

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Комитет на регионите
Comité de las Regiones
Výbor regionů
Regionsudvalget
Ausschuss der Regionen
Regioonide Komitee
Επιτροπή των Περιφερειών
Committee of the Regions
Alueiden komitea
Comité des Régions
Coiste na Réigiún
Comitato delle regioni
Reģionu komiteja
Regionų komitetas
Régiók Bizottsága
Kumitat tar-Regjuni
Comité van de Regio's
Komitet Regionów
Comité das Regiões
Comitetul Regiunilor
Výbor regiónov
Odbor regij
Regionkommittén

EGTC
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Permanent structures of cross-border cooperation: European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation

Policy forum on development

Brussels, 30 September 2014

Alfonso Alcolea

Committee of the Regions of the EU

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Europe without borders?



Europe without borders?



The railway station of Nova Gorica,
at the border between Italy and Slovenia, till 2004 and today

Europe without borders?



Polish-German border
between Frankfurt am Oder and Słubice



Europe without borders?



Former checkpoint dismantled
between Frankfurt am Oder and Słubice
© A. Alcolea, 2008



Europe without borders?

❖ Disparities

*European Commission
6th Cohesion Report*





Europe without borders?

Impact of the crisis (2010)

Growth of GDP in real terms.
Negative in regions in orange
or in red

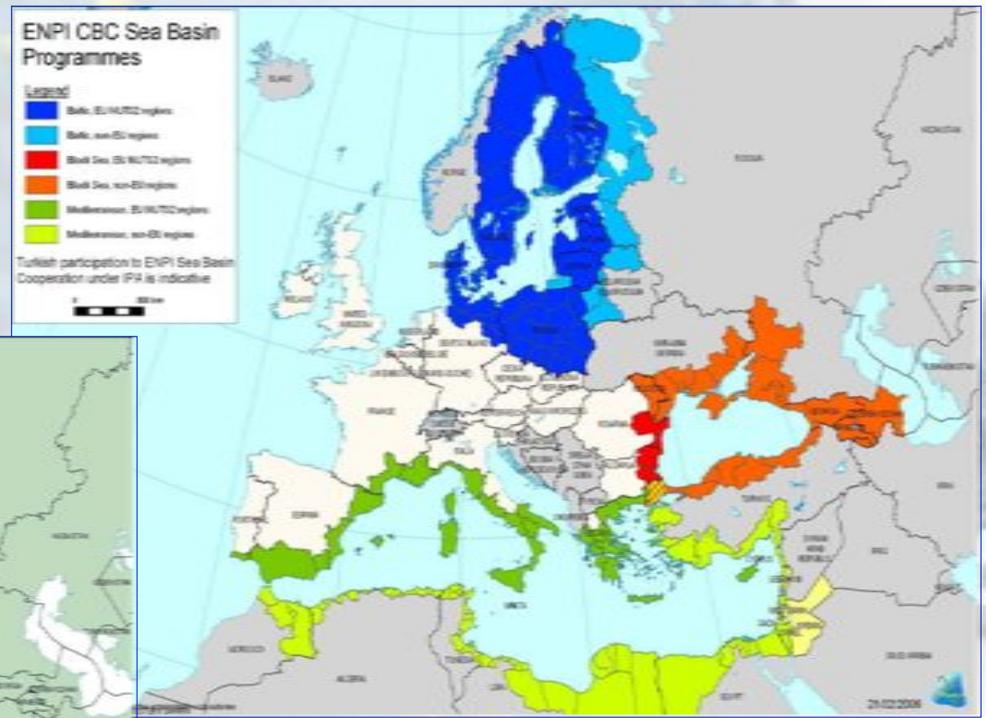
6th cohesion report. EC





Europe without borders?

External borders and Neighbourhood Policy



The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

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What is an EGTC?

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EGTC – European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

- ❖ At the beginning, an **idea of the Committee of the Regions**
- ❖ Created by **Regulation (EC) 1082/2006** amended by **Regulation (EU) 1302/2013**
- ❖ Public entities from different Member States can get together under an entity with **European legal personality**.
- ❖ The EGTC has its own **organisation, budget and staff**.
- ❖ It may implement **programmes and projects** of territorial cooperation, with or without EU funding → The goal is **territorial cohesion**
- ❖ Entered into force on **1 August 2007**, the Member States adopt **national provisions**. The amended Regulation entered into force on **22 June 2014**

Who can participate?

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- ❖ Entities of **Public Law** (reference to the Directive 2004/18/EC on public procurement)
 - Ministries
 - Regions, provinces, intendancies, sub-national authorities
 - Municipalities
 - Public bodies and institutions
 - Universities, foundations, chambers of commerce, etc.

- ❖ **Public undertakings** and undertakings providing services of general economic interest.

Who can participate?



- ❖ Entities from **EU territories**, including:
 - Outermost regions
 - Outermost countries and territories

- ❖ Participation of entities from **Third countries**:
 - At least 1 EU Member State needed;
 - The third country must be neighbor of one of the Member States involved, or be part of one common CBC, transnational or sea-basin programme;
 - The third country adopts similar legislation or signs an agreement with on of the Member States involved in the EGTC
 - The EU Member States involved authorize it

How to set up an EGTC



- ❖ The prospective members must sign a **convention** and adopt a **statute**
- ❖ The **headquarters** define the national law applicable
 - The headquarters must be in the territory of the EU
 - BUT the Convention can foresee exceptions: staff - procurement - audit - others
- ❖ The States **authorize** the convention and the statutes
 - The Convention has primacy over the national legislation
 - 3 months; 6 months under new Regulation, but tacit approval
 - Authorize the EGTCs with non-EU countries
- ❖ **Register** and **publication** at national level and at EU level (Committee of the Regions)

Advantages of the EGTC



- ❖ **Permanence, visibility and accountability**
- ❖ **Reduction of bureaucracy** for EU projects:
 - The EGTC is recognised as a partnership
 - The signature of the Director is enough to apply
 - The expenditure and the actions are implemented by the EGTC
- ❖ **Joint strategic vision:**
 - The projects are coherent and coordinated
- ❖ **Pooling of resources** → Joint services, economies of scale
- ❖ **Subsidiarity** → We do together what can be done together
- ❖ **Multi-level governance** → The EGTC is flexible to sit together different authorities at the same table, even of different levels

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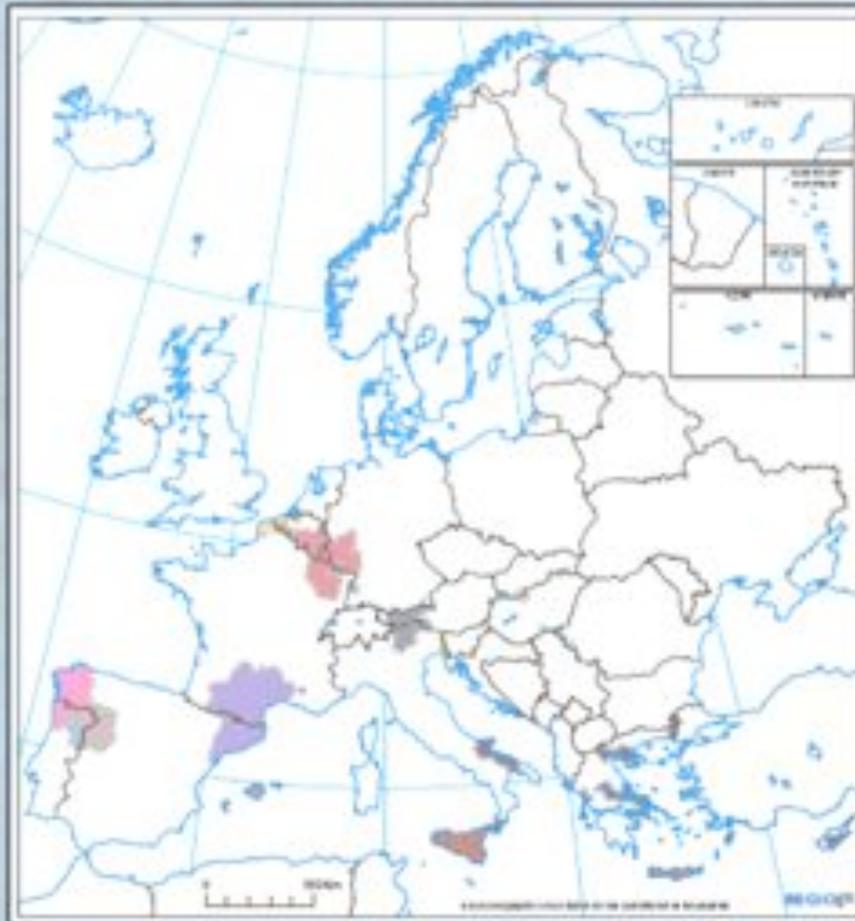
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Some practical examples



EGTC trends and developments

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Figures

- ❖ **47 EGTC** set up, according to the Register of the CoR
- ❖ More than **600 LRA** involved
- ❖ A reality in **19 Member States**
- ❖ Impact on the life of **30 Mo** Europeans

Examples of EGTC

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Grande Région

- ❖ First EGTC to become management authority of a programme
- ❖ Involves FR, DE, LU, BE
- ❖ www.interreg4a-gr.eu

Examples of EGTC



Archimed

- ❖ Cooperation structure among Mediterranean islands
- ❖ Joint defence of common interests



Examples of EGTC



Hospital de la Cerdanya / Hôpital de Cerdagne

HOSPITAL TRANSFRONTERER DE LA CERDANYA I EL CAPOR
HÔPITAL TRANSFRONTALIER DE CERDAGNE ET CAPOR

Cerdanya cross-border hospital

- ❖ Service to 60,000 inhabitants in the Pyrenees
- ❖ www.hcerdanya.eu



Examples of EGTC



Duero-Douro

- ❖ Rural development: 187 municipalities with an average population of <500 inhabitants
- ❖ Projects:
 - Econometric model for investments
 - Goat livestock to prevent forest fires and create jobs
 - Culture, education
 - 'Vital tourism': Turn the border area into a touristic destination of excellence

www.duero-douro.com

Examples of EGTC



Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean

- ❖ One of the economic poles of Europe
- ❖ Project CreaMed: creating networks between the business incubators www.eurocreamed.eu
- ❖ Winner of the EGTC AWARD 2014

www.euroregio.eu





Potential of the EGTC all over the world



EGTC for development - Potential



What an EGTC could do

- ❖ Be the **managing authority** or the **joint technical secretariat** of a programme
- ❖ Strategic platforms for development → **Cross-border cities**, regions or districts
- ❖ Joint implementation/management of a cross-border **infrastructure**
- ❖ **Network** of cities or regions
- ❖ Bottom-up macro initiative → An **agency**, a **research centre**, an **observatory**, a **campus**, and many more

EGTC for development - Financial



- ❖ The EGTC can implement an EU **programme**
 - The EGTC can be MA or JTS of a programme or part of it
 - It is not necessary to have all the beneficiaries in

- ❖ The EGTC can implement all kind of **projects**
 - **Combining funding** → Integrated actions with structural funds in the EU territory and IPA-ENI-EDF funds in the Third Country
 - **Not combining funding** → It has to be clear that the project is implemented only in EU territory (for structural funds) or only in the Third Country/ies (for development actions). Inform the EEAS!

- ❖ The **staff**
 - Hired by the EGTC → Law applicable according to the convention
 - Detached or seconded staff → Each with their own law

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The role of the Committee of the Regions

CoR opinions

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- ❖ CoR Opinions of Bresso (2008), Núñez Feijóo (2011), Delebarre (2012), Bureau decision 2012
- ❖ 'Preferential instrument for cooperation'
- ❖ Remove bureaucratic obstacles
- ❖ Not only regional policy → Strategy Europe 2020, mainstream all EU policies
- ❖ Awareness at all levels
- ❖ External dimension → Non-EU countries
- ❖ Participation of the civil society

The EGTC Platform

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- ❖ **Platform of EGTC** since 2011, grouping all players in EGTC and cross-border
 - Monitoring
 - Assistance and support
 - Political input
- ❖ **European register** of EGTC in the CoR
- ❖ **Face-to-face** communication:
 - Annual meeting → February 2015
 - Open Days → 8/10/2014
 - Thematic portal
 - www.cor.europa.eu/egtc
 - Social networks   



Thanks for your attention!



Committee of the Regions

Direction of horizontal policies
and networks

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