

**Association of European
Border Regions (AEBR)**

Strategic document

**Cities and Regions cooperating across borders: an
opportunity to overcome the crisis**

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Preface: Who we are and which are our goals?

The present report on “Cities and Regions cooperating across borders: an opportunity to overcome the crisis” has been elaborated by networks representing cities and regions involved in Territorial Cooperation (cross-border, transnational and interregional level).

AEBR, Association of European Border Regions, represents **100 European border and cross-border regions**. It is a forum for cross-border cooperation and makes the voice of the border and cross-border regions heard at European level.

CECICN, Conference of cross-border and interregional City networks, is an EU platform of city networks **representing almost 37% of the EU population and 500 cities involved in Territorial Cooperation**, both

- ≡ in a cross-border context: cross-border agglomerations and networks, represented by RIET (ES/PT border) and MOT (all borders involving France)
- ≡ in a transnational context: city networks within macro-regions, represented by the Union of Baltic Cities, the Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities, the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities, and Med Cities.

Why are our territories particularly concerned with cooperation? They are all located on a land or a sea border; so they are peripheral, partially truncated by the border, open only to 180°, not to 360° - if the border remains closed. On the other hand, these territories are new "frontiers" if the border is open and allows mobility. Cross-border agglomerations and regions, macro-regional city networks constitute an opportunity of opening in the heart of European integration, a Europe "close to the citizen".

Cross-border areas in various urban, rural, maritime contexts, and city networks within macro-regions, do not fit in with established borders of political and administrative authorities, but they are “spaces of flows”¹, where people live, or where businesses operate on a day-to-day basis. European integration has already encouraged cooperation at the scale of such territories and networks. They have significantly contributed to the progress of the Single Market. But Europe, and particularly its border territories, are severely hurt by the global economic and financial crisis; these territories, due to economic, political, cultural, and simply human links that have been created across the borders, will in any case be at the front row. . Reflecting the debate on the future of the European Union, the challenge today is: will we let the crisis destroy the European integration, and in this case, let walls be built again on borders, with dramatic consequences for cross border territories and networks? Or will cross-border territories or networks be the place where Single market will be relaunched, contributing to economic, social and territorial cohesion of the whole Europe? For this we need these territories and networks to be backed politically and managed technically by their local elites, backed by the national and European level so as to face the challenges of the crisis and meet the needs of inhabitants? AEBR and CECICN clearly assume this option.

The Lisbon Treaty reinforces the legitimacy of regional and local stakeholders (subsidiarity) and territorial approach (territorial cohesion). The regulations on the future Cohesion Policy, for which both territorial and urban aspects, and Territorial Cooperation are clear priorities, as the proposition of the European Commission published on October 5th shows, is seen by CECICN as a major opportunity to **raise awareness about the added value of cooperation between cities and regions and among their networks, to pool resources, to build a smart, inclusive and sustainable Europe, and to enhance the European identity and integration, the only way to overcome the crisis.**

We want to put European Territorial Cooperation in the core of the debate about 2014-2020. AEBR and CECICN take the initiative and are open to enlarge it to other stakeholders.

¹ According to Manuel Castells

1. Political context

In 2000, the Lisbon strategy had assigned the European Union the goal of becoming the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. As from 2005, it had become clear that the objective would not be achieved without a real commitment of the Member States and of internal driving forces, including cities and regions. The end of the decade made the failure apparent, in a global troubled context (economic and financial crisis), doubled in Europe with the uncertainty about the evolution of the Community institutions.

The new decade of 2010 begins in an even more uncertain context. It is hit by the crisis that Europe has always progressed; let us see a few positive signals. With the Treaty of Lisbon, the European Union has improved its institutions. Economic and political integration is progressing, even if it is in the difficult context of the crisis of public debts. Taking into account the analysis of failures of the previous decade, and coping with the challenges of the 21st century, the European Union made the choice of a strategy of smarter, greener and more inclusive growth in a more integrated Europe: the EU 2020 strategy. It is in the cities and territories that EU 2020 will be at stake

The success of this **strategy** requires the involvement of European citizens, who will be the first actors and beneficiaries. The infra-national stakeholders claim to be first concerned.

Weaknesses like those observed during the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy (with its more sectoral than strategic approach and its lack of coordination) have to be avoided in the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. A better linking of long-term European strategies with the cohesion policy is just as necessary as better cooperation and coordination between the different EU policies.

The NUTS2 level, as relevant scale for the higher functions, infrastructure and rare services (airports, universities...), has until now concentrated the attention on European cohesion policy. It is not about challenging the importance of this level. But the local scale and its actors: cities, from large metropolis to small towns within low dense regions where the services they provide are essential, and local authorities in rural areas around them, claim more attention from Europe.

Local authorities are the closest to the citizens. The Lisbon Treaty recognizes this by strengthening of 2 concepts, **subsidiarity and territorial cohesion**. **Subsidiarity means** to deal with the problems, the nearest possible to the citizen. A greater role for local authorities in the design and configuration of development strategies, and integrated local development approaches, mobilizing local and regional stakeholders, social partners and civil society, is required.

But subsidiarity also means to deal with all that has to be dealt with at the upper level: regional, national, macro-regional, European, or even global. For this, strategic impulse from the top down, and vertical coordination through multi level governance, as advocated in the Barca report, are requested.

Territorial cohesion means to acknowledge the specificity of each territory in terms of needs and resources: the "territorial capital". All places: cities of different sizes, various rural areas, or territories experiencing specific geographic or demographic features face specific challenges and opportunities. According to the Lisbon Treaty, **regions disadvantaged with specific geographic and demographic features**, deserving particular attention and support include "cross-border regions", often having some of these characteristics (mountains, islands, sparsely populated areas,...) especially intensified by their border situation.

But the “territorial capital” is not only linked with characteristics of places in isolation. Economic development requires an opening to mobility, competition and specialization. Social cohesion is indissolubly resulting from the social division of labor, and of solidarities guaranteed by the law and public action. Territorial cohesion also results from integration, territorial division of labor, as well as regulations and tailor made public policies. Challenges and solutions cross administrative and sometimes political borders, requiring to consider , within functional geographies, such as cross-border and macro-regions.

What does it imply for a territory, its inhabitants, its businesses, its elected representatives, to combine the following 2 aspects: be an efficient, solidary, sustainable local society; while accepting the opening, integration into larger areas? This means, in particular, the development of cooperation between territories, a source of economy of scale, complementarity, division of labour and integration.

In Europe this cooperation has developed at two levels, interacting with one another: that of cooperation between States in terms of urban and territorial policies, with the support of the Commission; and that of concrete cooperation between cities and territories, supported by the EU programs of territorial cooperation.

Intergovernmental cooperation on spatial planning has seen a first success with the approval of the European Spatial Development Perspective² in 1999. The concept of polycentrism puts the cooperation between cities and territories to the heart of development issues at different scales, from the European level, where it suggests to the cities and territories of peripheral macro-regions (Baltic, Atlantic, Mediterranean,...) to form "global integration zones", down to the local level, where it suggests to merge the potentials of territories within functional areas crossing borders, including national ones.

Applied urban research (see for example the studies ESPON 111 and 143 for ESPON 2006, FOCI for ESPON 2013³) gives a scientific basis to these strategies, analyzing not only the functional hierarchy of cities, but also the role played by cities in the “spaces of flows”, as hubs of transport flows, of relations between businesses (trade or foreign direct investment), of research networks and knowledge dissemination ..., and by inviting the cities to become aware and strategic players. Public policies should promote attractive and competitive cities and regions through fostering cooperation within macro regions in favor of entrepreneurship and SMEs, employment strategies, marketing, synergy between the activities of public and private stakeholders.

The Green Paper on territorial cohesion, with the "3 C" stakes: concentration, connection and cooperation, has also confirmed the intuitions of the ESPD.

Finally, the **territorial agenda EU 2020**⁴, which has been approved in May 2011 by the European Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Territorial Development under the Hungarian presidency, reiterates this vision, adapting it to the new political context of the Union.

It underlines territorial trends and challenges which **influence in particular border regions**, due to e.g.:

- ≡ the national and sometimes even European peripheral location,
- ≡ the risk of becoming solely a transit zone through Trans-European Networks,
- ≡ the effects of EU enlargement (former external borders and borders between new EU Member States have become internal borders and new external borders have emerged).

Thus it invites: (check text TA)

² http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/som_en.htm

³ <http://www.espon.eu/>

⁴ <http://www.eu2011.hu/news/territorial-agenda-presidency%E2%80%99s-proposal-accepted>

see especially the paragraphes 12, 17, 25, 26, 31, 32, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57

- ≡ the territories with complementary potentials, often neighboring, [...] (to) join forces and explore their comparative advantages together creating additional development potential.
- ≡ [...] (the) cities to form networks in an innovative manner, which may allow them to improve their performance in European and global competition and promote economic prosperity towards sustainable development. Polycentric territorial development policy should foster the territorial competitiveness of the EU territory also outside the core 'Pentagon area'.
- ≡ to gear the territorial cooperation initiatives towards the long term objectives of territorial cohesion building on the experience of former B strand of INTERREG Community Initiative and current transnational programs. Integrated macro-regional strategies – as currently pioneered in the Baltic Sea and the Danube regions – could also contribute in this respect. The integration of territories through territorial cooperation allows to better utilize potentials such as valuable natural, landscape and cultural heritage, city networks and labor markets divided by borders. [...] Territorial integration and co-operation can create a critical mass for development, diminishing economic, social and ecological fragmentation, building mutual trust and social capital. Cross-border and transnational functional regions may require proper policy coordination between different countries.
- ≡ to develop long term territorial strategies across borders, and ask European Commission to provide its support where necessary.

According to the **Leipzig Charter** approved in 2007 by the European Ministers responsible for Urban Affairs under the German presidency, and more recently, to the document "Cities of tomorrow", published by the Commission, cities are at the core of challenges and solutions to develop a more competitive, inclusive and sustainable Europe, requiring a strengthened **urban agenda**. This last document underlines the importance of cooperation of cities in this regard.

A Reference Framework for European Sustainable Cities is being developed, with and for the cities. A set of tools will help local authorities and stakeholders to make aligned decisions on their city strategy, policies and plans, to organize the assessment of sustainability and the monitoring of their strategy and to transfer good practices. Its wide dissemination and communication is scheduled for the first half of 2012, under Danish Presidency of the European Union.

AEBR and CECICN welcome that the Commission highlights the importance of cities for the cohesion policy, and underline this is also true for territorial cooperation. Not only metropolitan centres, but also small and medium-sized cities in rural areas close to the border have their catchment areas, as regional centres. Their impact over the borders is yet to be fully shown. To sustain public and private services, it seems reasonable with a view to the effects of the demographic change, to also supply the citizens in rural areas on the other side of the border. This implies active cross-border cooperation on regional/local level which has to be supported by suitable projects.

Urban and metropolitan areas should not be unilaterally favoured in the cohesion policy. Like the Territorial Agenda clearly reveals, a **well-balanced cooperation and partnership between rural and urban areas has to be further developed. Without appropriate small-, medium- and large-sized centres**, rural areas in Europe cannot develop. On the other hand urban areas cannot exist without their coined hinterlands. The Future Cohesion policy has to offer region-specific balanced solutions for a useful urban-rural partnership.

Integration and deeper cooperation can only succeed, if **all** regions are included in the cohesion policy, especially in the framework of territorial cooperation. There are political, economic and legal reasons not to exclude "wealthy" regions, who actually only get a small part of the EU-funds, particularly for territorial cooperation. In case of such an **exclusion**, territorial cooperation would be impossible in some borders, as one region would get EU-funding and the other not. Also the exchange of know-how and the transfer of best practice could become seldom.

Support from Cohesion policy towards cooperation of border regions has not to be considered only as solidarity in favour of disadvantaged areas, but also as a catalyst for development; all border regions present high potential, at present untapped due to low level of cooperation.

The Cohesion policy with its horizontal approach and multi level governance will have to play a key role in the implementation of the **Europe 2020 strategy** goals: boosting innovation, growth and employment creation, as European Commission highlights in its Communication “A budget for Europe 2020 strategy”, from 29 June 2011; this doesn’t contradict the fact that this **policy** still aims at reducing economic, social and territorial imbalances that are still between and within EU regions, so as to allow them to fully take part to the single market.

The Territorial cooperation objective remains to help regions to tackle cross-border and transnational challenges, and tap their potential linked to internal and external borders, as well as to undertake a neighborhood policy.

(...) Territorial cooperation is dependent on progress made by European integration (...), **it also contributes very effectively to European integration and territorial cohesion** (...).

Cooperation is more than INTERREG. It should be imbedded in long-term cross-border and macro regional strategies, developed at regional/local level under participation of all actors, stakeholders, NGO’s on both sides of the border, who play a crucial role in the implementation of the strategy (bottom-up approach). If there is no cohesion across the borders, then European cohesion and integration is in question.

2. Key features on territorial cooperation today

2.1 Strategic importance of European territorial cooperation Single Market ?

The European Union has 301 regions belonging to its 27 Member States, all of them with different needs and realities.

From its creation, the European Union (EU) has developed a solidarity policy between regions, reflected in the Regional Policy. This policy was set aiming to decrease economic, social and territorial disparities between the European regions. It is implemented through integrated programs supporting sustainable development of regions and the EU as a whole.

All performances are shaping regional policy under the principle of convergence. Furthermore, this policy falls under EU strategic guidance's aiming to get a real integration of its members and thus reach high levels of growth and competitiveness worldwide. Since 1986, the targets have focused on economic and social cohesion. Nevertheless, Lisbon Treaty and the new strategy Europe 2020 have introduced a new dimension: **Territorial Cohesion**.

Cohesion Policy (especially in cross-border regions) has an important influence in EU growth and employment, reducing social and territorial imbalances. Currently, at the moment when the EU is drawing its financial programming 2014-2020 we should prioritize territorial dimension of cohesion. Within the Cohesion Policy, the importance of territorial cooperation can be noticed through two clear elements:

1. Europe's foundational motto: Europe without borders.
2. If we only think in terms of cross-border cooperation, the affected population: 39,5 % of the European citizens live in border territories⁵.

In fact, the progress made through territorial cooperation demonstrates its importance to the future of the EU. Territorial Cooperation in the period 2000-2006⁶:

- ≡ **Improved GDP per capita** of the poorest regions from 66% up to 71%.
- ≡ Contributed to the creation or safeguarding of **115,200 jobs** and supported the setting up of about 5,800 new businesses.
- ≡ Contributed to reduce regional imbalances within EU.
- ≡ Promoted **improvements in transport** networks and on the **environment**, supporting the creation of more than 18,000 km of roads, railways or pathways, as well as more than 25,000 local and regional initiatives aimed to improve **telecommunications and the environment**.
- ≡ Increased **institutional capacity**, promoting institutional cooperation among borders as well as multilevel governance.
- ≡ Enhanced **regional policy visibility** and the benefits of the territorial cooperation between citizens, supporting events about European issues, attended by more than 554,000 people.

Cohesion policy (especially in border regions) has made up to now a significant contribution to growth and employment all over the EU and thus reducing social and territorial imbalances.

Regarding the **added value** of the cohesion policy, we refer to the fact that cooperation has proved its European, political, institutional, economic and socio-cultural added value and is therefore an

⁵ Territories with specific geographical features, DG REGIO Working paper, 2009

⁶ Source: 5th Cohesion Report

important element of cohesion policy. This is described in a differentiated way in the evaluation of INTERREG III (higher added value in experienced than in less experienced border regions). Consequently, cross-border cooperation contributes in a very practical way to implement the Lisbon Strategy and the Europe 2020 Strategy, because successful cross-border cooperation always creates an added value to national measures and European sectoral policies.

Territorial cooperation is also a powerful tool for the **visibility of the added value that the EU brings for the citizens**. If we were to define the two major territorial areas of the European construction from citizens' point of view, there is no doubt: the urban policy and the territorial cooperation policy. Both of them are also the basis to implement transversal policies. If you ask citizens the name of 5 actions under the European construction process, besides to the single currency, ERDF and Social Fund, they would probably add two initiatives: URBAN and INTERREG, even ahead of important actions which are less known as LIFE.

Moreover, **territorial cooperation contributes to the goals of the Europe 2020**, because a successful cooperation always generates added value to national measures and European sectoral policies.

Territorial cooperation policies have given visibility to the European integration process, but they have also provided substantial positive impact:

1. Firstly, they have had an extraordinary effect in the **economic development of the border territories**, transforming the effect of borders, from a handicap into a competitive advantage.
2. Secondly, they have promoted an **active involvement of citizens** in the process of European construction and the disappearance of negative effects at internal borders. Even more, they have assumed the same task on the external borders, creating an excellent laboratory for accession countries.
3. Third, they have generated a huge and well-organized **network of structures** that supports territorial organisation and enhance the involvement of citizens.

A lot of **European networks** emerged in the last years: 12,000 only in 2000-2006⁷. Diversity, organizational structure and understanding capacity and networks compatibility, is a unique case that shows the success of this process after almost 20 years.

There are two main networks of networks: **CECICN and AEBR**, which work together in an excellent cooperation. Other networks are Eurocities, *City Twins association*, cross-border University networks, Atlantic, Baltic, Mediterranean, Adriatic, Iberian... city networks. Furthermore, social and economic agents are also organized to cooperate beyond borders.

These cooperation networks are emplaced as **intermediate agents that boost cooperation** promoting and implementing territorial cooperation projects, not only among their members but also with other networks. Thus, these networks become catalysts for territorial cooperation, making it more visible and valuing their findings in the eyes of citizens.

Partnership and subsidiarity are key characteristics for successful territorial cooperation. For this purpose, European, national and regional/local administrative levels have to be involved and tied together. In this sense, cooperation networks like AEBR or CECICN seem to be a good spokesperson due to their **representativeness, their territorial coverage, and their huge experience** in cooperation.

⁷ This was translated into approximately 1,285 cross-border or transnational plans, and into the setting up of almost 63,000 agreements (data from the 5th Cohesion Report)

Furthermore, it should be noted the very important role of the interface these stakeholders play together with national ministries. They have boosted and managed cooperation programmes during the last 10 years.

This active work, emerged from the European construction process, cannot be forgotten in the most critical moment. We should strengthen territorial cooperation; give it greater strategic content, greater involvement in the development of European territories, a greater coordination with other economic resources, especially those coming from the EU, to serve to the new Europe resulting from the crisis.

To complete European and national policies, EU needs a **bigger thematic approach which takes into account the territorial dimension**: thus, cohesion policy could be focused on real European priorities, making territorial cooperation one of the essential objectives of the EU and a political priority.

Operational Programmes also have to be maintained. These targeted multi-annual programmes are the main instrument for sustainable territorial cooperation, its objectives and success. AEER and CECICN welcome the pursuing of the Operational Programmes of Territorial Cooperation as proposed in the new regulations.

Furthermore, the different cooperation programmes (cross-border, transnational and interregional) should not overlap but complement each other. Therefore a greater **synergy between the different territorial cooperation programmes** must be developed what has been called **second-generation territorial cooperation**⁸, focusing on priorities such as growth and employment, research and innovation, sustainable development, social integration, health, transport etc.

Finally, to **improve territorial cooperation structures** it is important to take into account the achievements of the former INTERREG programmes, as well as cooperation programmes results from the ongoing programming period 2007-2013. This is a substantial measure to guarantee the subsidiarity of future cooperation programmes and to establish an approach that takes territorial specifications into account, especially concerning the setting up of sub-programmes with broad competences and decision making capacity.

2.2 Weaknesses

Despite all these positive results, we can also identify a number of **weaknesses** to be addressed:

1. The Operational Programmes were sometimes elaborated with a poor knowledge of the territory, including within its own eligible area. It is highly important that socio-economic realities, territorial disparities and potentialities are analysed and integrated into the programme strategies.
2. The overall approach of lots of operations was not adequately designed. Cross-border cooperation has to be clearly linked to the territory, transnational cooperation is a mix of local needs and European priorities and, finally, interregional cooperation has to be based on European priorities.
Transnational cooperation should not implement cross-border projects but complete cross-border cooperation. A stronger synergy between the measures of INTERREG A and B is

⁸ **Second Generation Cooperation:** Joint and harmonious development of shared services, it is essential to socio-economic development and to improve citizens quality of life in cross-border territories.

necessary (especially in the field of transport, research&development/innovation, health care, see also INTERREG evaluation).

3. There has been a weak participation of non-governmental organisations, and stakeholders from civil society and the business world, especially in the definition of the programme strategy and implementation. It is important to have a local, regional and national debate, previous to the definition of the strategic approach.
4. There has been a weak coherence and coordination with the mainstream programmes of convergence and competitiveness objectives, as well as with those concerning employment, and other Community or national instruments. The programmes should include coordination mechanisms with these other objectives of the cohesion policy, both in the definition of the strategy and in the implementation phase.

A way to reinforce the cooperation and maintain the strategic coherence might be the introduction of specific cooperation mechanisms and actions within the mainstream programmes.

Therefore we appreciate the approach of the new regulations to better take into account this overall coordination between the different tools.

5. The management of the European Territorial Cooperation programmes is far too complex. Moreover, the administrative requirements have increased in the last period. It is important to change the perception citizens and institutions have that the management of the projects financed by these instruments is too complex and not worthy a cooperation.
6. The procedure for the submission of proposals and its selection is very different from one programme to another, as each programme has created its own system. Moreover, it is often influenced by subjective criteria from the Monitoring Committee or any ad-hoc selection committee.
7. Finally there has been in the past very little participation of the administrations and institutions at local level in the implementation of the strategy and the programme management.

Assessment of cooperation and its support by the European Union

Political, administrative, legal, fiscal frameworks, at national or even European level, do not always meet the reality of cross-border functioning, due to their lack of interoperability. The border can also be a source of imbalances due to flows whose consequences are little or not regulated, for the reason of this lack of coordination; recent experience of the Baltic Sea and the Danube strategies was the occasion to become aware that European legislation is not sufficient to ensure the free movement and integration, and that it is important to coordinate strategies, legislation, financing, the institutions of the different States across the borders. **What is true for macro-regions also applies to cross-border regions.**

On each border, there is a need for coordination, which must involve not only local and regional stakeholders, but also national stakeholders often competent in strategic subjects (transport, research...). And the European level, even if it cannot get involved on a daily basis, should ensure a general role of regulation; this is what now has been recognized by the Lisbon Treaty: territorial cohesion (which means the territorial integration at all scales) requires that the territories, among them "cross-border regions" which are now cited explicitly, get particular attention from the part of all European policies (articles 174 and 175).

This is where political cohesion, and in particular (but not exclusively) the programs of the cooperation objective, intervene.

EU or national aid needs to be less perceived as compensation of a handicap than as an activating energy to release a potential development, in particular for cooperation involving cities.

Urban and territorial dimension of cooperation

A study led by DG REGIO "Fostering the **urban dimension**"⁹ reviews especially the urban dimension of Operational Programmes implemented in respect to the objective European Territorial Cooperation for the period 2007-2013.

The assessment is mixed. **Urban actions and cooperation between cities do not constitute a major component of the programmes.** Only 13 of 53 cross-border cooperation programmes refer to urban development in their priorities. Operations refer to general objectives in terms of improving the management of territories, of common approaches in planning or of bottom-up approaches.

Some programs explicitly mention balanced polycentric development and the urban dimension in the diagnosis and strategy, and use the sectoral priorities to contribute to it.

Eight of 11 transnational cooperation programmes have an urban dimension. Transnational programmes give greater importance to urban development, reflecting the emphasis of the regulations for 2007/2013 on this topic. The proposed operations are related to strategies designed to increase the competitiveness of the territory of cooperation by exploiting and strengthening the potential of cities. They show different thematic approaches, among which the development of urban systems and the polycentrism. Some of them refer to the assumption made by the ESDP (European Spatial Development Perspective), that the cities of macroregions could form new global integration zones (GIZ) in Europe.

Because of the low density of population in some parts of the region, and the distances between the cities, the Operational Programme encourages their

Within the Interregional Programmes of cooperation and networking, URBACT II, a specifically "urban" program, is designed to promote exchanges of experience concerning the identification and the transfer of best practices in terms of sustainable urban development. Two other programmes may concern the cities: INTERREG IVC for interregional cooperation covers topics relating to the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas, but without explicitly dealing with territorial issues. ESPON, which aims at analyzing the development of the European territory, presents also an urban dimension: cooperation with the Urban Audit of the European Commission, studies on the functionality of European cities, and the potential for cooperation (see projects FOCI, METROBORDER etc.)

According to the study, cooperation between the different levels of governance, and especially between and with urban communities, is essential. Cooperation programmes can facilitate the implementation of good models of multilevel governance. Because of their **lower budgets**, Operational Programmes of European Territorial Cooperation cannot replace the financing of urban development by the Operational Programmes of the current objectives "convergence" and "regional competitiveness and employment", or even national/regional funds. However, they may have an important role to play in coordinating strategies and funds in favor of cross-border regions and transnational city networks. But the impact of Operational Programmes in this regard is very little visible so far. Cities do not play a sufficient role in the setting up, implementation or management of programmes of European Territorial Cooperation.

AEBR and CECICN therefore promote the idea of **subdelegations/global grants given to EGTC**, especially those governing metropolitan areas.

What difficulties to overcome in INTERREG Programmes

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/themes/urban/publications_en.htm

Based on experiences dating back to early 1990s, on the evaluation results of previous INTERREG Programmes, the contents of the Barca Report referring specifically to territorial cooperation (the Programmes include statements on the management, the participation of social partners, the regional / local authorities, but there are no specifications with regard to the questions how and when it should be managed) as well as information of current INTERREG A Programmes.

Three fundamental fields have to be taken into consideration:

- ≡ Up to now in its regulation, the European Commission is primarily giving attention to the programme level and not to the project implementation level.
- ≡ National authorities are also more familiar with the programme level and regulations and less with the project level. They approach problems mainly from a national point of view.
- ≡ Cross-border projects are always more difficult to implement and more expensive than national projects, as the partners need to face different legal provisions and working methods.

Due to the **missing specification on the management structure, the partnership** etc. in the programmes, there are still considerable difficulties, for example as regards the role of the lead partner, the eligibility of costs, decentralisation and even the application forms (for example on the borders PL/D, CZ/PL, A/D, SLO/I, GR/BG).

Improving decentralisation for future INTERREG A programmes should be based on best-practice in Europe in the field of cross-border cooperation, which are to a large extent in line with the evaluations by the DG REGIO of programme A. Region-specific, decentralised managed INTERREG A programmes achieve the best cross-border results. With regard to the eligible number of programmes, in INTERREG A the European Commission tends to approve one programme per border or trilateral programmes. This causes that since 1990 the programme areas became larger. With at the same time increasing EU-funds for cross-border cooperation, especially in the last 10 years, this caused a decrease of the aimed decentralisation takes place.

Strand A programmes are even now too large. The EU-Commission and the European Parliament bewail a lacking decentralisation. This can only be realised by programmes along a border with relatively autonomous sub-programmes (for example great disparity between Galicia/Norte and Extremadura/Alentejo or Algarve/Andalucía. Similar applies to the Norwegian-Swedish border: the Lofoten, Middle Scandinavia and the Oslo Fjord). Therefore, today there are Operational Programmes with **sub-programmes** in these areas. Big cooperation areas like the Euroregion Baltic, the Carpathian Euroregion, and the Euregio Saule, comprising several borders, have shown, that larger A programmes covering several borders finally fail show great difficulties. It is not in consistence with cross-border cooperation, which is defined in the current ERDF-regulation:

„(...) at least two regions along a border (...)“ (exception: triangle).

In cross-border cooperation at least two Member States with different structures, competences and legal systems are involved. In practice, every **Member State interprets EU-regulations in a different way** (see Barca Report). In the field of cross-border cooperation this leads to “surpass each other”. Many programmes are working with stricter rules (management and finances) than necessary what makes the implementation of INTERREG A programmes needlessly difficult. It would therefore be important that the EU defines **maximum standards** (for management, reporting, monitoring and audit) without neglecting inevitable minimum standards.

In the framework of cross-border cooperation in **coastal and maritime areas**, a revision of the 150 kilometres zone has to be rejected. Already now, maritime cooperation has more opportunities offered as for land borders (for example national mainstream programmes). We therefore welcome the new regulation reporting the rule of 150 km unchanged. Until now, with exception of the

Oresund and some cases in the Baltic Sea, the British Channel and Ireland/Wales, maritime cooperation revealed only a few real cross-border results. In the Mediterranean area, where the extended zone to 150 km mainly becomes into effect, the programme Sardinia/Corsica implemented only a very few real cross-border projects. Similar applies to Greece/Italy.

INTERREG A along **land borders** the NUTS III level applies (what is important) and only with greatest difficulties an adjacent area can be included. Therefore we welcome the clarification of the regulations in this regard.

2.3 Challenges

On the basis of these weaknesses, a number of **challenges** should be taken into account:

1. The results should be closely linked to the EU Strategy 2020, by limiting the priorities in most cases to operation of high visibility with a minimum of critical mass.
2. The results should be evaluated at mid-term and ex-post in order to measure its achievement.
3. The achieved results should be communicated to the concerned institutions, other stakeholders and citizens in general. A **good communication policy** will allow a bigger visibility of the territorial cooperation and will extend the idea and the culture of the cooperation, due to the benefits obtained.
4. The allocation of funds from ERDF to the cooperation programmes has to be done by border/programme and not by the Member State. This way the allocation would be more efficient and linked to the actual problems of the concerned territories.
The allocation criteria should not only be based on population, but should use other indicators such as GDP/capita, unemployment rate, population density, etc., in order to better reflect the specific socio-economic reality of the concerned regions and territories.
5. The suppression of the Certifying Authority. Its role should be assumed by the Managing Authority so some management duplicities would be prevented and payments to projects would be faster.
6. The N+2/N+3 rule should become a simpler N+3 rule for all programmes and for the whole implementation period.
7. The financial flows should be simplified in order to avoid delays which may hinder the effective and timely development of the operations. In a context of the current major economic crisis in most Member States, the pre-financing payments should be increased and distributed without delay.

In this sense, it is important to simplify the programme management by a very clear definition of the tasks of the different agents intervening, in order to avoid duplication of functions. The procedures should be harmonised in all territorial cooperation programmes. INTERACT should play a key role in this design, taking into account its knowledge of the situation in all programmes.

Also a single first level control per programme would support this simplification, either having one external auditing company for all programme beneficiaries or increasing the staff in Joint Technical Secretariats with exclusive dedication to this task.

8. Enhance the local approach to cooperation by introducing the dimension of local agendas and the institutions managing them, facing a more top-down approach. Some institutions and organisations have a long experience in implementing local policies that cannot be disregarded while implementing cooperation. It is important to carry out a detailed analysis of the difficulties faced by **EGTC (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation)** during the present implementation period and promote the necessary regulation modifications to allow

adequate elements and tools for a proper development, including simpler administrative procedures for its setting-up and legalization.

9. Improve the procedures for selection of operations, with clear common quantifiable criteria for all programmes, but distinguishing the three strands of territorial cooperation (cross-border, transnational and interregional), in order to obtain a more objective selection. These criteria might include such aspects as partnership, cost-effectiveness, operational and financial capacity, cross-border (or transnational/interregional impact), etc. It would also be important to introduce adequate tools to ensure that projects achieve objectives as their described in the approved proposal, with a strict control of changes (for example in partnership) which might put at risk its implementation.
10. Finally, it is necessary to involve the civil society in the definition of the local strategy and the implementation of the operations, without forgetting to find the most adequate ways to ensure the participation of private co-financing in the cooperation policies, as well as co-participation, financial or other, of EU and national administrations.

Challenges for the present period

More generally speaking the consideration of the political aims of **territorial cohesion** and **Territorial Agenda** in sectoral policies at European and national level needs to be improved in the future. In this context it has to be emphasized that the territorial analyses should elaborate better than before cross-border problems and development perspectives (see the evaluation of INTERREG III).

The INTERREG evaluation clearly requesting not to regularly change instruments and areas (consistency, improved quality necessary). Therefore we welcome the unchanged dispositive of the new regulations.

A stronger **thematic focus, taking into account a spatial perspective (though not enhancing of sectoral policies)** seems also reasonable with a view to the complementarity of national and European policies: in this way the cohesion policy can focus on the real European priorities, particularly on territorial cooperation, a main European objective and political priority. A distinction between “developed” and “less developed” member states and regions maintains the current way of funding. The priorities growth & employment, research & development and innovation, sustainable development, social integration and health care may be present, especially in cross-border cooperation. But a **territorial transversal approach** is at the same time very much needed in order to allow a coherent integrated development of the cross-border areas.

Strengthening **capacities by conditionality and incentives** should allow enough room for manoeuvre for the national and regional level (see conclusion of the EU-Commission in the 5th Cohesion Report).

In an improved **strategic programme planning**, all levels – the European as well as the national and regional/local level – have to be involved in a multilevel governance approach in order to better link the Europe 2020 Strategy with the Cohesion Policy successfully. The intention to draft a **joint strategic framework** with objectives and priorities at EU level cannot focus only on the Cohesion Fund, the ERDF, the ESF, etc. Other EU and national policies have to be included as well in a coordinated way, taking into account the regional diversity (for instance, in agricultural, transport, environmental, research and development, or health care policies).

Improving **performance and results** in cross-border cooperation is not only closely connected to the ex-ante specification of measurable objectives and result indicators, but it also depends on the requirements on future cross-border programmes and projects. Furthermore, according to the clear conclusions of the INTERREG III evaluation, the durability of cross-border projects has also to be improved.

The EU needs to stipulate not solely issues related to quantity but also to quality in its regulation, in particular as regards **decentral audit and control**. The Barca Report concludes that the interpretation of EU rules in each Member State depends on the respective national legislation. This affects primarily the territorial cooperation, where all partners are confronted with different national interpretations having a negative impact on programmes and territorial cooperation.

The EU Commission should lay down, without interfering in national competencies, over which period the **audit documents** should be submitted. Some member states (Poland, Italy and Greece) have installed only one central control unit for all structural funds programmes. Considering its relatively low budget the territorial cooperation resulting that project leaders wait several months to even a year, until they receive a first opinion.

Given the limited budgetary scope of action at regional and local level, it has to be paid more attention to the question of **co-financing**. The often limited budgetary scope endangers the ability to co-finance EU-projects and therefore also the request of the EU-Commission (and the results of the evaluation) to implement INTERREG A programmes in a more decentralised way

In this context it is worth mentioning the **development- and investment partnership**, which has to be applicable for other political fields of the EU as well. All of these ensure a better coordination of national and European policies and between them. With the objective of a better involvement of the regional and local level, **global grant** within cross-border programmes should be considered.

Partnership, combined with subsidiarity, is a substantial characteristic for successful cross-border cooperation. For this purpose, European, national and regional/local administrative levels have to be involved and tied together.

Above that, the evaluation shows that small, region-specific programmes achieve the best results. Taking into account the INTERREG evaluations and on the basis of the new regulations, it is essential for programmes along a border to guarantee subsidiarity and a place-based approach, for example via **sub-programmes** or **global grants** with wide competences to take own decisions.

AEBR and CECICN support the macro-regional strategies where suitable. **Macro-regional strategies** should be mainly used to improve the coordination and complementarity between the different European and national financial instruments and programmes without new funding. Cross-border cooperation also needs to be complementary with the macro-regional strategies.

AEBR and CECICN explicitly support the efforts to enhance the added value of the European cohesion policy, to improve the strategic programme planning and to encourage the thematic concentration and the institutional and administrative capacity by conditionality and stimulation. But enhancing the use of new financial instruments needs a differentiation with regard to the peculiarities of territorial cooperation, particularly in cross-border cooperation.

Cross-border cooperation has proved its European, political, institutional, economic and socio-cultural added value and is therefore an important element of cohesion policy. This is described in a differentiated way in the evaluation of INTERREG III (higher added value in experienced than in less experienced border regions). Consequently, cross-border cooperation contributes in a very practical way to implement the Europe 2020 strategy, because successful cross-border cooperation always creates an added value to national measures and European sectoral policies.

Here, the objective of territorial cohesion needs a stronger differentiation, complementarity and cooperation between different types of cooperation (particularly between cross-border and transnational cooperation).

The Commission **rightly pays a special attention to territorial cooperation**, and underlines once again that, given the special difficulties because of the minimum participation of regions from at least two States, and the particular contents of cross-border cooperation, special regulations for this type of cooperation are also needed in order to achieve the targeted objectives at the internal and external borders in due consideration of the Europe 2020 strategy.

3. Our views on the future of territorial cooperation

The European Commission on its Communication COM (2011) 500 final, June 29, 2011 presented the **draft budget** of the European Union for the period 2014-2020.

For Territorial Cooperation, the Commission proposes an expenditure of € 11.700 million (3,11 % of the cohesion policy), representing an increase of 33.8 percent over the period 2007-2013. Although the increase seems significant, its relatively low allocation highlights the failure for an aim with a territorial dimension, addressed to resolve handicaps in cross-borders territories and to boost cooperation in transnational and interregional areas, contributing in an important way to achieve the major challenges facing the European Union, as it will be shown throughout this document.

It is necessary to provide more financial resources for Territorial Cooperation than those proposed, as well as to allocate, in the next legislative and regulatory debate, accurate instruments and clear objectives to be more realistic and consistent with those resources, which involves the identification of the needs of different cooperation areas and the local authorities as a basis for cooperation.

3.1 Political recommendations

For cities and regions involved in territorial cooperation, CECICN and AEBR request for an increased support from future Cohesion Policy, and more broadly from other EU policies.

2nd generation co-operation should be at the core of EU 2020, because it favours **EU integration**, through the development of the **Single Market**, while also bringing **Europe closer to the citizens**.

European Territorial Cooperation requires an increased budget, but also a **more integrated approach**: ETC, as part of the territorial cohesion approach, should be included into the **strategic documents** (Common Strategic Framework, national contracts). Member States should be encouraged to **coordinate strategies and funding across borders**, both in cross-border regions and macro-regions, which also involve cities. De-cohesion effect, produced when one area allocates more funds to cooperation than its border partner, should be avoided.

Cooperation requires **multi-level governance**, in which **cities and regions represent the level of proximity**, daily life and citizenship. Implementing territorial cohesion through a **place-based approach** and **reinforced partnership with cities and regions**, is a top priority, **also in a cross-border and macro-regional contexts**.

AEBR and CECICN welcomes EC's proposition of an ambitious **Urban agenda within future Cohesion Policy**. It means a **stronger role for urban authorities in cooperation with rural areas** at the different steps of programming (elaboration of strategic documents and programmes, implementation etc.) and a support not only for thematic projects, but also for integrated local development approaches. **Global grants, sub-delegation** (for instance towards EGTC) should be considered **also for ETC Operational Programmes**:

- ≡ cross-border strand: cross-border agglomerations and networks
- ≡ transnational strand: city networks within macro-regions

It is crucial to create and recognize macro-/euro-regional Development Agencies. These agencies should benefit from global grants to develop European actions through framework programmes with the European Commission.

European Union support of stable networking of cities and regions at EU scale, through programmes such as **URBACT**, **INTERREG C**, should be enhanced.

Regarding cooperation programmes, **management procedures should be significantly simplified**, especially administrative procedures, as well as auditing and validation procedures.

Other EU policies (such as transport and ICT, single market, employment and education, environment and energy, RTD and innovation, maritime policy, external cooperation...) should increase their awareness of territorial challenges and potentials, also in the case of cross-border agglomerations and city networks. **Horizontal coordination at EU level** (e.g. within **Inter-service groups** of the European Commission on Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion), **and vertical coordination** (through the multi-level process of Cohesion Policy) **is required**, and CECICN is ready to provide its contribution on different policy fields, and **test areas for new EU policies**.

There is a need to pay more attention to local development, to explore the potential of local stakeholders who know specific requirements of their territory. Local governments are closest to citizens and SMEs, and have democratic legitimacy. There are various forms of **local territories** - metropolitan regions, functional urban areas, areas for urban-rural cooperation (linking cities/towns and rural areas), valleys or plateaus in mountainous regions. An integrated approach led by local authorities in participative ways (the local development method) is a major area of interest.

Challenges and potentials may also require **cooperation at pluri-regional level**, within mountain ranges, river basins or cross-border metropolitan areas.

Even if much importance is contributed to the infra-regional level, the **regional level** (NUTS2) remains relevant for regional policy, because it allows to maintain coherence of public intervention at infra/interregional and cross-border/transnational levels, to coordinate territorial and sectoral policies and to organize solidarity between urban and rural territories (for example public services).

EU cohesion policy in past and present periods has already supported approaches addressing different territorial scales, considering functional areas and local development methods. The Europe 2020 strategy requires delivery on the ground through sustainable and inclusive territorial development. Improved multi-level governance will help cohesion policy to deliver the objectives of this strategy.

3.2 Proposals for improvements

What we want to improve?

- ≡ The quality of the programs, strategy, coordination, overall management (financial...), decentralization and participation of regional, local actors, NGO's
- ≡ A better strategic development of territorial planning
- ≡ The use of EGTC and other CB structures can be better used for the management of the programs, projects, governance
- ≡ The training and capacity building of the stakeholders particularly in less developed border areas

How to improve it?

- ≡ Need to support the building of an evidence-based approach
- ≡ Allocation for cooperation in mainstream programmes ?
- ≡ Improved criteria for allocation of funds among programmes
- ≡ Allocation of funds to programmes without national breakdown
- ≡ Possibility of sub-programs, “global grants” to EGTCs and other cross-border structures ?
- ≡ Facilitating funding (loans etc.)
- ≡ Simplification of financial control, audit and reporting procedures
- ≡ Pre-financing of projects
- ≡ Income generating projects
- ≡ Involvement of civil society in projects
- ≡ Involvement of SMEs and the private sector
- ≡ N+3/N+2 for all programmes with a specific error rate
- ≡ Responsibility of projects in decommitment

The new draft regulations (see extract in annex)

The new draft regulations have been published by the European Commission on 6 October 2011. Please find several references to these new regulations in annex to this document. AEBC and CECICN very much support the fact that a specific regulation is dedicated to European Territorial Cooperation and that local development aspects are better taken into account.

General remarks on how to improve cooperation

Concerning territorial cooperation, there is **a need to apply an integrated approach of a territorial development at the scale of functional cooperation areas**, ranging from cross-border agglomerations to macro-regions. For such a cooperation to function well, horizontal and vertical co-ordination issues need to be tackled. This involves not only an alignment of regulations, but also of local, regional, national and European strategies (through a coordinated planning), as well as adequate funding. It also requires adapted monitoring systems, and a multi-level governance approach.

There is also **a need to enhance EU wide networking on thematic as well as territorial issues**. EU support through cooperation programmes is needed to improve strategy, coordination, facilitation, monitoring, capitalisation and transfer of experience. A balance has to be found between bottom-up and top-down approaches, between strategic focus and adaptation to different territorial contexts. The three strands of cooperation (cross-border, transnational, interregional) are not questioned, but some projects may have difficulty in finding their way through existing programmes, showing the need of **greater flexibility**.

Concerning the territorial dimension/place-based approach in all programmes, better conditions can be provided at national level, for example through:

- ≡ The application of the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) in all Member States as soon as possible,
- ≡ A consideration of cross-border spatial development concepts (that are available in many cross-border regions already) in national spatial planning with the aim of a genuine region-specific planning across borders,

- ≡ The taking into account of cross-border cooperation structures at regional/local level in this planning on a regular base,
- ≡ The transfer of tasks to such cross-border cooperation structures,
- ≡ The facilitation of cross-border environment and risk management, for example a joint water supply, sewage disposal, waste disposal, joint water management along rivers, cross-border disaster prevention and cross-border rescue.

Improved governance for cross-border cooperation

Further improvement of **governance** is essential, especially in cross-border cooperation. The bottom-up approach has to be intensified and the participation of the private partners, social organisations and citizens has to be assured. This is consistent with the Barca-Report which emphasizes a place-based approach (and a strengthening of a Cohesion Policy focussed on results) just as the INTERREG III evaluation does.

For a greater success of cross-border cooperation it is necessary to **intensify the “place-based approach”**. In practice, existing local and regional development concepts have to be taken into account to elaborate cross-border programmes and all stakeholders from both sides of the border have to be mobilised. These stakeholders are essential for political discussions about programme development as well as formulation and implementation of projects.

To make full use of the **potentials of cross-border cooperation** in the EU, as the last INTERREG III evaluation revealed, cross-border measures have to fit in the problems and development potentials of the border regions (investments and soft measures can contribute to it). Furthermore allocated funds have to be adapted to the political objectives and expectations.

Introduction of sub-programmes within big programmes

The general principle is “one programme per border” (respectively trilateral programmes) with one **Managing- and Paying Authority** as well as one **Monitoring Committee** per programme and border. The Monitoring Committee is responsible for the strategic orientation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme and the composition of the programme.

In the case of a big programme per border sub-programmes may be introduced which receive own funds on the basis of an allocation system defined after the programme approval. Each sub-programme will furthermore dispose of an independent Steering Committee and a joint secretariat. The sub-programmes with Steering Committees have a high degree of independence in the implementation of the sub-programmes up to project selection and approval. In each sub-programme several working groups are established with representatives of civil society etc.

A **Steering-Committee** and a **joint secretariat** carry out the **operational management** for each **sub-programme**. The Steering-Committee is responsible for:

- ≡ management and implementation of the sub-programme,
- ≡ the final decision on project selection and approval,
- ≡ decisions based on the principle of equality of the partners from both sides of the border (unanimity),
- ≡ the frequency of the meetings (every 3 month), depending on the number of ongoing submitted projects (no call for proposals).

The common secretariat has to fulfil the following tasks:

- ≡ Administrative support of the Steering Committee and other important administration of the sub-programme.

- ≡ Permanent information and concrete support for potential applicants.
- ≡ Receipt of the projects application and eligibility check.
- ≡ Execution of all administrative tasks connected with submission, selection and approval of the projects.
- ≡ Public relation and publication.

Programme development and INTERREG agreement

The elaboration of an INTERREG A programme is done by a cross-border partnership, consisting of representatives of the respective national governments and the regional/local level (for example Euroregions, etc.). This allows a place-based approach.

For the areas covered by the sub-programmes, cross-border programmatic issues with priority measures are going to be developed, which are summarised in the main programme per border. The sub-programmes are following the NUTS III level according to the future regulations.

The **cross-border partnership** acting in the preparatory phase has to elaborate a strategic framework for the management of the programme with sub-programmes and the finances. This could be done via an **INTERREG agreement** signed by all partners. Main issues of such an agreement are for instance:

- ≡ Modalities of an INTERREG A programme also applying to the sub-programmes.
- ≡ Specification of common monitoring, selection and control procedures.
- ≡ Provision of the co-financing.
- ≡ Commitment on a common bank account, to which preferably also the national co-financing has to be transferred, even for the sub-programmes.
- ≡ Definition of the liability.
- ≡ Right to control the other partners.
- ≡ Common eligible measures.
- ≡ Obligatory definition and interpretation of a cross-border project.

Improved governance at programme level

In future EU regulations it should clearly be requested or defined:

- ≡ A more comprehensive and reviewable description of the programme and financial management (see also Barca-Report) in INTERREG A programmes.
- ≡ An obligatory distribution of tasks and responsibilities between the partners.
- ≡ A detailed description of the involvement of the partners on both sides of the border (programme development, project management, etc.).
- ≡ A detailed definition of the processes, especially regarding deadlines which have to be met.
- ≡ A clear definition of the cross-border project:
 - The partners cannot select several criteria.
 - That means that all four defined criteria have to apply, especially the joint financing.
- ≡ A strong and proactive role of the joint secretariat that does not only takes over administrative tasks, but acts also as partner for the stakeholders on both sides of the border (including applicants) and provides concrete support (good projects need forerun and advice).
- ≡ More detailed guidelines concerning the joint bank account and joint financing.
- ≡ Co-financing of national/public authorities should also be transferred to a joint bank account (example German-Dutch border).
- ≡ Limitation of costs for monitoring and audit (staff and financial).

- The monitoring is not consistent with the common national systems, thus separate systems for INTERREG A are developed. A European-wide, uniform system limiting the current forms of monitoring, is of utmost importance.
- Concerning the audit, clear deadlines for its realisation have to be introduced. In some countries the audit is centralised (for example Greece, Poland, and Italy where one body is responsible for all EU-programmes). As INTERREG A administers relatively small funds their audit has least priority causing a big problem of delay.
- ≡ The EU should provide not minimum, but **maximum standards** for the implementation of programmes and projects. In cross-border programmes at least two national authorities with their different national habits, laws etc. are involved. The regulations are often not interpreted in the sense of practicability.

EU-regulations may introduce these proposals in the section "management and financing of programmes" or even request an INTERREG-agreement (example German-Dutch border and Upper Rhine), in which these issues are determined.

Improved governance on project level

Either in the EU-regulation or in the framework of an INTERREG agreement per programme has to be defined the lead partner principle:

- ≡ A lead partner only knows about his own national system. But in cross-border projects at minimum two different legal systems apply. This is affecting management, monitoring and audit of a project. In practice this means that separate financial audits take place on both sides of the border (causing corresponding costs), which subsequently are combined in a first-level control at the lead partner (result: double activities).
- ≡ In INTERREG A, the legal relationship between the lead partner and managing authority is subject to public law. But the legal relationship between the lead partner and the other partners belongs to private law.
- ≡ No call for proposals would be necessary any more, as this results in an accumulation of applications and evaluations within the programme secretariat, insufficient support and problems to use the "N+2 rule".

Proposals for solution

- ≡ Due to the grant, only the lead partner is subject to a legal relationship under public law (between approving body and lead partner).
- ≡ The legal relationship between the lead partner and the other partners is subject to private law.
- ≡ There will be only one joint budget for costs, the one of the lead partner, where all costs the lead partner is responsible for, are included. The data on the other project partners have to be only indicative and optional.
- ≡ The lead partner gets only one grant for all EU- and national funds (if these funds, as proposed, are transferred to the joint bank account).
- ≡ The project implementation belongs to private law, where no agreement being subject to public law or treaties apply.
- ≡ If the EU has defined maximum standards in its regulation only those aspects are audited.
- ≡ On programme level (example Euregio Meuse-Rhine) a common body for the audit should be determined, acting as knowledge centre for the financial audit and which is familiar with all procedures (the eligible elements are defined before in the INTERREG agreement).

- ≡ The programme secretariat is not only contact point for the applicants, partners etc., but provides also support to projects.
- ≡ Deadlines for the programme partners for approval and implementation of projects need to be given by the EU.
- ≡ Projects can be submitted permanently (without a Call for Proposals).
- ≡ Continuation of so-called "people-to-people" or small-scale projects as best training for those programmes, which did not reach the requested degree of decentralisation. This allows the regional/local level to become familiar with the rules and duties within an INTERREG A programme and a facilitated financing of micro-projects.
- ≡ Obligation to sign an INTERREG agreement:
 - for programmes along a border, as well as for sub-programmes,
 - on the conditions for projects to be implemented,
 - how the respective decision- and cooperation procedures function and sub-programmes participate.

Successful solutions have been implemented since 1990 (on the German-Dutch border, later on also on the French-German border). Based on cooperation experiences before INTERREG along with the programme an INTERREG agreement has been elaborated, signed by all partners in that border area and presented to the Commission together with the programme document. It specifies for example:

- ≡ The Managing Authority and joint task, proceedings etc.,
- ≡ The Paying Authority and joint task, proceedings etc.,
- ≡ The role of the lead partner (some believe that they are allowed to take decisions in this function and forget that they are supposed to act in partnership),
- ≡ Decentralisation to Euroregions (Sub-Programmes),
- ≡ Management of the joint bank account,
- ≡ Application procedure inclusively a joint application form,
- ≡ Funding rules and joint eligibility,
- ≡ Control of project applications,
- ≡ Approval and refusal procedures,
- ≡ Decision documents for the Monitoring and Steering Committee,
- ≡ Cooperation agreement of project partners,
- ≡ Applications for reimbursement,
- ≡ Progress reports,
- ≡ Reports on expenditure of funds etc.,
- ≡ Joint control systems.

Best practice also concern national/regional co-financing. The project leader receives only a notification of approval with a contract between a bank and a beneficiary based on private law avoiding problems related to the applicable public law.

The Commission shall require such INTERREG agreement as obligatory document and specify its contents prior to the approval of the programme. In order to avoid delays while submitting the programme, it should be possible to present this agreement later, however, before the programme approval by the EU.

Sustainable and common spatial development

Cross-border cooperation between regional and local authorities should be necessarily intensified in the future, via:

- ≡ Cross-border coordination of all planning and measures related to spatial development on a regular base;
- ≡ Promotion of joint development concepts in all cross-border areas;
- ≡ Ongoing cross-border information and spatial monitoring;
- ≡ Analysis of current and future problems related to spatial development and of legal obstacles affecting cross-border co-operation in planning;
- ≡ Development of cross-border sectoral development plans (e.g. for transport, tourism, free space and settlement development);
- ≡ Identification of important urban regions (urban networks) up to cross-border European metropolitan regions in border areas;
- ≡ Cooperation at regional and local level in cross-border interdependent areas of larger centres and in fragmented urban centres;
- ≡ Analysis of fields of action in spatial planning policy in border areas;
- ≡ Identification of protected areas, habitat connectivities and cross-border nature parks as well as cross-border landscape architecture;
- ≡ Elaboration of rescue programmes in order to improve environment;
- ≡ Separate cross-border planning for regions, which are particularly affected by the planned expansion of (Trans-European) transport axes;
- ≡ Coordination of local planning in border municipalities;
- ≡ Elaboration of joint cross-border regional plans binding for all public planning as the most far-reaching form of cross-border spatial development. All measures should also be included in the Operational Programmes (examples German-French-Swiss, German-Dutch, German-Polish and German-Czech border)

If the funds are allocated per programme, it should not be referred to national quotes.

Operational Programmes for cross-border cooperation should include in the measure “technical support” the opportunity of assistance and support for less developed cross-border programmes. Neither INTERREG C is not suitable for this (too few chances for a successful project application) nor INTERACT provide this support. In the past, the European Commission had own funds for technical support, consulting and “emergency measures” (LACE project).

It has to be ensured that the EU-regulations are better transferred into national laws. EGTC for example should not have difficulties and being rejected for not being in line with the national laws.

Technical tools for government/governance

Cross-border governance structures need technical tools to fulfil different missions, such as observation, general and prospective studies, spatial planning, coordination, communication, concerning their cross-border territory and projects to be implemented. That applies at various scales: urban or rural scale of proximity (for example AGAPE, cross-border urban agency of the Longwy European development pole), cross-border regions (for example Secretariat of the Öresund Committee), transnational spaces (for example Nordregio for the countries of the Baltic area). Joint technical secretariats of cross-border and transnational programmes may be seen as a prefiguration of such tools (see Joint Technical Secretariats of network programmes, such as ESPON) for the whole European territory. Very often, these structures are financed by various territorial levels, which illustrates the relevance of multilevel governance for cross-border cooperation.

Spatial planning

Prescriptive spatial planning (regulation of land use) is governed by legal and regulatory systems that are national. The coordination of planning documents across borders is however a need, all the more as the cross-border territory is "integrated", like it is the case for cross-border agglomerations, but this is also valid for other scales, including the national; see for example the Netherlands taking into account neighbouring states' policies while designing their national spatial plan. The ESDP and now Territorial Agenda's Action Plan are processes supposed to coordinate spatial policies at European scale. They have an intergovernmental nature, since spatial planning is not a European Union competence. The Baltic Sea strategy is an example of the involvement of the Council and the Commission in the field of spatial planning at European level.

Sectoral planning

Similarly the legal framework of sectoral policies (for example housing and transport policies, health, education, environment, economic development etc.) has to be coordinated at the scale of cross-border territories. The parliamentary working group established in 2007 to prepare the EGTC for the Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai has for example set up coordination mechanisms for respective regulations and policies in several sectoral fields (transport, health, employment, economy, environment etc.). Differences in national legal frameworks often hinder an interoperability across borders especially when EU law is not transposed in an uniform way. The development of efficient public services across borders requires proactive coordination of regulations, a preliminary condition for coordinated strategies, policies, and investments.

Sectoral or territorial funding tools

Funding of cross-border projects for infrastructure or public services is probably the most difficult question to solve. Even if bilateral or European financing processes for major projects (for example TEN-T for transport) and funding of cooperation by INTERREG exist, amounts available are however limited regarding the needs for expensive investment projects. A joint funding for cross-border infrastructure or public services, by local or regional authorities, often face the difficulty that national rules prevent funding projects on the other side of the border. The tools to be coordinated are different according to each country, which makes cooperation particularly complex. Nevertheless European public policies share common objectives (those of the European treaties, or those identified by the ESDP and Territorial Agenda for territorial development). Thus, cross-border territories may be used as test places, laboratories of integration. As AL. Amilhat-Szary and MC Fourny (2006) point out, it is not by chance that Europe, which has since the treaties of Westphalia invented and diffused the system of State borders, is also the continent which went furthest in the removal of internal borders' functions.

The need of evidence base and observation¹⁰ for spatial planning of cross-border territories

For internal and external recognitions and for its management, the cross-border territory must also be monitored jointly on either side of the border. Monitoring, at the service of the political project, will measure the effects of the border (gradients, resulting flows), but also consider the territory as a whole, summing the potentials of each side of the border. For all territories, cross-border or not, spatial planning requires spatial information, statisticians and researchers to elaborate this information. This may concern numerous fields: definitions, description of territories and how they work at various scales (from socio-economic, political points of view), help to design and assess

¹⁰ Manifesto for cross-border cooperation in Europe, 2008 - see also workshop on cross-border territories with for local, regional, national and European authorities as result of result of the European conference "Cross-border territories: day-to-day Europe", 8 and 9 November 2007 in Lille, France.

public policies impacting territories, prospective studies. In the case of cross-border territories, the difficulty is even multiplied because different national systems are involved.

4. Territorial Cooperation: key element for the whole achievement of the internal market and EU 2020

The Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020¹¹ states that its aim is to provide strategic orientations for territorial development, fostering integration of territorial dimension within different policies at all governance levels and to ensure implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy according to territorial cohesion principles.

The present document develops this principle for territorial cooperation at cross-border, transnational and interregional levels. One of its first conclusions is the **necessary interrelation of the territorial cooperation with the other Community policies**. Thus, the enhancement of territorial cooperation brings to a significant contribution of the achievement of the structural policies of the European Union, thanks to its cross-cutting dimension.

In this sense and due to its necessary multi-country approach, one of the areas with an especially big implication for territorial cooperation is the single market, in particular for the proximity policies. Fields as important as transport, communications, free movement of persons or administrative compatibilization in cross-border procedures have a direct relationship with the policies being implemented by the European Union to **achieve a true Single Market**.

As Jacques Delors said: “**Competition** stimulates, **co-operation** strengthens, and **solidarity** unites”. EU 2020 represents the economic, social and environmental goals we want to achieve; more integration through single market (competition), solidarity (cohesion), and cooperation is the way we choose so as to meet these goals.

That is why the development of the three cornerstones of the strategy Europe 2020 has to be included as cross-cutting aspects of all territorial cooperation policies.

Therefore, both the proposals included in this document and the examples presented in annex 3 pages reflect the **interrelation brought by European Territorial Cooperation between** the three axis of the **Single Market** (free movement of persons; free movement of goods and capital and free movement of services) and the ones of the **strategy Europe 2020** (smart growth, sustainable growth and inclusive growth).

¹¹ Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020. Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustai

“Our view on the EU includes...”

Since the Treaty of Rome was signed more than 50 years ago, the Schengen Agreement, the single market, the creation of the Euro and cohesion policies have all contributed to the integration of territories.

Cross-border territories and city networks are the first affected by the European construction. They are places in which people live and work and business operates, generate important flows of border-crossing workers and consumers, trade and services. Different forms of cooperation in the areas of the economy, culture and the environment take place, even when some of these territories remain enclaves or peripheral.

The ever-increasing opening of borders for these areas is on the one hand:

- ≡ a source of imbalance: national political, administrative, legal, tax-frameworks do not fit the cross-border reality, and on the other,
- ≡ an opportunity: new ‘agglomeration economies’ resulting from the opening of the borders; potential in terms of linguistic and cultural diversity.

All European territories: regions, metropolises, towns, rural areas, nature reserves are called on to take part in the EU 2020 strategy, but cross-border territories and networks even more so:

- ≡ From an economic viewpoint, they can create wealth through the development of cross-border SME’s, through the development of poles of competitiveness, clusters and through cross-border research and innovation networks.
- ≡ From a social viewpoint, they are areas where new cross-border labour markets can emerge, with a bi- or pluri-cultural mobile and dynamic labour force.
- ≡ From an environmental viewpoint, whether urban or natural (mountain ranges, river or marine basins, rural spaces, etc.) in character, they must be joint spaces of responsibility for biodiversity, preservation of natural resources and risk management.

In order to become sustainable model communities, these cross-border and transnational areas must be the object of an integrated territorial approach. Moreover, they are the best places to learn what European citizenship really means and how it is fed by the diversity of national and regional cultures. A concrete Europe is underway in cross-border territories and networks: a Europe of projects, a Europe which responds to the needs of its citizens.

A Europe is being built in compliance with EU 2020: places where national and European policies converge. Cooperation projects are a major contribution to the articulation between national territories and the European integration achieved along the lines of the "sustainable development" objectives.

The development of territorial cooperation should be pursued: States and the European Union should develop a firm interest in supporting its development to demonstrate the ability of borders to be a melting pot for European citizenship. Therefore national and European authorities have still to be convinced. In order to advance this Europe of projects close to the citizen, the States and the European Union should strengthen and develop their policies in favour of cross-border action.

Cooperation between cities and regions is at the heart of the EU 2020 strategy, because it promotes European integration and the development of the single market, bringing thus Europe closer to the citizens.

The European Territorial Cooperation needs a larger budget, but also a more integrated and strategic approach; systematically, it must be part of the strategic documents (European reference framework, national partnership contracts foreseen in the draft regulations). They should more explicitly affirm the importance of territorial cooperation. Member States should be encouraged to coordinate their strategies, their legislation and their financing beyond borders, in cross-border regions and the macro-regions, involving regions and cities.

Cooperation requires a multilevel governance, in which cities and regions represent the level of proximity, of daily life; territorial cohesion should be implemented via a more territorialized approach, and a strengthened partnership with local authorities, also in the context of cross-border regions and the macro-regions.

An ambitious local and urban agenda passes through a more important role of urban authorities in various programming stages (elaboration of strategic documents and programs, implemented by the monitoring committees); funding, not only of thematic projects, but also of integrated local development operations; global grants/sub-delegation (for example for EGTC). This not only concerns regional programmes, but also cooperation programmes, in order to support cross-border agglomerations, networks of cities, cross-border regions and macro-regions.

The European Union must also increase its support in networking of cities and territories at the European level, including for exchanges on cooperation in cross-border and macro-regional contexts, via future programmes such as URBACT, INTERREG C, INTERACT.

The ESPON programme should further contribute, together with the Commission and the Members States, to stimulate the observation and prospective of cross-border territories and networks and to assess the impact of policies on them.

Finally, other European policies (transport, information society, single market, employment, education, environment, energy, research, innovation, maritime policy, external cooperation...) need to increase their territorial awareness of challenges and potentials, among them vis-à-vis cross-border regions and city networks. Horizontal coordination at European level (for example in the Commission interservice groups), and vertical coordination, through the multilevel process of cohesion policy, must involve territories and networks which represent them. CECICN and AEBC are ready to take part.

Annex 1 - extracts of the draft regulations

You find hereafter several extracts of the draft regulations in link with our position. Any comments of AEBR and CECICN are marked in grey:

- Partnership and multi-level governance

General Regulation¹²

Part Two Common provisions applicable to CSP Funds

Title I Principles of Union for the CSF Funds

[...] *Article 5*

Partnership and multi-level governance

[...] 3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 140 to provide for a European code of conduct that lays down objectives and criteria to support the implementation of partnership and to facilitate the sharing of information, experience, results and good practices among Member States.

Comment AEBR / CECICN: We especially appreciate that the Commission will produce a European code of good practice regarding the implementation of partnership, that should allow to claim a greater involvement of local authorities within the Operational Programmes (at the different stages).

- Thematic objectives

General Regulation

Title II Strategic approach

Chapter I Thematic objectives for the CSF Funds and Common Strategic Framework

Article 9

Thematic objectives

Each CSF Fund shall support the following thematic objectives in accordance with its mission in order to contribute to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth:

- (1) strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
- (2) enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies;
- (3) enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF);
- (4) supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors;
- (5) promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management;
- (6) protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency;
- (7) promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures;
- (8) promoting employment and supporting labour mobility;
- (9) promoting social inclusion and combating poverty;
- (10) investing in education, skills and lifelong learning;
- (11) enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration.

Thematic objectives shall be translated into priorities specific to each CSF Fund and set out in the Fund-specific rules.

[...]

¹² Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No1083/2006

- Strategic approach - Common strategic framework

General Regulation

Title II Strategic approach

Chapter I Thematic objectives for the CSF Funds and Common Strategic Framework

[...] *Article 11*

Content

The Common Strategic Framework shall establish:

- (a) for each thematic objective, the key actions to be supported by each CSF Fund;
- (b) **the key territorial challenges for urban, rural, coastal and fisheries areas, as well as for areas with particular territorial features** referred to in Articles 174 and 349 of the Treaty, to be addressed by the CSF Funds;
- (c) horizontal principles and policy objectives for the implementation of the CSF Funds;
- (d) priority areas for **cooperation activities** for each of the CSF Funds, where appropriate, taking account of **macro-regional and sea basin strategies**;
- (e) coordination mechanisms among the CSF Funds, and with other relevant Union policies and instruments, **including external instruments for cooperation**;

[...]

Chapter II Partnership Contract

[...] *Article 14*

Content of the Partnership Contract

The Partnership Contract shall set out:

- (a) arrangements to ensure alignment with the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including:
 - (i) an analysis of disparities and development needs with reference to the thematic objectives and key actions defined in the Common Strategic Framework and the targets set in the country-specific recommendations under Article 121(2) of the Treaty and the relevant Council recommendations adopted under Article 148(4) of the Treaty;
- [...]
- (v) the **main priority areas for cooperation**, taking account, where appropriate, of **macro-regional and sea basin strategies**;
- [...]
- (b) an integrated approach to territorial development supported by the CSF Funds setting out:
 - (i) the mechanisms at national and regional level that ensure coordination between the CSF Funds and other Union and national funding instruments and with the EIB;
 - (ii) the arrangements to ensure an **integrated approach** to the use of the CSF Funds **for the territorial development of urban, rural, coastal and fisheries areas and areas with particular territorial features**, in particular the implementation arrangements for Articles 28, 29 and 99 accompanied, where appropriate, by a list of the cities to participate in the urban development platform referred to in Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation;
- (c) an integrated approach to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of discrimination or exclusion, with special regard to marginalized communities, where appropriate, including the indicative financial allocation for the relevant CSF Funds;

Comment AEBR / CECICN: We appreciate the approach of the CSF and partnerships contracts, including the main priorities for territorial cooperation, which means a coordination with neighbouring states. This is especially important for cross-border cooperation.

- Operational Programmes

General Regulation

Title III Programming

Chapter I General Provisions of the Funds

[...] *Article 87*

Content and adoption of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal

[...] 2. An operational programme shall set out:

- (a) a strategy for the operational programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including:
 - (i) an identification of needs addressing the challenges identified in the country-specific recommendations and the broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union under Article 121(2) and the Council recommendations which the Member States shall take into account in their employment policies adopted under Article 148(4) of the Treaty, and taking into account national and regional needs;
 - (ii) a justification of the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities, having regard to the Partnership Contract and the results of the ex ante evaluation;
- (b) for each priority axis:
 - (i) the investment priorities and corresponding specific objectives;
 - (ii) the common and specific output and result indicators, with where appropriate a baseline value and a quantified target value, in accordance with the Fund-specific rules;
 - (iii) a description of actions to be supported including the identification of the main target groups, **specific territories targeted** and types of beneficiaries where appropriate and the planned use of financial instruments;
 - (iv) the corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission by means of implementing acts in accordance with the examination procedure referred to Article 143(3), and an indicative breakdown of the programmed resources;
- (c) **the contribution to the integrated approach for territorial development set out in the Partnership Contract**, including:
 - (i) the mechanisms that ensure coordination between the Funds, the EAFRD, the EMFF and other Union and national funding instruments, and with the EIB;
 - (ii) **where appropriate, a planned integrated approach to the territorial development of urban, rural, coastal and fisheries areas and areas with particular territorial features**, in particular the implementation arrangements for Articles 28 and 29;
 - (iii) **the list of cities where integrated actions for sustainable urban development** will be implemented, the indicative annual allocation of the ERDF support for these actions, including the resources delegated to cities for management under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No [ERDF] and the indicative annual allocation of ESF support for integrated actions;
 - (iv) **the identification of the areas in which community-led local development will be implemented**;
 - (v) **the arrangements for interregional and transnational actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State**;
 - (vi) where appropriate, **the contribution of the planned interventions towards macro regional strategies and sea basin strategies**;
- (d) the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Contract to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or target groups at highest risk of discrimination or exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities, and the indicative financial allocation;

Comment AEBR / CECICN: We propose to include point (c) (v) cross-border actions.

- Local development

General Regulation

Chapter II Community-led local development

Article 28

Community-led local development

1. Community-led local development, which is designated as LEADER local development in relation to the EAFRD, shall be:

- (a) focused on specific sub-regional territories;
- (b) community-led, by local action groups composed of representatives of public and private local socio-economic interests, where at the decisionmaking level neither the public sector nor any single interest group shall represent more than 49 % of the voting rights;
- (c) carried out through integrated and multi-sectoral area-based local development strategies;
- (d) designed taking into consideration local needs and potential, and include innovative features in the local context, networking and, where appropriate, cooperation.

2. Support from the CSF Funds to local development shall be consistent and coordinated between the CSF Funds. This shall be ensured inter alia through coordinated capacity-building, selection, approval and funding of local development strategies and local development groups.

[...]

Chapter II Community-led local development

Article 29

Local development strategies

1. A local development strategy shall contain at least the following elements:

- (a) the definition of the area and population covered by the strategy;
- (b) an analysis of the development needs and potential of the area, including an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats;
- (c) a description of the strategy and its objectives, a description of the integrated and innovative character of the strategy and a hierarchy of objectives, including clear and measurable targets for outputs or results. The strategy shall be coherent with the relevant programmes of all the CSF Funds involved;
- (d) a description of the process of community involvement in the development of the strategy;
- (e) an action plan demonstrating how objectives are translated into actions;
- (f) a description of the management and monitoring arrangements of the strategy, demonstrating the capacity of the local action group to implement the strategy and a description of specific arrangements for evaluation;
- (g) the financial plan of the strategy, including the planned allocation of each of the CSF Funds.

2. Member States shall define criteria for the selection of local development strategies. The Fund-specific rules may set out selection criteria.

3. Local development strategies shall be selected by a committee set up for this purpose by the relevant managing authorities of the programmes.

4. The selection and approval of all local development strategies shall be completed by 31 December 2015 at the latest.

5. The decision to approve a local development strategy by the managing authority shall set out the allocations of each CSF Fund. It shall also set out the roles of the authorities responsible for the implementation of the relevant programmes for all implementation tasks relating to the strategy.

6. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 142 concerning the definition of the area and population covered by the strategy referred in paragraph 1(a).

Article 30

Local action groups

[...]

Chapter IV Territorial development

Article 99

Integrated territorial investment

1. Where an urban development strategy or other territorial strategy or pact as defined in Article 12(1) of Regulation...[ESF] requires an integrated approach involving investments under more than one priority axis of one or more operational programmes, the action shall be carried out as an **integrated territorial investment** (an 'ITI').
 2. The relevant operational programmes shall identify the ITIs planned and shall set out the indicative financial allocation from each priority axis to each ITI.
 3. The Member State or the managing authority may designate one or more intermediate bodies, including local authorities, regional development bodies or non-governmental organisations, to carry out the management and implementation of an ITI.
 4. The Member State or the relevant managing authorities shall ensure that the monitoring system for the operational programme provides for the identification of operations and outputs of a priority axis contributing to an ITI.
- [...]

ERDF regulation specific for ETC¹³

(19) Consistent with the goal of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the Structural Funds should provide a more integrated and inclusive approach to tackling local problems. In order to strengthen this approach, support from the ERDF support in border regions should be coordinated with support from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and should, where appropriate, involve European groupings of territorial cooperation set up under Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC)²⁰ where local development figures among their objectives.

Comment AEBR / CECICN: We very much appreciate the more important place given to local development, and the fact that an explicit link is provided with territorial cooperation. Cooperation programmes, just as regional programmes, require both thematic and territorial approaches such as community led local development and integrated territorial development, with a greater role for cross-border partnerships, such as EGTC, for the management of programmes and projects.

- Strategic progress

General Regulation

Title V Monitoring and evaluation

Chapter I Monitoring

Section II Strategic progress

Article 46

Progress report

1. By 30 June 2017 and by 30 June 2019, the Member State shall submit to the Commission a progress report on implementation of the Partnership Contract as at 31 December 2016 and 31 December 2018 respectively.

¹³ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal

2. The progress report shall set out information on and assess:

- (a) changes in the development needs in the Member State since the adoption of the Partnership Contract;
- (b) progress towards achievement of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, in particular in respect of the milestones set out for each programme in the performance framework and the support used for climate change objectives;
- (c) whether the actions taken to fulfil ex ante conditionalities not fulfilled at the date of adoption of the Partnership Contract have been implemented in accordance with the timetable established;
- (d) implementation of mechanisms to ensure coordination between the CSF Funds and other Union and national funding instruments and with the EIB;
- (e) **progress towards achievement of priority areas established for cooperation;**
- (f) actions taken to reinforce the capacity of the Member State authorities and, where appropriate, beneficiaries to administer and use the CSF Funds;
- (g) actions planned and corresponding targets in the programmes to achieve a reduction in the administrative burden for beneficiaries;
- (h) the role of the partners referred in Article 5 in the implementation of the Partnership Contract.

[...]

- Urban development

General Regulation

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

[...] (65) Where an urban or territorial development strategy requires an integrated approach because it involves investments under more than one priority axis of one or several operational programmes, action supported by the Funds should be carried out as an integrated territorial investment within an operational programme.

ERDF regulation¹⁴ - **concerning also territorial cooperation**

[...] Chapter III Specific provisions on the treatment of particular territorial features

[...] *Article 7*

Sustainable urban development

1. The ERDF shall support, within operational programmes, sustainable urban development through strategies setting out integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental, climate and social challenges affecting urban areas.

2. Each Member State shall establish in its Partnership Contract a list of cities where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented and an indicative annual allocation for these actions at national level.

At least 5% of the ERDF resources allocated at national level shall be allocated to integrated actions for sustainable urban development delegated to cities for management through Integrated territorial Investments referred to in Article 99 of Regulation (EU) No [...]/2012 [CPR].

Article 8

Urban development platform

1. The Commission shall establish, in accordance with Article 51 of Regulation (EU) No [...]/2012 [CPR], an urban development platform to promote capacity-building and networking between cities and exchange of experience on urban policy at Union level in areas related to the investment priorities of the ERDF and to sustainable urban development.

¹⁴ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006

2. The Commission shall adopt a list of cities to participate in the platform on the basis of the lists established in the Partnership Contracts, by means of implementing acts. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 14(2).

The list shall contain a maximum number of 300 cities, with a maximum number of 20 per Member State. Cities shall be selected based on the following criteria:

- (a) population, taking account of the specificities of national urban systems;
- (b) the existence of a strategy for integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental, climate and social challenges affecting urban areas.

3. The platform shall also support networking between all cities which undertake innovative actions at the initiative of the Commission.

Article 9

Innovative Actions in the field of Sustainable Urban Development

1. At the initiative of the Commission, the ERDF may support innovative actions in the field of sustainable urban development, subject to a ceiling of 0,2% of the total annual ERDF allocation. They shall include studies and pilot projects to identify or test new solutions to issues relating to sustainable urban development which are of relevance at Union level.

2. By derogation to Article 4 above, innovative actions may support all activities necessary to achieve the thematic objectives set out in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No [...]/2012 [CPR] and corresponding investment priorities.

3. The Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 13 concerning procedures for the selection and implementation of innovative actions.

Comment AEBR / CECICN: We very much appreciate the taken into account of the urban dimension. Furthermor we welcome that cross-border cities are not excluded in this dispositif.

- Content European territorial cooperation

ERDF regulation specific for ETC

Chapter I General Provisions

[...] *Article 2*

Components of the European territorial cooperation goal

Under the European territorial cooperation goal, the ERDF shall support:

(1) cross-border cooperation between adjacent regions to promote integrated regional development between neighbouring land and maritime border regions from two or more Member States or between neighbouring border regions from at least one Member State and one third country on external borders of the Union other than those covered by programmes under the external financial instruments of the Union;

(2) transnational cooperation over larger transnational territories, involving national, regional and local authorities and also covering maritime cross-border cooperation in cases not covered by cross-border cooperation, with a view to achieving a higher degree of territorial integration of those territories, thus contributing to territorial cohesion across the Union;

(3) interregional cooperation to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy by promoting:

- (a) **exchange of experience on thematic objectives** among partners throughout the Union on the identification and dissemination of good practice with a view to its transfer to operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal;
- (b) **exchange of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of good practice on sustainable urban and rural development;**
- (c) **exchange of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of good practice and innovative approaches in relation to actions concerning territorial cooperation and to the use of EGTCs;**

- (d) **analysis of development trends in relation to the aims of territorial cohesion and harmonious development of the European territory** through studies, data collection and other measures.

Comment AEBR / CECICN: All these interregional programmes should also deal with cross-border regions and networks.

More generally speaking we very much appreciate the new regulation dedicated to European Territorial Cooperation.

- Thematic concentration

ERDF regulation specific for ETC

[...]

Chapter II Thematic concentration and investment priorities

Article 5

Thematic concentration

The thematic objectives referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No [...]/2012 [the CPR] shall be concentrated as follows:

- (a) up to 4 thematic objectives shall be selected for each cross-border cooperation programme;
- (b) up to 4 thematic objectives shall be selected for each transnational cooperation programme;
- (c) all thematic objectives may be selected for interregional cooperation programmes pursuant to Article 2(3)(a).

Comment AEBR / CECICN: The stronger thematic concentration might be problematic if a territorial approach is not to be introduced additionally, in particular concerning cross-border cooperation (four themes among Article 14 of the general regulation and linked themes to the ESF in article 8).

- Joint action plan

General Regulation

Title III Programming

Chapter III Joint action plan

[...]

Article 93

Scope

1. A joint action plan is an operation defined and managed in relation to the outputs and results which it will achieve. It comprises a group of projects, not consisting in the provision of infrastructure, carried out under the responsibility of the beneficiary, as part of an operational programme or programmes. The outputs and results of a joint action plan shall be agreed between the Member State and the Commission and shall contribute to specific objectives of the operational programmes and form the basis of support from the Funds. Results shall refer to direct effects of the joint action plan. The beneficiary shall be a public law body. Joint action plans shall not be considered as major projects.

[...]

ERDF regulation specific for ETC

Chapter III Programming

[...] *Article 8*

Joint Action Plan

Where a joint action plan referred to in Article 93(1) of Regulation (EU) No./2012 [CPR] is carried out under the responsibility of an EGTC as beneficiary, staff of the joint secretariat of the cooperation programme and members of the Assembly of the EGTC may become members of the steering committee referred to in Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) No./2012 [CPR]. The members of the Assembly of the EGTC shall not form the majority within that steering committee.

- Territorial development

ERDF regulation specific for ETC

Chapter III Programming

[...]

Article 9

Community-led local development

Community-led local development under Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No./2012 [CPR] **may be implemented in cross-border cooperation programmes**, provided that the local development group is composed of representatives of at least two countries, of which one is a Member State.

Article 10

Integrated territorial investment

For cooperation programmes, **the intermediate body to carry out the management and implementation of an Integrated territorial investment** referred to in Article 99(3) of Regulation (EU) No./2012 [CPR] **shall be an EGTC** or other legal body established under the laws of one of the participating countries provided that it is set up by public authorities from at least two participating countries.

Comment AEBR / CECICN: Article 46 of the general regulation refers furthermore to integrated territorial investments

- EGTC

ERDF regulation specific for ETC

Chapter VII Management, Control and Accreditation

[...] *Article 21*

European grouping of territorial cooperation

Member States participating in a cooperation programme may make use of an **EGTC with a view to making the grouping responsible for managing the cooperation programme or part thereof**, notably by conferring on it the responsibilities of a managing authority.

Chapter III Programming

[...] *Article 11*

Selection of operations

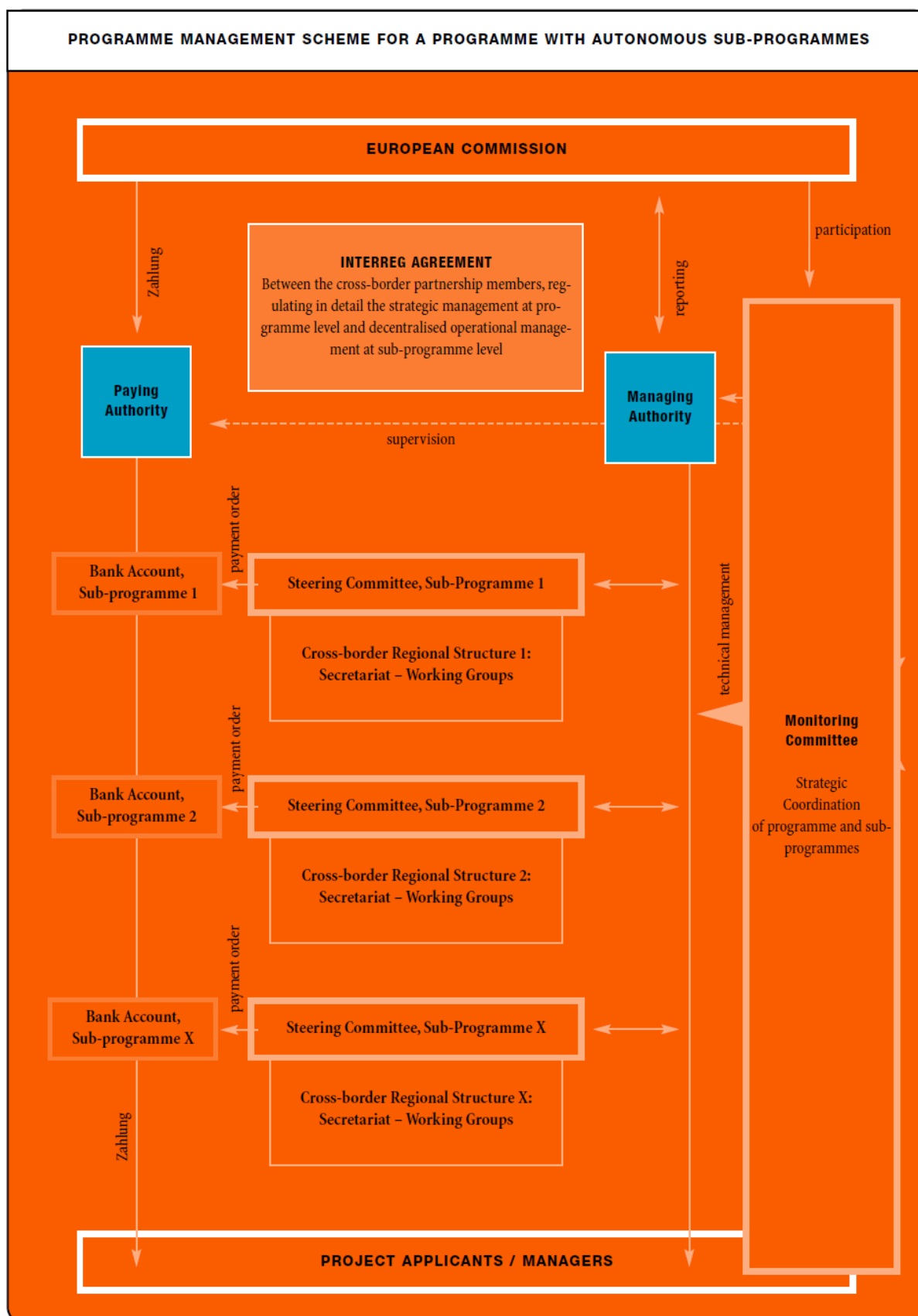
[...] 3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, an EGTC or other legal body established under the laws of one of the participating countries may apply as sole beneficiary for an operation provided that it is set up by public authorities and bodies from at least two participating countries, for cross-border and transnational cooperation, and from at least three participating countries, for interregional cooperation.

[...]

Comment AEBR / CECICN: We welcome the dispositif concerning the EGTC.

Annex 2 – programme management models

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT MODELS	
TYPE 1	TYPE 2
Interreg Partnership for the development and management of programme (regional/local cross-border partnership) comprising regional/local authorities and other authorities/bodies co-financing the programme (eg national-level Member State authorities)	
Interreg Agreement between the partnership members (to be presented to the European Commission)	
Programme(s)	
<i>for each national border or part of a long border</i> One programme With autonomous (in management terms), sub-programmes, each covering a cross-border region	<i>With autonomous (in management terms)</i> sub-programmes, each covering a cross-border region
Operational Management	
<i>for the Programme:</i> a Managing Authority and a joint Secretariat ('secretariat-général') <i>for each sub-programme:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Steering Committee • a joint Secretariat • sectoral working groups, etc, as appropriate 	<i>for each programme:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Steering Committee • a Managing Authority • a joint Secretariat • sectoral working groups, etc., as appropriate
Strategic Management	
A Monitoring Committee for the programme	A Monitoring Committee for each programme
Contact points for the European Commission	
<i>for each programme</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one authority/body designated as 'Managing Authority' and acting as general/coordinating secretariat for all sub-programmes (could be combined with the 'Paying Authority' and the 'joint secretariat') • one body designated as 'Paying Authority' for the programme • an EU contribution (with distinctive amounts for each sub-programme) payable to a single bank account of the 'Paying Authority' (which is then transferred to separate accounts for each sub-programme) 	<i>for each programme</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one authority/body designated as 'Managing Authority' (could be combined with the 'Paying Authority' and the 'joint secretariat') • one body designated as 'Paying Authority' for the programme • an EU contribution payable to a single bank account of the 'Paying Authority'



Annex 3 - examples as cited in chapter 4

The examples presented in the coming pages reflect the **interrelation brought by European Territorial Cooperation between** the three axis of the **Single Market** (free movement of persons; free movement of goods and capital and free movement of services) and the ones of the **strategy Europe 2020** (smart growth, sustainable growth and inclusive growth).

Summary of the presented projects:

4.1 Free movement of people

4.1.1 Smart Growth	A) Student mobility University Perpignan/University Gerona (FR-ES) B) EUCOR: the European Confederation of the Upper Rhine Universities (FR-DE-CH) C) Mobility of Artists: CULTUR*AT (PT-ES-FR-UK-IE)
4.1.2 Sustainable Growth	A) Tram-train Saarbrücken/Sarreguemines (FR-DE) B) EGRONET (DE-CZ): The EgroNet Euro-Regional Local Public Transport System C) INTEGRA/START (UK-FR-UK-IE)
4.1.3 Inclusive Growth	A) EURES Maas-Rhin (DE-NL-BE) B) Cerdanya Cross-border Hospital (ES-FR) C) Atlantic Citizenship (ES-FR)

4.2 Free movement of goods/capitals

4.2.1 Smart Growth	A) Bio Valley CB cluster (FR-DE-CH) B) Öresund IT (DK-SE) C) Regina (ES, PT, UK, IE, DE)
4.2.2 Sustainable Growth	A) ASCEND (UK, FR, ES, IT, DE, SE, NL) B) Pim-Ex (FR-IT) C) GASD: Green Atlantic for Sustainable Development (PT, ES, FR, UK, UK-NIR, IE)
4.2.3 Inclusive Growth	A) Eurefi (FR-LU-BE) B) A Galicia/Norte Portugal cross-border venture capital fund (ES-PT) C) Solidarity Fund: EGTC Istergum (SL-HU)

4.3 Freedom of services

4.3.1 Smart Growth	A) Laboratorio Internacional de Nanotecnología de Braga. INL (ES-PT) B) International clause (NL-DE) C) Centrope (SK-AT-HU-CZ) D) ATLANTIC net (ES-FR-UK-IE)
4.3.2 Sustainable Growth	A) Comines-Pureté wastewater treatment plant (FR-BE) B) PORTS NETS (ES-FR-PT). Clean Ports C) POST PRESTIGE (ES-FR). Post Prestige Intervention Programme D) SUITE: Social and Urban Inclusion Through Housing (ES-FR-DE-PL-RO-EE) E) Eixoecologia (ES-PT)
4.3.3 Inclusive Growth	A) Transcards (Thiérache healthcare) (FR-BE) B) Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT), Cross Border Health and Social Care (IE-UK)

	C) ANATOLE: Atlantic network for a new local economy (ES-PT-FR-IE)
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4.1 Freedom of movement of people

4.1.1 Smart growth

Name of the project	A) Student mobility University Perpignan/University Gerona (FR-ES)
Partners	The University of Gerona (ES) and the University of Perpignan (FR)
Dates	2006 (signature of an agreement)
Located	100 km from each other within the Cross-border Catalan Space
Presentation and stakes	Cooperation between the 2 universities in order to set up a cross-border catalan Euroinstitut in an area with intense economic, social and cultural relations
Results	In 2010, both universities launched the INTERREG project "Cross-border Catalan Euroinstitute".
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	After 2013, the goal is to perpetuate the structure with the creation of a training institute and a physical, digital and interactive research center that will become a indispensable tool for the local actors involved in cross-border cooperation and project leaders of the Cross-border Catalan space.
Web site	www.univ-perp.fr www.udg.edu

Name of the project	B) EUCOR: the European Confederation of the Upper Rhine Universities
Partners	Five universities of the Upper Rhine Region: Basle (CH), Freiburg-im-Breisgau (DE), Strasbourg (FR), Karlsruhe (DE) and Haute-Alsace (FR)
Dates	Founded in 1989
Located	Between the Vosges and the Black Forest
Presentation and stakes	Cooperation between these universities : with 103,000 students and more than 11,000 teaching and research staff, they represent the most significant research and higher education potential in the metropolitan region of the Upper Rhine. Many residual obstacles (languages, calendars) Local cooperation, in the absence of an appropriate regional system and language policy
Results	A common university card; it grants any student the same rights in each of the universities, allowing them to take courses and enables lecturers and researchers to teach and conduct research. Networks and remarkable projects in both the sciences and the humanities.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.eucor-uni.org

Name of the project	C) Mobility of Artists: CULTUR*AT
Partners	Lead partner: Fundacion Municipal de Cultura, Educacion y

	Universidad Popular Centro de Cultura Antiguo Instituto (ES); Ayuntamiento de Avilés (Asturias) (ES); Ville de Bordeaux (Gironde, Aquitaine) (FR); Cork City Council (IE); AmbiFaro - Agencia para o Desenvolvimento Economico (Faro) (PT); Glasgow City Council (UK); Instituto de Promoción y Desarrollo de la Ciudad de Jerez (Jerez de la Frontera, Andalucía) (ES); Ville de Nantes (Loire Atlantique, Pays de Loire) (FR); Ville de Rennes (Ille et Vilaine, Bretagne) (FR); Ayuntamiento de Santiago de Compostella (Galicia) (ES); TAO, Sistemas de Calidad SA (As Arenas Getxo, Bizkaia, País Vasco) (ES).
Dates	2003 - 2005
Located	Atlantic Area
Presentation and stakes	The objective of this project is to create a cultural management tool to promote a cultural identity for the Atlantic Area through: Creation of a research centre on Atlantic culture by setting up a web site bringing together the cultural and tourism resources available in the Atlantic Area. Organisation of training and cultural action seminars to structure an Atlantic cultural network that permits a better mutual understanding of cities' cultural policies. Launch of a cultural event to spread the Atlantic Area identity. This event will coincide with Europe Day in 2004.
Results	Creation of a website in the four languages of the programme to be used as an observatory for culture and heritage in the cities of the Atlantic Area; Dissemination to professional artists and other cultural agents; Updated information on cultural resources and the historic and artistic heritage of these cities. Creation of a cultural observatory to find indicators concerning the cultural activity in the cities as an important instrument for cultural events and a means of maintaining updated information for cultural agents and producers. Creation of databases on the historic and cultural heritage of the cities. Creation of a guide to companies and professionals concerned by culture and tourism.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.interreg-atlantique.org/iiib/es/projet/index.html www.culturatlantic.com

4.1.2 Sustainable growth

Name of the project	A) Tram-train Saarbrücken/Sarreguemines (FR-DE)
Partners	FR: Etat français, Conseil régional de Lorraine, Communauté d'Agglomération Sarreguemines Confluences, SNCF, Réseau Ferré de France. DE: Saarland, Saarbahn GmbH.
Dates	Since 1997
Located	Between Saarbrücken and Sarreguemines
Presentation and stakes	Setting up of a cross-border tramway : Sarreguemines and Sarrbrücken are linked by a cross-border tramway which makes the two stations only half an hour apart. In 1997, the tram of Saarbrücken in Germany, exploited by the Saarbahn company, was prolonged in the form of a « tram-train » towards

	Sarreguemines in France. This mode of transport allows a prolongation of the tram service from the city centre of Saarbrücken to Sarreguemines by using the existing network between Saar and Lorraine region. The vehicles of Saarbahn circulate on the urban network in Saarbrücken and as well as between Saarbrücken and Sarreguemines.
Results	The frequency of the tram-train (three to four per hour) has enabled the strengthening of the cross-border area and has considerably reduced parking problems. The weekend, this transport system supports the cultural and tourist exchanges between Saar and Lorraine region.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.sarreguemines.fr/asp.net/main.html/section.aspx?allid=-5-0

Name of the project	B) EGRONET (DE-CZ): The EgroNet Euro-Regional Local Public Transport System
Partners	20 rural districts, urban districts and transport networks. Zweckverband ÖPNV Vogtland; Zweckverband Verkehrsverbund Mittelsachsen; Karlovarsky Kraj; Landkreis Hof; Landkreis Wunsiedel; Landkreis Tirschenreuth; Landkreis Neustadt a.d. Waldnaab; Landkreis Saale-Orla-Kreis; Stadt Hof; Greiz District Administrator's Office Service- und Verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH Greiz; Landratsamt Lichtenfels; Stadt Weiden; Landkreis Kulmbach; Stadt Bayreuth; Landkreis Bayreuth; Mesto Cheb.
Dates	Launched in the 1990s as part of the Expo 2000 World Fair in Hanover. After this, it has continued to be developed in a determined fashion to meet the wishes of passengers.
Located	The EgroNet covers an area of approx. 15,000 square kilometres between Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně, Cheb, Lichtenfels, Weiden, Pegnitz, Bayreuth, Kulmbach, Hof, Schleiz, Gera, Zwickau, Aue and Johanngeorgenstadt.
Presentation and stakes	The EgroNet cross-border local public transport system enables people to explore the Four States region of Bavaria, Thuringia, Saxony and the Karlovy Vary district of the Czech Republic on trams, buses and trains. About 3,2 million people live in this area. 60 transport companies and 20 towns, regional districts and associations cooperate within the ticket boundaries.
Results	Introduction of the EgroNet ticket : Passengers only need to purchase one ticket per day, when they are travelling in the Euregio Egrensis region. It is valid in all the public transport systems in the region.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.egronet.de/index.php?gapath=Englisch&CID=35

Name of the project	C) INTEGRA/START
Partners	UK: Merseyside - Merseytravel (Lead partner); Highlands & Islands – Hitrans; South Western Scotland – Strathclyde

	Partnership for Transport FR: Région Haute-Normandie; Région Basse-Normandie; Région Bretagne; Poitou Charentes – EIGSI, CdA La Rochelle ES: Cantabria PT: Lisboa – FMNF, CP, ISEL
Dates	January 2009 - December 2011
Located	United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal
Presentation and stakes	Within the framework of the START European project, co-funded by the transnational co-operation programme Atlantic Area, 13 participants from the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal have undertaken to improve accessibility and intermodality in their territories.
Results	Setting up of a unique multimodal and multilingual information portal for preparing trips, which offers practical information and useful links to other websites which may be of interest to those travelling in the Atlantic area: Travel from one region to another in Europe. Information on different ways of travelling – by plane, train, ferry or bus – town to town, region to region within the Atlantic Area and eventually, throughout the rest of Europe...
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	“INTEGRA” aims to become a benchmark for travellers on journeys from one city to another, currently in the Atlantic Area and in the future for all Europe.
Web site	www.start-project.eu/en/Integra.aspx www.integra-travel.eu

4.1.3 Inclusive growth

Name of the project	A) EURES Maas-Rhin (DE-NL-BE)
Partners	Regional-level public employment services: Arbeitsamt Aachen, FOREM, VDAB, ADG and CWI; Interregional Trade Union Council Meuse-Rhine; Border region employers' associations : (SWE); Euregio Meuse-Rhine, associating the Belgian provinces of Limburg and Liège, the german speaking community of Belgium; the Dutch province of Limburg and the region of Aachen.
Dates	EURES Meuse-Rhine was founded in 1993.
Located	The Meuse-Rhine cross-border region (euregio) includes the south of the Dutch province of Limburg, the Belgian provinces of Limburg and Liège, the Belgian German-speaking community and the Aachen region in Germany.
Presentation and stakes	Setting up of a Consultancy Office for cross-border workers. The goal of this cross-border partnership is to increase the mobility of employees and work seekers in the euregio and dismantle obstacles to mobility.
Results	The partners perform a range of activities and offer, amongst other things: information about living and working conditions in the cross-border region; information about vocational training cross-border job-search service, job placements; advice and support for job-seekers in the border region; advice and support for employers in the cross-border recruitment of staff; comparative studies of legislation and regulations labour market

	analysis.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.eures-emr.org

Name of the project	B) Cerdanya Cross-border Hospital (ES-FR)
Partners	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC); Cerdanya Cross-Border Hospital Private Foundation; Ministère de la Santé et des Solidarités; Agence Régionale de l'Hospitalisation Languedoc Roussillon; Ajuntament de Puigcerdà; Consell Comarcal de la Cerdanya; Departament de Salut; Servei Català de la Salut; Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo
Dates	2001: Emergency-service and training agreement between the Pobres de Puigcerdà Hospital Private Foundation (FHP) and Perpignan Hospital Center to accept French patients sent for emergency care from Perpignan Hospital Center. 2003: Launch of a feasibility study for the creation of a joint cross-border hospital within the framework of the Euroregion (Agreement Protocol between the Catalan government and the Regional Council of Languedoc-Roussillon and included in the European project INTERREG III. 19 March 2007: Letter of intent signed for the creation of a European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)
Located	Services will be provided for the region of Cerdanya (French and Catalan) and the region of Capcir (French).
Presentation and stakes	Setting up of the Cerdanya Cross-Border Hospital, the first cross-border hospital in Europe. There is a real need for a new hospital in the region, not only to provide healthcare, but also because of the complementary effects the new hospital will have in terms of keeping the population from moving away from the region, supporting the development of tourism, bolstering the economy, etc. Objectives: To improve the health and access to healthcare services of the people of Cerdanya and Capcir by breaking down borders between countries; To create a cross-border organization for the construction and subsequent management of an acute-care hospital for all patients in Cerdanya and Capcir; An organization based on a single culture that includes all the advantages of each health system; To create a joint hospital that becomes the backbone of a healthcare network that respects the rights and responsibilities of the citizens on both sides of the border; To guarantee one administration and management that respects features of identity; To create the project within the framework of the Euroregion and any other European projects created in the future.
Results	The Hospital should open in 2012.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	In terms of the project: Harmonizing tools, speeds and general policies of the different administrations involved in the project: local, regional,

	<p>autonomous-community and national administrations and the different levels of political decentralization with the aim of administrative simplification and proximity; Coordinating the different countries and parties involved.</p> <p>Facilitating communication between administrations;</p> <p>Ensuring that the project's ideological strength takes precedence over political agendas (local, regional and national elections, as well as referendums on the European constitution, etc.) and that they do not directly affect its progress; Ensuring that the true beneficiaries of this project, the general population and healthcare professionals, embrace the project without fear of the benefits and losses it may involve.</p>
Web site	www.hcerdanya.eu/webgc/en/index.html

Name of the project	C) Atlantic Citizenship
Partners	The get-together, City of Aviles' Town Council Department for Citizen Participation and the Coordinator for European Programmes, active participation of Aviles' associations, with a total of 22 entities that make up the organisation together with the school workshop COMUNIKA.
Dates	2011
Located	Atlantic Area
Presentation and stakes	Organisation of the Atlantic Citizens meeting during the European Year for Volunteers 2011 and within the Programme "Europe for Citizens", Aviles hosted the Atlantic Citizens Meeting with the citizens of Saint-Nazaire, a city with which it was twinned in 2003. The Saint-Nazaire delegation is made up of 30 people, including Town Hall representatives and technicians, members of neighbourhood councils, and different members of associations and federations.
Results	Exchange of experiences regarding citizenship participation; promotion the direct knowledge of the reality of both cities and propose initiatives carried within the framework of the European Year for Volunteers.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	http://ciudadaniaavilesstnazaire.blogspot.com

4.2 Freedom of movement of goods/capitals

4.2.1 Smart growth

Name of the project	A) Bio Valley CB cluster (FE-DE-CH)
Partners	Representatives of the three nations (France, Germany, Switzerland) working in life sciences, business, economic development and technology transfer
Dates	<p>Cooperation since 1996.</p> <p>1997: BioValley® obtains a budget of € 2,200,000 through the Interreg II Program of the European Union.</p> <p>1998: Creation of the legal structures of BioValley®: three national associations and one central tri-national association.</p>

	<p>2002-2007: Interreg III European Program for BioValley® with a global sum of € 2,752,750: "BioValley: from network to tri-national biotech cluster".</p> <p>2008-2012: Interreg IV Upper Rhine European Program for BioValley® with a global sum of € 1,413,800 "BioValley: the life sciences and medical technologies cluster for the economic development of the Upper Rhine Metropolitan Region</p>
Located	Alsace (FR), South Baden (DE) and Northwest (CH), with as centers Strasbourg, Freiburg and Basel.
Presentation and stakes	BioValley is one of the largest biotech-regions in Europe with a network of science, industry, politics and finance. Approximately 600 life sciences and medtech companies, including major global players (pharma and agro), 40 scientific institutions and 4 universities with about 280 research groups. It is based on an attractive economic environment and a unique critical mass of leading industries, public research and recognized training institutions (initial and continuous). BioValley is a network which includes companies, research institutes, universities as well as economic development agencies and organizations involved in finance or technology.
Results	BioValley has become one of the leading international life sciences clusters with a cooperation between 600 companies: including 40% of the biggest pharmaceuticals companies in the world; 40 scientific institutions; 100,000 students; 50,000 jobs devoted to the sector; 11 Life Sciences Parks; 12 Universities and academic institutes offering Life Sciences, Biotech, Chemistry or Nanosciences curricula; Over 30 qualified technology platforms for scientific services: Screening, ADME, Spectroscopy, NMR, Phenotyping, Clinical research, etc.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	BioValley was one of the first European initiatives for the promotion and the development of life sciences.
Web site	www.biovalley.com/content.cfm?nav=1&content=2

Name of the project	B) Öresund IT (DK-SE)
Partners	Initial partners: Øresund University and Øresund Business Council
Dates	<p>Initiated in November 1999.</p> <p>In 2001: it joined Øresund Science Region.</p> <p>2005: became a member-based organization.</p> <p>In the spring of 2010, the two legal entities Øresund Science Region and the Øresund University gathered under a joint brand; Øresund Org.</p>
Located	Øresund Region
Presentation and stakes	Øresund IT is a non-profit network organization uniting Danish and Swedish ICT actors in the Øresund IT cluster. The goal is to make the region more attractive by facilitating access to knowledge and contacts. Øresund Science Region : an alliance between regional platforms within life science, food, environment and IT. In 2005, Public institutions, private companies and universities from the Danish and the Swedish side

	of the Sound joined the organization to actively influence and participate in a leading ICT cluster. Øresund Org. Was set up in 2010. Thereby the industry specific platforms as Øresund IT, Øresund Logistics, Øresund Food are now all part of the Øresund Org family.
Results	The organization came about to further increase the collaboration between industry, university and public stakeholders in the Øresund Region, funded by Danish and Swedish public authorities and EU grants.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	Introduction of the triple-helix model of combining public, private and academic stakeholders.
Web site	www.oresund.org/it

Name of the project	C) Regina
Partners	Fundación LABEIN - País Vasco (ES); D. Tecnología y Sociedad de la Información (Gobierno Vasco) (ES); Consejería de Empleo y Desarrollo Tecnológico (Junta de Andalucía) (ES); Instituto Andaluz de Tecnología (Sevilla) (ES); DX Investigación e Desenvolvimento, (Xunta de Galicia) (ES); Bretagne Innovation (Rennes) (FR); Universidade do Algarve (PT); Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores do Porto (INESC Porto) (PT); Advantage West Midlands (Aston Science Park, Birmingham) (UK); Border Midland and Western Regional Assembly (Roscommon) (IE); National University of Ireland (Galway) (IE); Comissão de Coordenação da Região do Norte (PT); Comissão de Coordenação da Região Algarve (PT); Amt der NOE Landesregierung (DE); GruenderRegio M e.V. (DE).
Dates	01/09/2003 until 01/03/2007
Located	Atlantic Area
Presentation and stakes	<p>The overall objective of the project was to establish the basis for becoming regions of excellence (regions with a proven track record in competitiveness, economic, sustainable development and social cohesion) by implementing a common methodology for managing scientific, technological and innovation knowledge at regional level.</p> <p>Five major goals have been identified for the project: Evaluate the current strengths and development perspectives for each of the regions participating in the project, in the fields of innovation, science, and technology; Study the feasibility of a common strategic plan for research and innovation in the A.A. Reinforce the influence of A.A. regions in the European Research Area (ERA); Define a common methodology for managing skills in science, technology, and innovation at the regional level (RIKM). Use the methodology in participating regions through implementation of a regional knowledge-based innovation system (RIKS).</p>
Results	The project helped to identify niches of common interest playing a driving role in science, technology and innovation. A geographic information system was designed to gauge the levels of

	<p>performance. Actions were also undertaken to promote the Atlantic Area's inclusion in the European Research Area. It helped Atlantic regions to rank among the "regions of excellence" in terms of socio-economic development and social cohesion, and encourage SMEs to be included in the programmes and cooperation networks on research, innovation and technology transfer.</p> <p>Results: Evaluation of the Regional Innovation Systems in the eight participating regions, and production of a comparative analysis. These evaluations and comparisons include summaries of innovative actions RIS, RIS+ financed by the EU in the regions and other scientific, technological and innovation policies, as well as other innovation policies and strategies in the regions; The development of a common strategic research and innovation programme in the Atlantic Area; A common methodology for management of regional scientific and technological and innovation knowledge (RIKM); 4 pilot actions to test this methodology by implementing a regional innovation system based on knowledge; Dissemination of information through an international conference attended by 60 people, 21 regional seminars and a website; A strategic plan to boost inclusion de the Atlantic Area in the ERA; The IRE partner has signed an 'Inter-regional Scientific and Technological co-operation' with the West Midlands Region (UK); The Spanish and Portuguese partners have joined up in a project with the producer of QUOVIS (Vexel) for automobiles for people suffering from disabilities.</p>
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	See results
Web site	www.interreg-atlantique.org/iiib/es/projet/index.html

4.2.2 Sustainable growth

Name of the project	A) ASCEND (UK, FR, ES, IT, DE, SE,NL)
Partners	UK: Medway Council; FR: Conseil Général de La Charente Maritime; ES: Centro de Investigacion para el Desarrollo (Cartagena); IT: Marco Polo System G.E.I.E. (Venice); DE: Hansestadt Rostock; SE: Karlskrona Kommun; NL: Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie; GR: Municipality of Salonicco
Dates	Medway, United Kingdom, 23 March 2004 – A new INTERREG IIIC project is set to design a strategy guide to help local and regional authorities regenerate former military sites.
Located	Transnational projet involving the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Italy, Germany and Grece.
Presentation and stakes	Redevelopment of former military sites : The operation, 'Achieving The Socio-Economic Re-use of Former Military Land & Heritage' (ASCEND), is a network of local authorities from eight European regions that have been affected by cutbacks within their national military forces. ASCEND's partners believe wanted to adopt the right strategies, so that local and regional authorities can capitalise on their military heritage to generate new economic activity, improve the quality of life of local inhabitants and attract new

	businesses to their area.
Results (expected)	The partners used a programme of workshops to compile a strategy guide outlining a wide range of issues and potential pitfalls associated with the redevelopment of military sites. The guide included 12 best practice measures to help regions learn from each others' experiences. At least six of the measures were drawn up specifically for implementation by Objective 1 and 2 regions. Compilation of a model of how best to manage and complete the transfer of sites from military to civilian ownership. Eight open 'dissemination' conferences in the member states where the partner regions are situated. In addition, the operation published a website detailing relevant projects completed within the partners' territories.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.interreg3c.net/sixcms/detail.php?id=4759&interregbase=ozonenohome

Name of the project	B) Pim-Ex (F-IT)
Partners	Livorno province - the Haute-Corse chamber of commerce and industry (FR), Lucca and Massa Carrara provinces (IT) and Savona, Olbia and Cagliari municipalities (IT).
Dates	Project approved by the Interreg IVA France-Italy "Maritime" programme in January 2009.
Located	Between the ports of Haute-Corse and Tuscany.
Presentation and stakes	The "Pim-Ex" project aims to strengthen trading links in goods between French and Italian businesses and develop their economic activities, mainly within the associated ports, which are the real maritime borders and entry gateways between Corsica and Italy.
Results	The project therefore highlights two practical actions: the establishment of an import-export office tasked with developing the trading potential of SME/SMIs providing incentives to businesses to open up export markets and encouraging relations between Italian producers and supermarket distribution in Corsica; the establishment of one or more logistics platforms: as the supermarket distribution market is expanding in Italy; the establishment of a platform (the first would be in Bastia) will strengthen trading links, reduce feeder costs for food products and speed up flows while making them more reliable.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.pimex-2013.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=5&lang=fr

Name of the project	C) GASD: Green Atlantic for Sustainable Development
Partners	Fondation Europe + (FR), Ouest Atlantique (FR); Northern Ireland Business Innovation Centre-NORIBIC (Irlande du Nord);

	Technopole de Brest Iroise (FR), ARESE (FR); West Regional Authority of Ireland (IE); Autoridad Portuaria de Gijón (ES); Nantes Métropole (FR); Administração dos Portos do Douro e Leixões SA-APDL (PT); University of Plymouth (UK); Gobierno de Canarias (ES); Viceconsejería de Medio Ambiente Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento da Região Norte-CCDRN (PT); Centro Tecnológico del Mar-CETMAR (ES)
Dates	2005-2007
Located	Transnational project involving France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain and Portugal
Presentation and stakes	Setting up of a cluster in the field of maritime environmental Safety. GASD studied how to strengthen collaboration between skill clusters in the Atlantic area for maritime and environmental safety to meet region's requirements for sustainable development. "Green Atlantic for Sustainable Development" is both a process of integration and development of competences and methods aimed at creating a European platform of expertise and action for maritime and environmental safety issues. It introduced for the first time within the framework of interregional cooperation, an integrated and operational vision based on an innovative approach to maritime safety and applied to the collective maritime activities of the partner regions.
Results	This vision was translated into practical demonstration actions to build European policies and regulations; leading to the creation of a multidisciplinary cluster to reinforce the attractiveness of all regions in the Atlantic area, making it one of the world's leading hubs for knowledge and competitiveness in the field of maritime and environmental safety.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.cvpp.eu/english/european-projects/

4.2.3 Inclusive growth

Name of the project	A) Eurefi (F-L-B)
Partners	
Dates	1995: creation of Eurofi 1995-1998: Commercial investments. 2002: Creation of Eurefi Interreg SAS to manage the Interreg funds.
Located	North-East of France, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and South-east of Belgium
Presentation and stakes	Eurefi is a venture capital fund set up on a joint initiative of the European Union and a group of Belgian, French and Luxembourg private partners. Eurefi is active on a territory of 9 million inhabitants.
Results	The fund is intended to contribute to the establishment of cross-border mini-groups by guiding businesses that want to move into neighbouring markets and are considering developing an activity beyond borders by means of a branch, a partnership or an acquisition.

Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.eurefi.eu/home.htm

Name of the project	B) A Galicia/Norte Portugal cross-border venture capital fund (ES-PT)
Partners	Set up by the Galicia/Norte Portugal working Community; Formed by the northern Portugal coordination and regional development Committee (Ministry of the environment and spatial planning) and the Galicia regional government; Financial support from the European cross-border cooperation programmes (ES/PT): INTERREG IIA (1994-1999) and IIIA (2000-2006). Participating of two funds: "Inovcapital" and "Xesgalicia", reputable venture capital companies in Portugal and in Galicia.
Dates	Since 1994
Located	On the border between Spain and Portugal
Presentation and stakes	The Galicia/Norte Portugal cross-border venture capital fund is an investment resource intended to promote business development and economic relations between Norte Portugal and Galicia.
Results	<p>The areas of intervention : This venture capital fund invests in the establishment of industrial units and in commercial expansion activities, through control of distribution networks or the launching of brands.</p> <p>The following situations are covered: investment in Galicia by businesses or entrepreneurs from the Norte Region of Portugal, investment in the Norte Region of Portugal by businesses or entrepreneurs from Galicia, joint projects between entrepreneurs from the Norte Region of Portugal and from Galicia, developed in this geographical space, or in another territory if they benefit the economies of the two regions.</p> <p>The target businesses : The targets are economically and financially viable SMEs, whether industrial, commercial or service providers. These SMEs must have their head offices on the territory of the Galicia/Norte Portugal Euroregion.</p> <p>The forms of participation</p> <p>The capital investments are made jointly by "Inovcapital" and "Xesgalicia", with identical amounts and terms, or individually by either of these funds. The holding may be up to 45% of the share capital of the business, for a period of up to 10 years. These investments may also be supplemented by medium- or long-term loans. In 2009 this fund invested in projects developed by five companies, to a total of 4 million euros, in sectors as diverse as textiles, heat treatment, steelmaking and soap manufacture.</p>
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	

4.3 Freedom of services

4.3.1 Smart growth

Name of the project	A) Laboratorio Internacional de Nanotecnología de Braga. INL (ES-PT)
Partners	INL seeks strong collaborations with industrial partners and academic research institutions, through a vigorous participation in international research programs.
Dates	2005: Decision of Portugal and Spain to create an International Research Laboratory by the head of Government of Spain and the Prime Minister of Portugal at the end of the XXI Portugal-Spain Summit that took place in Évora. The decision was received with special interest in the European Union by the Commission and several of the other Member States.
Located	Braga, Portugal
Presentation and stakes	The International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory- INL is an Intergovernmental Organization created to foster interdisciplinary research in Nanotechnology and Nanoscience. Aiming to become a vital part of Europe's scientific area, INL provides a high-tech research environment addressing major challenges in nanomedicine, nanotechnology applied to environmental & food control nanoelectronics, and nanomachines and molecular manipulation at nanoscale.
Results	The Laboratory has been conceived to: Assure world class research excellence in all areas of activity; Develop partnerships with the industry and foster the transfer of knowledge in economic values and jobs; Train researchers and contribute to the development of a skilled workforce for the nanotechnology industry; Survey, prevent and mitigate nanotechnology risks.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	The project was selected as one of the best practice cases to be presented in the first workshop of best practices on the Lisbon Agenda held on October 6, 2006, in Lisbon.
Web site	http://inl.int/

Name of the project	B) International clause (NL-DE)
Partners	Province of Limburg; RWTH Aachen University; Chamber of commerce and industry Aachen (IHK); Several individual institutes and networks of RWTH Aachen University; Dutch Polymer Institute; DSM; Chemelot industrial site; Baesweiler industrial site; Metaalunie Limburg; NanoHouse Hogeschool Zuyd; Industriebank LIOF (Limburg development corporation); Fontys Hogescholen; Ecofys/E-Avantis; Academic Hospital Maastricht; Academic Hospital Aachen; Biomed Booster Maastricht University; Several Limburg SME's Career Center RWTH Aachen University; Several Limburg Colleges.
Dates	2006: Signature of a treaty of cooperation between the partners and government representatives.
Located	Euroregion Meuse-Rhin

Presentation and stakes	Creation of a leading European technology region: The aim of the International Clause is to establish cooperation between Limburg and Aachen companies, research institutions and public organisations to develop innovative technological products and services, to establish partnerships and exchange in the field of education and to set up joint lobby and fundraising activities. Within the framework of a formal cooperation agreement, the parties undertake to cooperate structurally in order to enhance the competitiveness of the Limburg/Aachen region in three different areas: Technology and knowledge transfer; Education, science and technology, and knowledge workers; Lobbying, around 20 individual cooperation projects.
Results	All projects have been analysed individually; A monitoring system has been set up; A networking strategy has been developed; Projects are being assisted by the partners; Possibilities for subsidy are being explored; New projects are already attracted to the network; Political interest is raised, the International Clause gains momentum; A major network event is being planned
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	

Name of the project	C) Centrope (Slovakia, Austria, Hungary and Czech Republic)
Partners	Partner Regions: Bratislava, Burgenland, Győr-Moson-Sopron, Lower Austria, South Moravia, Trnava, Vas, Vienna Partner Cities: Bratislava, Brno, Eisenstadt, Győr, Sopron, St.Pölten, Szombathely, Trnava, Vienna
Dates	2003-2006: CENTROPE I, Imagining the Central European Region, Interreg III A Project BAER – Building a European Region 2006-2007: CENTROPE II, Planning the Central European Region, Interreg III A project BAER II - CENTROPE 2006 plus Complementary Slovak project “Dom Centropy” “Business Plan 2008 ff”: thematic work programme Structure for the future cooperation management 2009-2012: CENTROPE III, Implementing the Central European Region, Joint project “CENTROPE CAPACITY” – basic cooperation, Strategic cooperation alliances
Located	Slovakia, Austria, Hungary and Czech Republic
Presentation and stakes	2003, the governors, county presidents and mayors of the border quadrangle agreed upon the joint establishment and support of the Central European Region - CENTROPE. CENTROPE, the Central European Region, is the lead project which develops a multilateral, binding and lasting cooperation framework for the collaboration of regions and municipalities, business enterprises and societal institutions in the Central European Region. CENTROPE assists in coordinating existing cross-border activities and future efforts for multilateral collaboration, and stimulates new endeavours. CENTROPE provides for the professional management of

	interfaces and development processes, in order to generate synergies between as many areas as possible for the benefit of all involved. CENTROPE mobilises and engages public, commercial and social bodies that wish to contribute to the strengthening of the region as a whole. CENTROPE is thus concerned with research and training as well as with the economy and the labour market, with regional development, infrastructures, culture, location marketing and public relations work.
Results	Activities and expected results: Political co-operation for the over-all development, joint strategic lobbying on national/EU level; Profiling and deepening the network, involvement of various stakeholders via Thematic Boards; Set-up of operating units in all partner countries; rules and procedures for sustainable co-operation; Common public awareness raising and marketing; Mobilising and supporting thematic alliance co-operation projects; Implementation of joint pilot activities for the elaboration of transnational tools.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.centrope.com

Name of the project	D) ATLANTIC net
Partners	Sevilla Global (ES); Chambre de Métiers de La Charente (FR); TecNet - Cork (IE); Ambifaro-Agencia para o desenvolvimento económico de Faro, S.A. (PT); Bournemouth University (UK); Ajunamiento de Gijon (ES)
Dates	01/01/2004 until 02/03/2007
Located	Portugal, Sapin, France, United Kingdom, Ireland
Presentation and stakes	The ATLANTIC NET project seeks to stimulate the creation of a transnational network to promote the full use of the potential of the advanced telecommunications services and information technologies among the SMEs of the Atlantic Area, notably new infrastructure, software packages and experiences, new e-business solutions, etc.
Results	Creation of a network of cities participating in the project, companies, organisations and people with expert knowledge of ITC; A study to examine the current situation and the needs of SMEs in terms of ITC; Search for and identification of new partnerships; Website; Dissemination of brochures on ATLANTIC NET in the 4 languages of the project, publication of a journal specific to the project; Creation of a best practices forum and of a strategic reference document on the programmes which promote and develop ITC for SMEs; Creation of a cooperation platform enabling the participating cities to carry out joint pilot tests and to succeed in their initiatives. 4 projects have been developed.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.interreg-atlantique.org/iiib/es/projet/detail_projet.html?idr=44&id=77

	www.euatlanticnet.org
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4.3.2 Sustainable growth

Name of the project	A) Comines-Pureté wastewater treatment plant (FR-BE)
Partners	IPALLE (Syndicat intercommunal du Hainaut occidental belge); Lille Métropole Communauté Urbaine (Lille Metropolis Urban Community)
Dates	2000: wastewater treatment plant built by the Belgians. Since Autumn 2002 : the plant treats wastewater from the French sectors of Comines France and Wervicq and the Belgian sectors of Comines Belgique and Warneton.
Located	Situated within French territory, close to Comines on the edge of the Lys area.
Presentation and stakes	Comines-Pureté is a cross-border realisation (main contractor: Région wallonne). This project deals with the development of a cross-border wastewater treatment plant known as "Comines-Pureté". It can service an equivalent population of 40 000, spread in equal measure across both countries. The French have been the first to link up to the plant, although its operation is managed by an intercommunal syndicate (IPALLE), which specialises in collecting and treating waste and is based in the western part of the Belgian region of Hainault. The station collects used water in the French part of Comines, Wervicq Sud, Linselles and the Belgium part of Warneton and Comines
Results	Functioning treatment cross-border system of wastewater
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	

Name of the project	B) PORTS NETS (ES-FR-PT). Clean Ports
Partners	Generalitat de Catalunya, departament de Medi Ambient (ES); Gobierno de Cantabria - Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio (ES); Syndicat Mixte l'aménagement touristique du Languedoc-Roussillon (FR); Instituto Portuario do Sul de Algarve (PT)
Dates	01/2001 until 06/2005
Located	The South Eastern European Space (SUDOE)
Presentation and stakes	The South Eastern European Space (SUDOE) is surrounded by ports in the Mediterranean and Atlantic seas. PORT NETS Project aims to reduce marine and fluvial pollution in SUDOE ports. This project aspires to be the starting point in this field of action.
Results	To implement these objectives, the partners will firstly elaborate environmental diagnostics and action plans that define the characteristics of the ports integrated in the project. This will lead to the identification of intervention needs. The second stage of the project will develop awareness and communications actions addressed to the users. This will include the edition and distribution of specific publications (such as Good Practices manuals) or the organization of conferences. Also, some ports,

	provided with environmentally friendly equipments, will test the environmental management systems and develop water and energy saving projects.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	On the one hand, it should be exported to other European regions and, in the other hand its results should be extrapolated to all SUDOE ports which may be interested in the project.
Web site	www.interreg-sudoe.org/francais/proyectos/approved_proyecto_ficha.asp?ID_Proyecto=10

Name of the project	C) POST PRESTIGE (ES-FR). Post Prestige Intervention Programme
Partners	Préfecture de la zone de Défense Sud-ouest (FR); Région Aquitaine (FR); Gobierno de Cantabria, Secretaría General de Economía y Hacienda (ES)
Dates	11/2002 until 08/2004
Located	Cantabria, Spain and Aquitaine, France
Presentation and stakes	Postprestige Project (adopted in the extraordinary call for projects in December 2002) is a transnational cooperation response of two regions (Cantabria, Spain and Aquitaine, France) to combat the effects of the Prestige shipwreck occurred in November 2002.
Results	The actions taken have mainly consisted of cleaning the oil waste that spread not only in open sea and seabed, but also on the coast. Furthermore, some coastal protection barriers have been placed to prevent the arrival of the waste products to the coast. This partnership has also enabled to put forward a new common approach on the recovery of the common heritage (sea and coastline), in particular, involving surveillance, prevention and environmental restoration.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	Some future publications regarding these issues are foreseen.
Web site	www.interreg-sudoe.org/francais/proyectos/approved_proyecto_ficha.asp?ID_Proyecto=51

Name of the project	D) SUITE: Social and Urban Inclusion Through Housing
Partners	ES: Concello de Santiago de Compostela (City Council); PL: Kraków; UK: Newcastle; FR : Rennes; EE: Tallinn; FR: Nantes; RO: Iasi; ES: Santiago de Compostela; DE: The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg; UK: Medway
Dates	Project launch : 19 January 2009 - End of the project : July 2011
Located	Spain, France, United Kindgom, Romania, Germany, Estonia, Poland,
Presentation and stakes	The SUITE project defines the concept of sustainable housing. With property market racing out of control and major democratic, economic and social changes in urban areas, new requirements for social housing, and even for "highly socialised housing" have emerged in the cities. The first objective of the SUITE network is to cooperate among partners to optimise a sustainable and affordable supply of housing and to assure social cohesion through

	social mix and sustainable housing. "Social and Urban Inclusion Through Housing" deals with a major social challenge: inequality in access to housing. The challenge facing the public authorities is part of a wider problem of urban and social exclusion. Working for social and urban integration means implementing housing policies that guarantee housing that is not only affordable but also of good-quality and sustainable.
Results	Meetings and conferences, Thematic reports and publications, local actions plans, a set of recommendation concerning « Social and Urban Inclusion Through Housing » to be addressed to the different levels involved (see Urbact website for more detail)
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	http://urbact.eu/en/projects/quality-sustainable-living/suite/our-project/

Name of the project	E) Eixoecologia
Partners	Eixo Atlantico do Noroeste Peninsular, in cooperation with the Regional Government of Galicia (Xunta de Galicia) and the Government of North Portugal. It was implemented thanks to a cross-border cooperation project between Galicia and the North of Portugal included in the 2007-2013 POCTEP.
Dates	2009: creation of an Urban Ecology Agency Eixo Atlantico (Eixoecologia) to set up a new model of sustainable development for cities and optimize existing resources.
Located	Territory of Eixo Atlantico at the border between Spain and Portugal
Presentation and stakes	The aim of Eixoecologia is to serve to the general interest of communities in the Iberian Peninsula and, in particular, in the Galicia-North of Portugal Euroregion, by carrying out actions aimed at sustainable development including urban ecology as a discipline of analysis and planning. Therefore, Eixoecologia seeks to reconcile environmental protection with economic and social development through actions based on: analysis and research of economic, social and environmental variables, strategic planning and development of strategic plans and specific actions.
Results	Since its creation, the Agency has developed different studies, such as the guidelines "Local Agenda 21: supporting measures from its creation to its implementation".
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	As future aim, it should be pointed out that in the coming years Eixoecología will develop a new methodology in the waste management field to help municipalities take better decisions regarding the implementation of waste collection and treatment systems, based on the carbon footprint of processes and economic and social considerations.
Web site	

4.3.3 Inclusive growth

Name of the project	A) Transcards (Thiérache healthcare) (FR-BE)
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Partners	<p>The coordinators of the project are in France the GIE Sesam Vitale in Belgium the « Alliance nationale des mutualités chrétiennes » (ANMC). It gathers on both sides border, the ministries in charge of employment, health and social security, the organizations of health insurance and representatives of professionals of health:</p> <p>French partner organisations: The CNAMTS (Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie des Travailleurs Salariés) (National Health Insurance Fund for Salaried Workers); The CLEISS (Centre des Liaisons Européennes et Internationales de Sécurité Sociale) (Centre of European and International Liaisons for Social Security); The CCMSA (Caisse Centrale de la Mutualité Agricole) (Central Fund of the Farmers' Mutual Plan); La CPAM de Maubeuge (Maubeuge state health insurance office); La CPAM de Saint-Quentin (Saint-Quentin state health insurance office)</p> <p>Seven hospital institutions: The Centre Hospitalier Brisset (Brisset Hospital Centre) at Hirson; The Centre Hospitalier de Fourmies (Fourmies Hospital Centre); L'Hôpital Départemental Felleries-Liessies (Departmental Hospital of Felleries-Liessies); Le Centre Hospitalier du pays d'Avesnes (the Hospital Centre for the Avesnes region); The polyclinique (polyclinic) of la Thiérache de Wignehies; The Hôpital de Vervins (Vervins Hospital); The Hôpital de Nouvion (Nouvions Hospital)</p> <p>Belgian partner organisations: The Collège Intermutualiste National (National Intermutualist College); The Coordination CIN (coordinating committee of the Collège Intermutualiste National); The Institut National d'Assurance Maladie Invalidité (National Institute for Disability and Health Insurance); The Mutualité Chrétienne de la Province de Namur (Christian Mutual Plan of Namur Province); The Mutualité Chrétienne du Centre, de Charleroi et de Thudinie (Christian Mutual Plan for the Central, Charleroi and Thudinie regions) One hospital institution: The Centre de Santé des Fagnes (the Fagnes Health Centre) at Chimay</p>
Dates	<p>May 2000: Beginning of the experimental phase of this system began.</p> <p>Since June 2001: the partners continue the experimentation, its follow-up and its evaluation for the perpetuation of the system.</p>
Located	Thiérache region (FR) and the area around Chimay (BE)
Presentation and stakes	<p>Transcrads aims are to create a network of facilities on both sides of the border and to ensure that these facilities complement each other; to promote mobility for patients and health care practitioners; to institute an integrated cross-border system for social security coverage. Aims are to enable a reduction in the difficulties that result in the cross-border zone from the existence of more than one health care system; improve the health of the French and Belgian population of the area and broaden the supply of health care facilities available to them facilitate communication between health care professionals; ensure mutual recognition between the health care practices on either</p>

	side of the border; identify general guidelines that can be reused elsewhere; ensure that advanced use can be made of data communication network technologies; and, finally, encourage European lifestyles and increase cross-border mobility.
Results	This project enables the inhabitants of the Thiérache region (France) and the area around Chimay (Belgium) to retain their social security rights when they travel over the border. It is based on an agreement to extend social security coverage between France and Belgium.
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.sesam-vitale.fr/transcards/tcd_accueil.htm

Name of the project	B) Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT), Cross Border Health and Social Care (IE-UK)
Partners	Partnership between the Health and Social Care Services in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland: Health Service Executive, Western Health and Social Care Trust, Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Western Health and Social Services Board and Southern Health and Social Services Board
Dates	Established in 1992
Located	Border counties of the Health Service Executive in the Republic of Ireland and the Southern and Western Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts in Northern Ireland.
Presentation and stakes	CAWT, Cooperation And Working Together, the cross border health and social care partnership which facilitates cross border collaborative working in health and social care. CAWT's mission is to improve the health and social well being of the populations covered by the CAWT region, by working across boundaries and jurisdictions in a way which effectively engages the people, service planners and providers.
Results	
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.cawt.com/

Name of the project	C) ANATOLE: Atlantic network for a new local economy
Partners	Rural operators, organisations which mediate between producers and cities, and the cities or other regional bodies from the Atlantic Arc: AC3A: Association des Cahmbres d'Agriculture de l'Arc Atlantique (FR); Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities: CAAC, Network of Cities; Diputación de Huelva (ES); ADTERRA (ES); IERU (PT); Itsasmendikoi – IMK (ES); Nantes Metropole (FR); Irish exporters (IE); Westmeath Community Development Ltd (IE)
Dates	1/2010 – 1/2012
Located	France, Spain, Portugal, Ireland
Presentation and stakes	Develop proximity economies within a atlantic network of city governance. Co-financed by the European Union – ERDF, on the Atlantic Area Programme, the ANATOLE project seeks to analyse strengths and weaknesses of aspects relating to proximity

	economies in order to draw up, alter the appropriate diagnosis, proximity economy engineering under the auspices of the region's cities. ANATOLE therefore seeks to grant cities a coordinating role, using new and innovative proximity economy organisational methods.
Results	<p>The last meeting has been held in Nantes (France) on 26 August 2011, with a dissemination of the results. Under the ANATOLE association project, the CAAC is responsible for strengthening the transnational dimension and the "Atlantisation" of the project. In this regard a blog has been created on the economics of proximity: http://anatolenetwork.blogspot.com/</p> <p>The feedback workshop of the ANATOLE project work took place in Nantes on 26 and 27 August last. The discussions led to the definition of the need for local economic systems face to the disconnection of society towards its own economy and the consequent loss of identity. It is also a response to the future of urban food by developing own products that would be thus "in-anonymized." These objectives are at the heart of Atlantic territories' strategies that promote sustainable and cohesive development. Political representatives must support a process that is intended to be transnational, urban and enriched by the exchange of experiences.</p>
Orientation for the future and/or best practices	
Web site	www.anatoleproject.eu/