



European Territorial Cooperation

Crossborder Cooperation

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EU Regional Policy

- 27 Member States
- 27 national strategies
- More than 420 operational programmes
- EUR 347 billion of EU financing + national, regional and private co-financing
- 3 objectives:
 - Convergence (81.5%),
 - Competitiveness and Employment (16%), and
 - Territorial Cooperation (2.5%)

Territorial Cooperation and the present

- **European territory addresses important issues, which need cooperation**
 - Socio-economic issues
 - Environment issues
 - Energy and transport issues
 - People issues
- **Through good programmes**
 - Sound analysis, clear response
 - Negotiated solidly, in a clearer regulatory framework
 - Visible presence, high-profile launches, status as « objective »
 - Up-front management verification
 - Many excellent projects
 - More appropriate monitoring and evaluation
 - Solid technical support (INTERACT)

Territorial Cooperation

Three broad types of programmes:

- Cross-border co-operation : direct land or maritime borders, contiguous areas
- Transnational co-operation : wider geographical groupings based on shared geographical features
- Inter-regional co-operation : no specific geographical focus, regions from 27 MS + N and CH working together

Territorial Cooperation and the present

MS benefit from more current discussion of:

- The differences still present at borders, especially now in EU-27
- The need to find level of action between Member States
- Macro-region strategic approaches (Baltic, Danube, etc.)
- Territorial cohesion
- Increasing understanding of cooperation bonuses (trust, exchange, creativity, openness, inspiration)
- The increasing self-evident European dimension (Regions for Economic Change, Interreg IV/C, KEEP etc.)

Financing

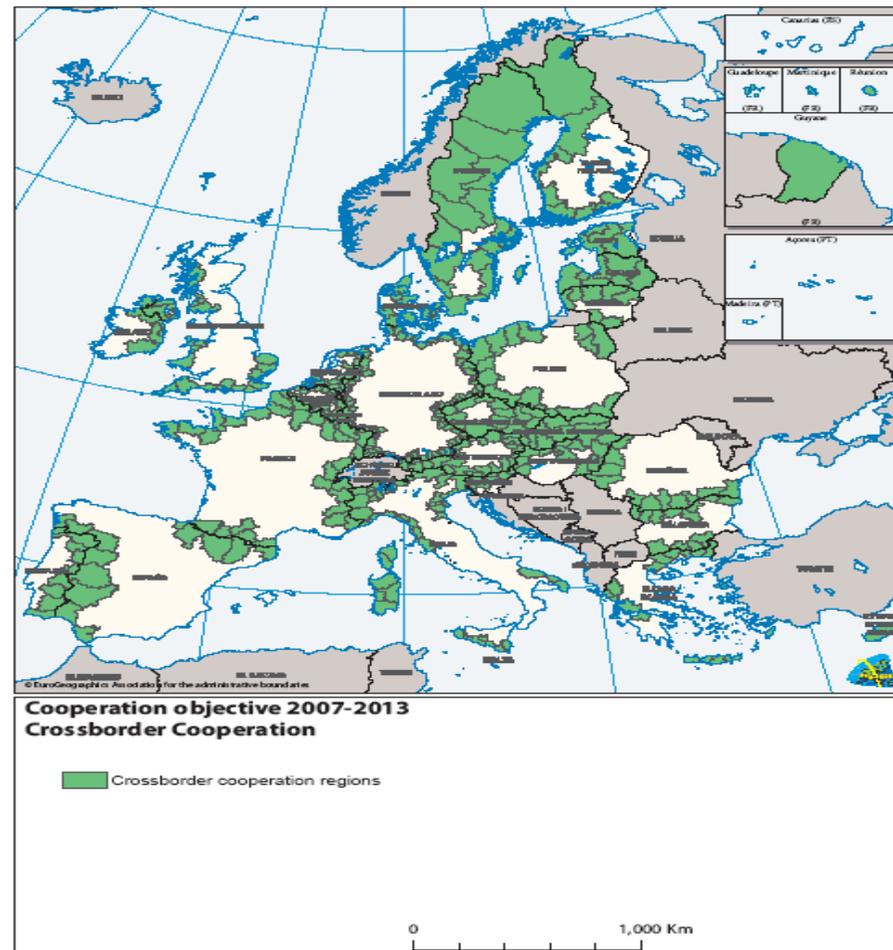
	2000-2006	2007-2013*
Cross-border co-operation	4 (69%)	5.6** (74%)
Transnational co-operation	1.4 (24%)	1.8** (21%)
Interregional co-operation	0.4 (7%)	0.44 (5%)
Total	5.8	7.8**

** Plus external coop
(0.9 bil in total)

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION 2007-2013

by far the largest in
funding and number of
programmes

- €5.6 billion
- 53 programmes



Cross-border Cooperation (Strand A)

Essentially local in nature :

- Entrepreneurship and SMEs, cross-border trade, tourism and culture
 - Protection and joint management of the environment
 - Better access to transport
 - Information and communication networks
 - Water, waste management and energy management systems
 - Joint use of health, culture and education infrastructure
 - Judicial and administrative co-operation
-
- Particularly important to contribute to Lisbon and Göteborg while working on erasing the negative border effects.
 - Possibility to finance ESF-type activities too.

Project Selection

Cross-border co-operation:

- Partners from at least two countries
- Main criteria:
 - joint project development
 - joint implementation
 - joint project staff
 - joint financing

A new period

- We are in a new phase in Co-operation policy for the European Union
- This new period brings fundamental change to cross-border co-operation across Europe
- Joint programmes, joint funding, joint implementation, equal partnership among countries
- Co-operation is more important than ever before – but this means more responsibility
- Programmes are in place and should be more strategic than in the past
- Content is critical – have to deliver more and better than has been done before

Challenge/Potential

- Co-operation amongst different countries is a real challenge because of different administrations, legislations, sources of national co-financing etc.
- Potential to deliver real benefits at the local level – if used wisely
- Ordinary projects are the base for good co-operation – but important to consider other types of projects (strategic, integrated etc.)
- Innovative approaches to planning and calls
- Potential to tackle topics traditionally seen as outside the scope of co-operation

Visibility

- Needed to be addressed on two levels:
 - Programme area visibility
 - National and European dimensions
- Additional priority already placed on communication issues by the Commission (Communication plans..)
- Important to raise awareness in the programme area – new partners
- Equally important to sell results to the wider audience

Control/Audit

- Audit and control results from 2000-06 co-operation programmes revealed a few problems
- Broad perception that co-operation programmes are complicated - perhaps too complicated?
- To counter this, programmes must be vigilant and performing
- Control and audit procedures must be clear, rapid and unambiguous
- Special challenge for first level control
- Perhaps more than any other issue, this could undermine future funding

Added-value

- Co-operation sometimes considered as a separate, outside process – not so
- Need to link co-operation projects with the wider picture
- Building links with other programmes
 - In preparatory phases
 - With integrated approaches
- Building better links to national and EU policy
- Co-operation is indeed flexible – though has to be used properly

European Group for Territorial Cooperation

- Legal instrument at European level with a legal status
- Commission Regulation from 1/08/2006 applying from 1/8/2007
- MS can delegate a Territorial Cooperation Programme management to an EGTC
- Regional/Local partners can implement ETC projects as an EGTC
- Potential development of EGTC as a regional development instrument

EGTC establishment

Can involve:

- Member States
- Regional Authorities
- Local Authorities
- Public Entities
- + Associations of these entities
- Entities from at least two MS
- Possible participation of third countries, if the third country will adopt similar law as the national law

EGTC models

**Territorial Cooperation
Programmes**

**Territorial Cooperation
Projects financed by
Structural Funds**

**Other Projects financed by
EU concerning Territorial
Cooperation**

**Territorial Cooperation
Projects without EU
funding**

Territorial Cooperation and the Future

Need to aim for:

- Better integration in strategic planning
- Better integration with other programming
- More appropriate legislation, management, knowledge use, monitoring, evaluation
- More strategic projects
- More financial resources ?
- Being more central to Cohesion Policy

Territorial Cooperation and the Future

We need to make our case:

- Evaluation – « What to improve for INTERREG IV »
- Increase the awareness of INTERREG IV
- KEEP, Knowledge & Expertise in EU Programmes
- Communication successes, from the Programmes

Reflexion

- **Where do you want to be by 2013???**
- **Where do you want to be after 2013???**

Thank you!

More information on our website:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/index_en.htm