a duration over 36 months, while half of the projects have a duration between 24 and 36 months.

48 months

36 months

24 months

12 months

projects 0%

25%

50%

75%

100%

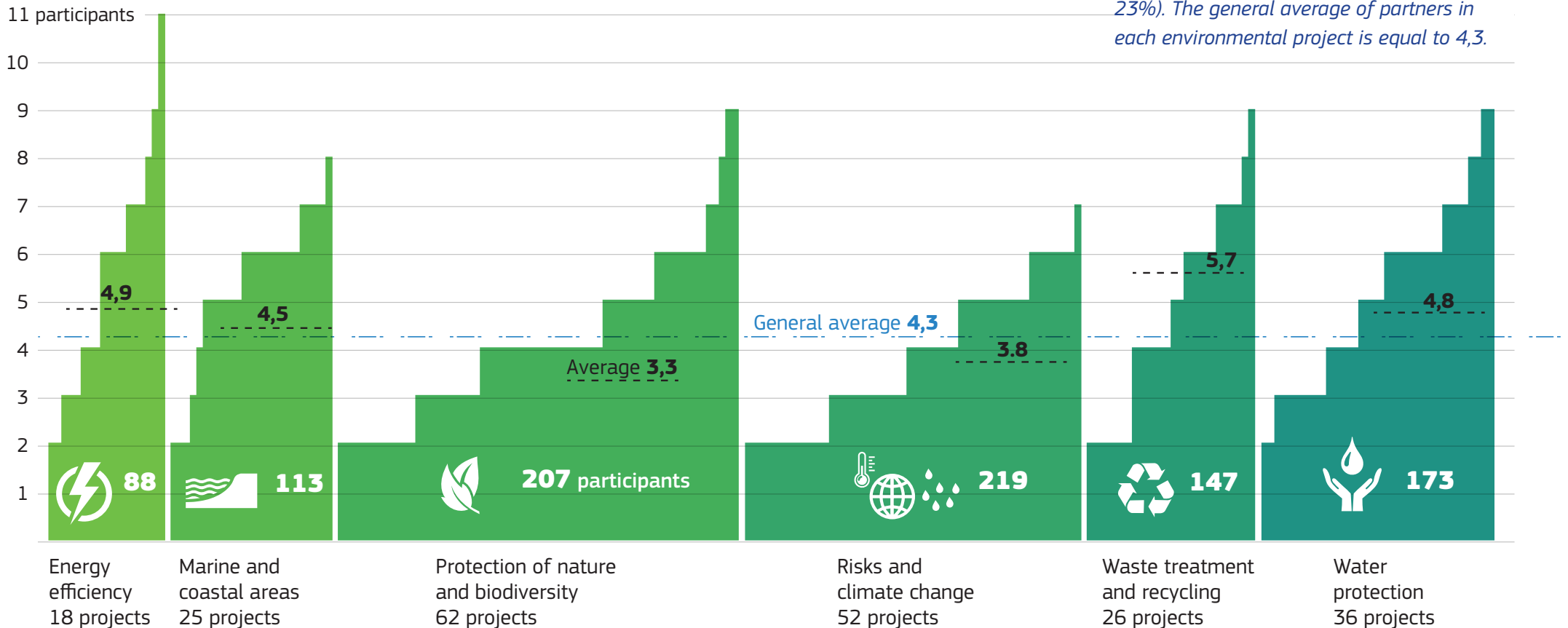
Average duration of an environmental project: 27 months



Partners

Which is the number of partners involved in the environmental projects?

The total number of partners involved in environmental projects is 947, equal to 26% of the overall partners involved in ENI CBC projects. Protection of nature and biodiversity together with environmental risks and climate change have the greatest number of partners involved (respectively 22% and 23%). The general average of partners in each environmental project is equal to 4,3.

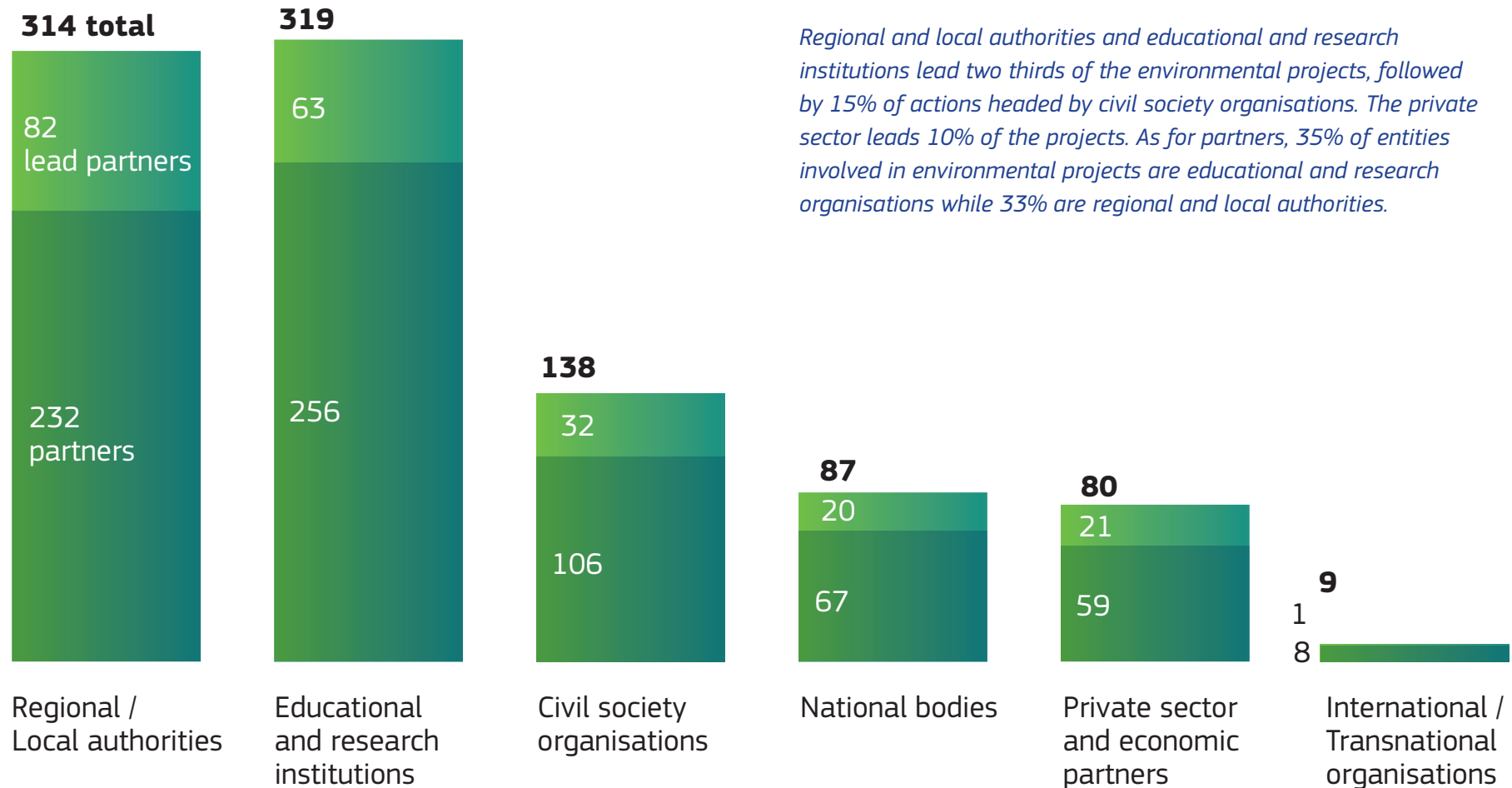


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Partners

Which kind of organisation leads and implements environmental projects?



Organisations are counted every time they are engaged in a project. Therefore, they are counted more than once in case they implement more than one project.

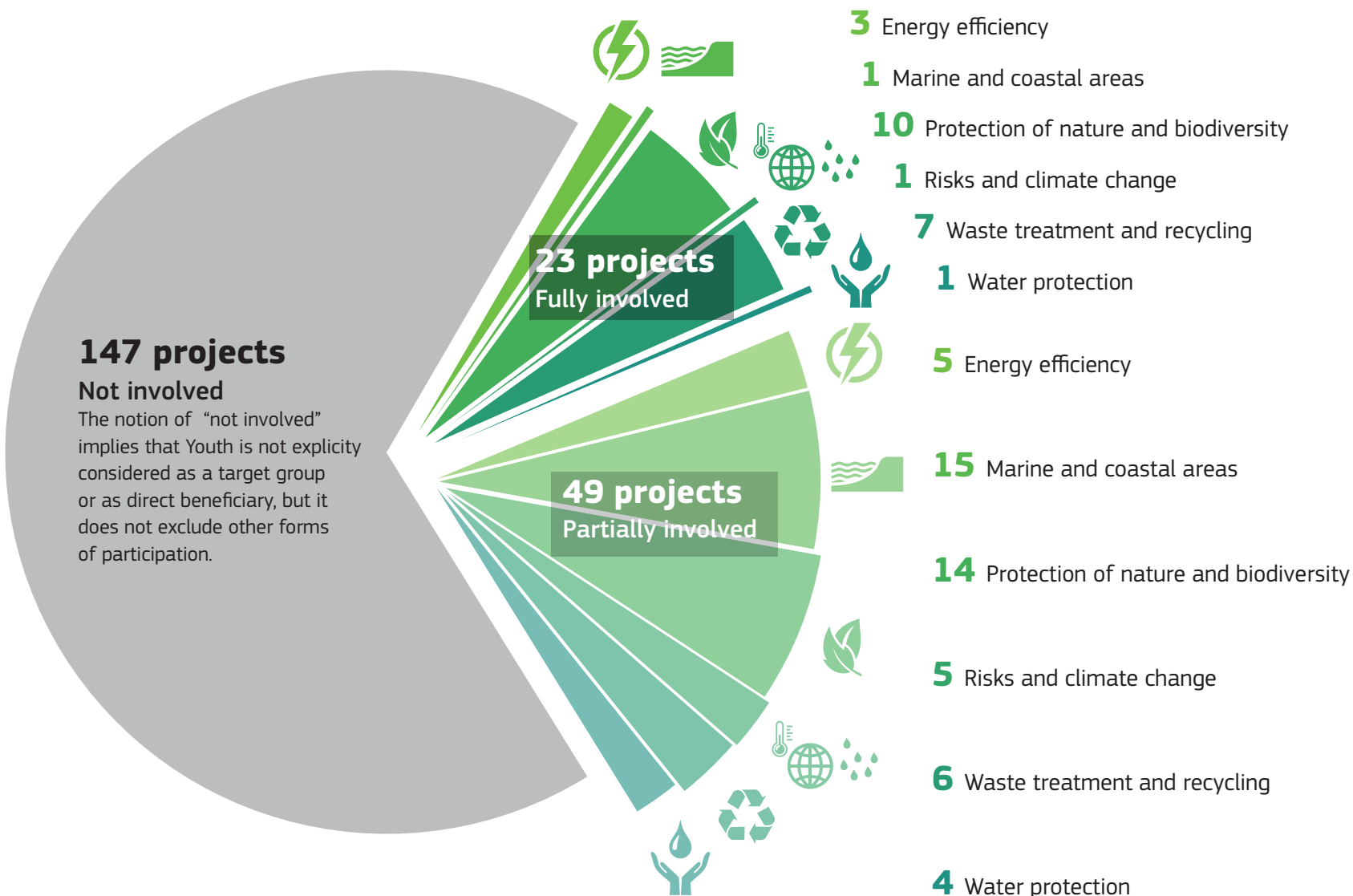
Youth involvement in environmental projects





Youth

In which environmental sub-cluster is the Youth more involved?



From all 72 projects that involve Youth, one third of the whole environmental projects, the majority is shared between the marine and coastal areas and protection of nature and biodiversity sub-clusters.

Around 40% of projects in nature protection and biodiversity involves Youth and in almost half of them Youth is the target or final beneficiary. 64% of projects in marine and coastal areas sub-cluster involves Youth.

In most of the projects addressing marine and coastal areas, risks and climate change and water protection, the Youth is not explicitly involved as target group for projects' activities but it is considered as part of the final beneficiaries.

Water protection has a share that in percentage proves to be relatively low, probably due to the focus of this kind of projects on the improvement of infrastructures.

**Environmental projects,
from ENI CBC to Interreg NEXT**

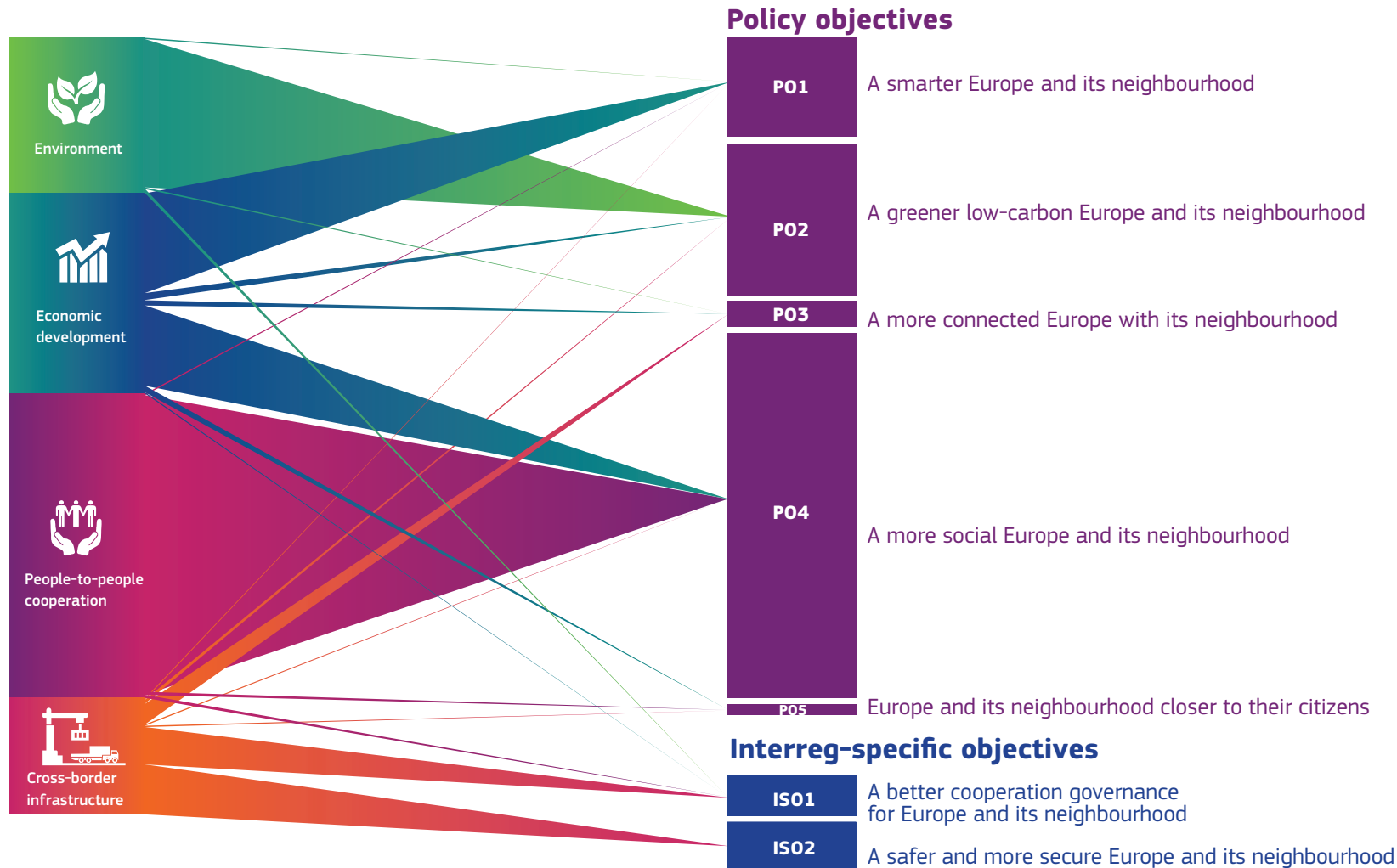




Interreg NEXT

How do ENI CBC projects fit into Interreg NEXT?

We simulate here that the ENI CBC projects operate on the basis of the objectives for the programming period 2021-2027. The graph considers only seven Central-East and Southern Interreg NEXT programmes.



All ENI CBC projects show a high level of coherence and continuity with the 2021-2027 policy objectives and Interreg specific objectives.

PO4, PO2 and PO1 are the policy objectives most covered by the ongoing projects.

PO4 is the most covered, with 61% of the ENI CBC projects addressing culture and sustainable tourism.

Almost the totality of environmental projects converges into PO2.

40% of the projects belonging to the economic development cluster converges in PO4, especially when they address job creation, inclusive economy and, again, the tourism sector.

Cross-border infrastructures is the cluster that has been more split into different POs and ISOs.



Interreg NEXT

How do ENI CBC environmental projects fit into Interreg NEXT?

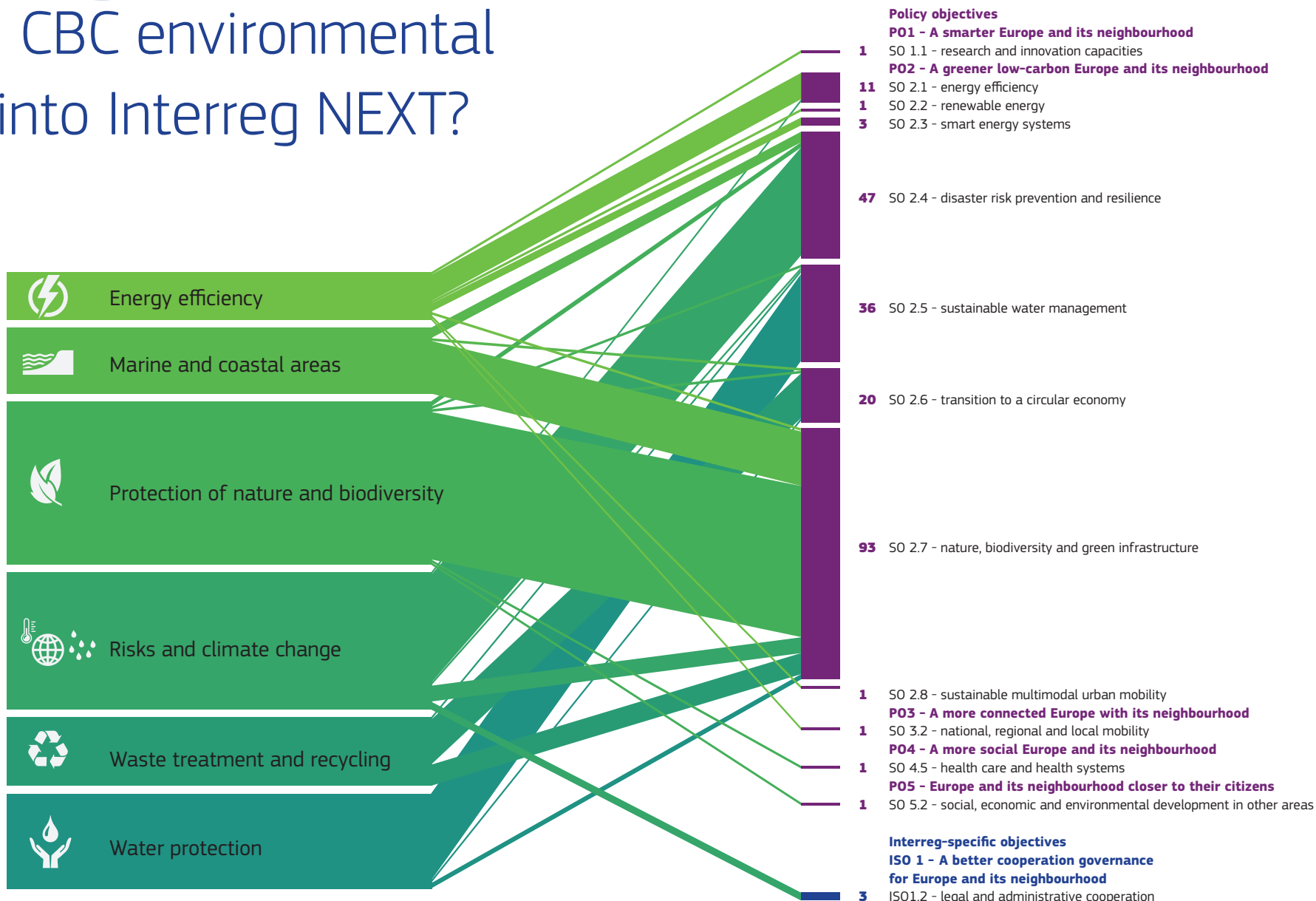
Specific Objectives

2.2 (renewable energy), 2.3 (smart energy systems) and 2.8 (sustainable multimodal urban mobility) are not properly addressed by the ENI CBC environmental projects (only 2,3% of all environmental projects).

Around 64% of environmental projects fit the SO 2.4 (disaster risk prevention and resilience) and SO 2.7 (nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure).

Only 9% of environmental projects fit to SO 2.6 (transition to a circular economy), while 42,5% fit the SO 2.7 (nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure).

There are very few other environmental projects (7 projects) that fit other POs and Interreg specific objectives.



Do you want to know more?

Stay tuned and check tesim-enicbc.eu
for further thematic insights on the ENI
CBC projects and programmes.