

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



European and international exchange on territorial co-operation is of key importance for mutual learning on policy development and best practice. This includes macro-regional approaches, such as the recently adopted EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and the development of a similar strategy for the Danube region before the end of 2010. Co-operation and networking between regions and cities has a long tradition in European integration and in EU cohesion policy in particular. Since 1990, three generations of programmes under the INTERREG initiative have developed sophisticated approaches between member states and regions addressing questions of cross-border economic development, labour market, environment, transport and civil society projects and - in Northern Ireland and in the Border Region of Ireland – the issues of peace and reconciliation.

A new legal instrument to strengthen co-operation across borders, the European Grouping on Territorial Co-operation (EGTC), has been in existence since 2006, enabling regional and local authorities from different member states to set up groupings with a legal personality. Currently, eight EGTCs have been concluded, whilst another 18 are under preparation.

During the OPEN DAYS, 27 'cross-border and inter-regional' seminars covered a wide range of themes on issues such as economic development, 'city diplomacy', sustainable development, innovation and healthcare.

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Cross-border cooperation – Lessons learned and steps forward

06C01

6 October 2009,
9:00–10:45

Organiser:

Successful cross-border cooperation
– we make it happen!

Chair:

Bernhard Koehle, European
Territorial Co-operation, Austria-
Czech Republic 2007-13, Austria

Speakers:

Marek Flasiński, Member of the
Board of Lubelskie Region, Lubelskie,
Poland

Arnoldas Abramavicius, Zarasai
Municipality Mayor, Member of the
CoR, Lithuania/Latvia

Alexandra Iliopoulou, Association
of Local Unions of Municipalities and
Communities of Thessalia, Thessalia,
Greece

Kleopatra Theologidou, European
Programs and territorial cooperation,
Veria, Greece

Andres Jaadla, Mayor of Rakvere
City, Estonia

Hajnalka Triteos Meidlik, Regional
Management of Lower Austria,
Lower Austria, Austria

More information:

www.regionalmanagement-noe.at/
www.recom-czat.eu
www.recom-skat.eu
www.recom-huat.eu
www.lsa.lt
www.zarasai.lt
www.thessalia-region.com
www.mediterritage.eu

*“For Lower Austria cross-
border cooperation has
been and will always be
a success story for the
European Regions!”*

(S. Steinhauer, Lower Austria)

Outline

The event started with introductory words of the lead partner of the conglomerate, the regional office of Lower Austria in Brussels, and welcome words from the host of the events, the President of the Galician Government, **Alberto Nunez Feijóo**. The debate was opened by the moderator, **Bernhard Koehle** from Lower Austria, who invited the speakers from the different partner regions to present their projects to the audience, to highlight the challenges they were facing and to share with them the experiences they have made and the knowledge and insights they have gained from successful cross-border cooperation.

Debate

The presentation by **Marek Flasiński** gave a general overview of Lubelskie Region and its experience in cross-border cooperation. The aim was to make the audience familiar with region's location and characteristics. A special attention was put on presenting common work of local communities (Polish and Ukrainian ones) across the external border of the European Union. The good practice of the cooperation shows how the idea of working together successfully on the basis of common historical and cultural heritage is being implemented in Lubelskie Region. **Arnoldas Abramavicius** presented different aspects of cross-border cooperation between Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus. The main theme was “Cross – border cooperation experiences in Eastern Border regions: from culture to infrastructure, example of Zarasai”. He has disclosed various activities of cooperation which started in 1998 after the Euro region “Country of lakes” of 20 municipalities has been established. The main emphasis in this cooperation is a long term fruitful Lithuanian-Latvian cooperation. The projects were developed in the framework of INTERREG (IIIA) and ETBT. The speaker also presented the new possibilities of cross-border cooperation programme until 2013, including cooperation with Belarus. **Alexandra Iliopoulou** presented the subprogram MEDITOUR of the programme MEDITERRITAGE which was implemented in the framework of the Community initiative INTERREG III E South and in which the region of Thessalia effectively participated. Six regions from five Mediterranean countries have participated to MEDITOUR: Spain, France, Italy, Greece and Turkey. The regions were Andalousia, Korsiki, Kalavria, Vasilikata, Thessaly and Mugla. The goal of MEDITOUR was to create a common rural touristic system for the promotion of tourism in the Mediterranean rural areas. Notably, the objectives of the implementation actions of the subprogram MEDITOUR were firstly the protection and promotion of the natural and culture heritage of the Mediterranean rural areas and secondly the development of alternative forms of tourism in the concerned areas. **Kleopatra Theologidou** presented some EU cross-border projects that the municipality of Veria has implemented over the years, in the areas of culture, youth and tourism. In addition, she suggested that EU cross-border projects should focus more, in the future, on the promotion of sustainable tourism and the regeneration of urban devaluated areas. **Andres Jaadla** gave a presentation about the city's work within the frames of Covenant of Mayors and Rakvere's aspirations towards a Green City and Rakvere's methods for achieving those goals through cross-border cooperation. Four cross-border projects were presented, all of which have energy efficiency or environment in focus. **Hajnalka Triteos Meidlik** presented RECOM - a Lower Austrian cross-border project with the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Austrian provinces Styria, Burgenland and Vienna. The main goal of the project is the support of local and regional actors in cross-border activities, in building up cross-border partnerships and networks and advancement of knowledge management between the partner regions. Besides, she presented briefly some examples of cross-border cooperation projects in Lower Austria in the field of health care, language learning, cooperation between micro regions as well as regional development that have been and are still successfully supported by RECOM.

Conclusions

- All speakers and participants agreed that cross-border cooperation played and will always play an essential role for European regions and European integration.
- The following crucial factors for successful, sustainable cross-border cooperation were identified:
- Investing time to find the right partners, involving all relevant actors from the whole border area and involving the national level where necessary (win-win situation)
- Focusing on one common vision which is relevant to the region – don't try to do everything;
- Identifying common goals, developing a clear action plan on how to achieve them and defining measurable results;
- The participants hope that the crucial issue of territorial cooperation will also in the future have a significant role within regional policy, get more attention on the European and national level and will be even integrated in wider EU-strategies, e.g. macro-regional strategies;
- The foreseen simplifications and clarifications, especially on administrative issues, that especially take into account the specific needs of cross-border cooperation programmes, are heavily needed and welcomed.

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Barents – Russia, regional cooperation

Outline

The workshop focussed on the opportunities and challenges for the northernmost European regions in inter-regional Barents cooperation. The speakers showed best practices and explained how the regions have gained from such cooperation. The themes discussed were regarding political issues, business development and the cultural view. The northern European regions have a long history in Barents cooperation and this capital should be spread to other regions in Europe. Both in the view of the close Nordic cooperation and our cooperation with Russia.

Debate

Rune Rafaelsen, Director of the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, explained how Barents cooperation is first and foremost a peace project and that it is an administrative area but there is still a lot of practical cooperation. Local actors can be much more creative than national ones, it is something we call public diplomacy. East-west cooperation is normal and part of everyday life in the Barents region. The Norwegian Barents Secretariat are constantly looking for projects to finance and it can be culture, competence, indigenous people, businesses, environment, health or youth projects. **Kari Aalto**, Chairman of the Barents Regional Committee thinks focus should be on the resources in the Barents region. Both the region as well as the whole Union should start looking at self-sufficiency in certain areas. "We have a high level of education and technology, a lot of natural resources and the ability for refinement and added value production, but there is a great need for improvement of logistics." Mr Aalto pointed out that focus in the newly launched Baltic Sea Strategy is very much on the south part of the Baltic area from a Barents perspective. **Andreas Lind**, Managing Director at Norrbotten Chamber of Commerce talked about the importance of the Barents region for local businesses. Mr Lind presented the Nordic Business Link project where businesses are encouraged to cooperate in the region and so far 243 companies in the region have taken part. He also gave a wish list for improved trade in the Barents area: a) Improved infrastructure, b) More streamlined administration for trade, c) Faster and more business oriented customs, d) An increased self-confidence. **Yevgeny Nikora**, Speaker of the Murmansk Regional Duma highlighted the importance of the Barents area as a transport node and explained that it is still a transit region as processing is not that developed yet. Mr Nikora gave an overview of the 85 international projects his region is taking part in and talked about SME support and business incubators that are being run in partnership with Norway and Sweden amongst others. When it comes to Barents cooperation Mr Nikora said that it obviously gives very positive results and that it is very practical. His view is that it is the understanding of each other's cultures, aims and requirements that creates a real habit of cooperation.

Conclusions

In the discussions that followed the panel was asked for one focus point each that makes the Barents region a functional and active region, and the panelists agreed on:

- Making use of all the clever people in the region
- Understanding our history, we have a heritage of cooperation and it is natural for us to work together
- Economic cooperation needs to be developed east-west
- More and better job opportunities for young people

06C02

6 October 2009,
09:30-12:00

Organiser:

Northern Sparsely Populated Areas

Chair:

Anna Lund, The International Barents Secretariat

Speakers:

Rune Rafaelsen, The Norwegian Barents Secretariat

Kari Aalto, Chairman of the Barents Regional Committee

Andreas Lind, Norrbotten Chamber of Commerce

Yevgeny Nikora, Murmansk Regional Duma

More information:

News from the Barents area:

www.BarentsObserver.com

International Barents Secretariat :

www.beac.st/

NSPA-network :

www.nspa-network.eu

"East-west cooperation is normal and part of everyday life in the Barents region."

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Focusing on citizens: Innovative policies for health

06C03

6 October 2009,
09:30-13:00

Organiser:

BIRTH: Bringing Innovative Regions together for Health

Chair:

Dr. Vincenzo Costigliola, President of European Medical Association

Speakers:

Olivier Brunet, European Commission, DG Research

Florian Zerzer, Provincial Ministry in charge of Health, Social Affairs and Family, Autonomous Province of South Tyrol, Italy

Jacek Kaperczak MD, Marshal's Office, Opolskie Region, Poland

José Clérigues-Belloch, Farmacia y Productos Sanitarios (Conselleria de Sanidad), Comunitat Valenciana, Spain

Beáta Habeková, Department of Social Services, Trenčín Region, Slovakia

More information:

Autonomous Province of Bolzano/

Bozen:

www.euroregione.info/en

Regione Lombardia:

www.regione.lombardia.it

Outline

Olivier Brunet contrived to show the weight of the Commission's initiatives. Within the 7th Framework Programme the initiative Regions of knowledge and health responds to a need to increase the overall capacity of regional players to foster science and technology-based economic development. The official call for proposals will be open until January 2010 and is addressed to consortia of at least 3 regional research-driven clusters from 3 different Member States. Health related issues are the thematic priorities. **Florian Zerzer** presented the Foundation Vital, a public foundation active in health promotion. He described the three key areas, where Foundation Vital is operating: Healthy Company, Healthy Municipality, Healthy Nutrition. These are the fields that directly interest the citizen; therefore information, evaluation and active involvement of the citizen are crucial to promote health and prevent diseases. **Jacek Kaperczak** introduced the integrated system of complex cardiologic treatment (pre- and post-OP) implemented in the Opolskie Region, expanding on cooperation strategies between public and private health care in consideration of Cardiologic Society guidelines and their effect on the increase of availability of specific healthcare and prevention to the European average. He then proceeded to underline the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation in the prevention of cardiac diseases. **José Clérigues-Belloch** expounded on the successful introduction of SIP electronic card in the Valencia region and on the functioning of the underlying integrated electronic systems which allows for all medical and therapeutic information on individual patients to be centrally stored for the benefit of medical professionals. The issue of privacy was addressed consequently. The implementation of the system in the region of Valencia is in full progress, Dr. Clérigues stated, and will help to cut down on bureaucracy.

Conclusions

Innovation is not merely a matter of introduction of new technologies – though that does play a relevant part – but is a process which must naturally proceed from the search for innovative solutions for the underlying operational and organizational tissue, and must be centered on the patient (both as client and as citizen). The challenging examples of best practice which were extensively discussed shed light on the practical aspects of the problem of innovation as referring to the quality of the offer of health care in terms of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation – the care, as it were, "from the cradle to the grave".

*"Make the healthier
choice the easier choice!"*

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Territorial cooperation: Leverage for innovation

Outline

The workshop was opened by who started by **Javier Sánchez** presenting the structure of the debate with two different sets of questions to be discussed: the first more political introducing a kind of assessment on the convenience of territorial cooperation and to know why territorial cooperation is needed and what is the added value for local governments in terms of innovation and competitiveness. The political questions included some kind of assessment, some evaluation. The other set of questions had a more technical focus to know which have been the benefits and disappointments of working through a network for territories, and which indicators can be used to analyse the impact in your territory from the involvement in networks? So those were the set of questions that speakers were confronted with, and that had to be used later to organize a debate with the audience.

Debate

Maurizio Fontanili pointed out that exchanging and networking is first of all an investment in terms of time, competences and financial and human resources. That is why they think that activism on the European scene has to be a well proportioned investment, not only aimed at visibility and social-networking. Still it can be said that the investment they made is slowly but constantly paying back, not only in terms of projects funded by the EU, but mostly in terms of awareness, development and new ideas, in other words "innovation". **Jerzy Kropiwnicki** highlighted the City's participation in numerous networking initiatives, both those with a broad operational spectrum and those focused on specific industrial aspects. He wanted to indicate the advantages of transfer of knowledge, exchange of experiences and good practices which, once implemented as part of partnership projects, helped improving the living standards in the City. The high potential of creativity and innovation latent in any and all networking cooperation and partnership initiatives was also pointed out. **Peter J. Finnegan** showed how Dublin is promoting all aspects of innovation in the city encouraging networking opportunities and raising public awareness of the creativity and innovation that is happening on a daily basis and on all different levels in the city. With his examples was very evident the relationship between scientific progress (technological and innovative) and the improvements in the standard of people's daily lives. These achievements have only been possible through constant cooperation and networking. The Dublin experience shows that they have their own system on connecting may be the three layers: the international, the general, the different sectors of the local government, and third, the civil sector. **Ocatvi de la Varga** focused on the aims and benefits of cooperation through networks, both on technical and political aspects. The speaker also proved how networks in Europe contribute towards the global objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion that the Lisbon Agenda is aiming for. He also highlighted the necessary transformation of territories starting by involving departments of the public administration in European issues to develop effective alliances and complementarities to better coordinate these European territories taking part in networks. **Peter Radushev** presented several innovative projects that are under implementation in the Varna region. The main example given by the speaker has been a project of the High technical business incubator of Varna (HTBI-Varna), which is a non-profit organization. The association operates as public utility, which is designed to stimulate the regional economy by supporting the organization of high-tech industries, construction of facilities to support entrepreneurship and innovation, providing consultancy and information services to entrepreneurs, training for upgrading skills of the research in the market environment. He also underlined the significance of constant communication, cooperation and partnerships between the European local administrations to meet the objectives of the Lisbon strategy.

Conclusions

Mr. Sánchez concluded the workshop by summing up the discussions as follows:

- Networks are important and useful because they can transform the life in our cities. The presented experiences provide real life, real time solutions at their own scales for the advancement at the local and regional economies of Europe in this time of crisis.
- Before being deeply involved in a network, in an international partnership, local governments first of all should have to build at home the domestic partnership that they need to be strong in a specific sector. International exchange and partnership becomes useful and interesting once territorial aspects have been taken in charge.
- Networking is needed to attain new objectives of local territories because goals and challenges are changing, are becoming more global and creative and innovative cooperation, represented by networks, is one of the best tools to afford them.
- It is definitely important the way how networks and networking are presented to citizens and how results and outcomes become more and more transparent as well as all the departments of our local and regional governments.

06C04

6 October 2009,
10:00-12:15

Organiser:

Barcelona Provincial Council

Chair:

Javier Sánchez, European Centre for the Regions, European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), Barcelona.

Speakers:

Maurizio Fontanili, Province of Mantova, Italy
Jerzy Kropiwnicki, Mayor of the City of Łódź, Poland
Peter J. Finnegan, International Relations & Research, Dublin City Council, Ireland
Ocatvi de la Varga, European Cooperation Office, Barcelona Provincial Council, Spain
Peter Radushev, International Relations, Projects and Programmes, Varna Municipality, Bulgaria

More information:

Barcelona Provincial Council:
www.diba.cat
Mantova Province:
www.provincia.mantova.it
Dublin City:
www.dublincity.ie
City of Łódź:
www.brussels.lodz.pl
City of Varna:
www.varna.bg

"Innovating means finding new and more efficient ways for facing local problems on benefit of the citizens: the value of knowledge and competences is crucial. Knowledge grows locally, and should be cultivated by research, experimentation and exchange within networks."

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Governance models in European cross-border co-operation, EGTC in particular

06C06

6 October 2009,
11:15 – 13:00

Organiser:

Successful Cross-Border Cooperation
– We Make it Happen!

Chair:

Olivier Baudalet, European
Commission, DG Regional Policy

Speakers:

Natalia Blázquez Larraz,
Consortium

Tunnel Bielsa, Transpirenaica
Foundation, Spain

Liliane Maillard, Euregio Meuse-
Rhine, Belgium-Germany-The
Netherlands

Sören Bollmann, Słubice City Hall,
Poland

José Manuel Blanco González,
Foreign Affairs Department of the
Galician Government, Spain

More information:

Lubuskie:

www.urbact.eu/egtc

Aragon:

www.bielsa-aragnouet.org

*"We just ought to create
common symbols e.g. a
cross-border cooperation
centre right on the
border, common local
celebrations or we might
show to the public good
examples of politicians,
company leaders or
social activists who
are able to cooperate,
because they are sharing
a common language."*

(Sören Bollmann, Lubuskie Region,
Poland)

Outline

The workshop was a continuation of an earlier debate - 06C01 - on lessons learned and steps forward concerning the cross border cooperation. The main aim of the workshop was to concentrate on the new European legal instrument designed to facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation - European Grouping for Territorial Co-operation. The speakers' contributions mainly focused on presenting the first European best practices of usage of EGTC as well as the experience of regions still in the process of defining their governance models.

Debate

The debate was chaired by the moderator, **Olivier Baudalet**. He opened the workshop by inviting speakers to present their EGTC projects as well as the audience to contribute actively to the discussion. **José Manuel Blanco González** presented a Working Community Galicia and North Portugal established in 1991 in order to stimulate its cross-border cooperation. As he said this cooperation has turned out to be very successful in terms of economic dynamisation, research, transport, environment and in increasing the volume of interregional trade. In the framework of a new era of cooperation between public and private actors and with the EGTC as a new instrument, the partners now face several challenges: a better integration, a more appropriate legislation, development of more strategic projects, the need for more financial resources. The EGTC will execute the cooperation policies defined jointly by the Galician Government and the regional authority in Portugal. It is a fundamental tool to develop this cross-border cooperation, but it does not replace all the Working Community tasks and activities. EGTC is just a tool, not the cross-border cooperation itself. **Sören Bollmann** presented six main elements of successful cross-border co-operation, based on the experiences between Słubice and Frankfurt (Oder) within the URBACT project EGTC. Considering the motto "operating as if it was one common city", he pointed out strategies of gaining political support, building common working structures, creating a common vision about future mutual development or how in the same time achieving short term results and implementing long term strategies. The presentation given by **Liliane Maillard** was a shared presentation on behalf of German Speaking Community of Belgium and the Dutch Province of Limburg who are partners in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. The press officer discussed achievements and good practices of the Euregio so far and presented its new revised objectives for the upcoming years. The presentation demonstrated that the possibility to create an EGTC might contribute to achieve these new core objectives. **Natalia Blázquez** presented the Partnership for a Common Management on the cross-border tunnel Bielsa-Aragouet - an essential local communication link between Aragon (ES) and Hautes Pyrénées (FR). The Governments decided to create an entity with its own legal personality in order to address jointly the maintenance of this infrastructure. The Consortium obtained EU funds (GESCONTRANS project) under the Interreg IV A "France-Spain-Andorra". Some of the objectives of the project are the integral improvement of the security of the tunnel, what contributes to facilitate transport transit in the area; the creation of a common area of development and the removal of "cross border" effect; the improvement of the quality of life of local population by enhancing mobility and cooperation. This has been a successful cooperation experience, which will continue next year with the required works to improve the security of the tunnel.

Conclusions

The discussion with about 100 participants from all over Europe revealed very interesting examples on how to focus on common goals in spite of significant challenges like language barriers, economic differences or historical prejudices. Moreover, all speakers and participants agreed on the following:

- EGTC should be seen as a method enabling better cross-border cooperation rather than as a goal itself.
- As there are only 8 EGTCs established in Europe more encouragement from the European Commission is needed among member states.
- One common vision - relevant to the EGTC regions and built as a tool to find practical solutions - should be created and agreed to by all parties.
- There should also be an option to use this instrument on multi-governance level especially in those countries where certain competences are divided among regional and governmental authorities.



Networking workshop on success stories in applied innovations for health

Outline

The workshop was opened by **Gabriele Pastorino** who defined the concept of innovation in healthcare: technology should be patient oriented and related to the organizational process. He introduced the European Observatory on Health Systems & Policies which provides an innovative approach to health system analysis, country monitoring and dissemination. **Marie Lagarrigue** presented the EU Health Strategy, showing aims and strategies but in particular focusing on future challenges, such as ageing population and workforce, migration and cross-border healthcare, growing burden of chronic and lifestyle related disease and growing health gaps. New technologies and innovation can support safety, quality and access of healthcare, for instance through e-health. A goal for the EC is to reduce health inequalities among citizens. Regarding the financial instruments, she stressed the opportunities given by the Health Programme 2008-2013, as well as the FP7 for Research and the Structural Funds. She underlined the need for EC and the Regions to strengthen their cooperation in specific areas.

Debate

Roberto Zuffada explained the Health and Social Services IT System (SISS) in Regione Lombardia: a set of ICT tools and systems to improve and rationalise the regional health care processes. Throughout a smart card based technology, the system ensures a secure access to the healthcare network both to citizens and professionals, providing citizens with a large number of services (data access via web, e-prescriptions, booking and payment, etc.) and professionals with tailored patient information. He also stressed that the Lombard smart card includes the European Health Insurance Card. **Manfred Andergassen** introduced the participants to the foundation "Stiftung Vital" created by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen with the aim of planning and implementing projects in health promotion and collecting and disseminating information about preventable diseases and health-promoting factors. In particular, he presented 3 projects of the foundation: "Impresa Sana", on promotion of healthy workplaces, "Healthy Break", on improvement of nutrition choice and nutrition behaviour in schools, "Healthy nutrition for 2", targeted to future mothers and fathers and professionals of the sector. **Juan Alfonso Bataller** presented the population database of Valencia's Region, named SIP (Population Information System), which provides an exhaustive register of patients of the public health regional system, with basic and qualitative data, managed through a smart card. SIP is now the main gate for the health system map management, demographic recognition of population and its dynamics, planning and evaluation. In the future, it will become the key element for consultation of the patient medical record from anywhere, via the health internet portal.

Conclusions

Marie Lagarrigue concluded the workshop by summing up the regional presentations and by stressing the most important points and the common words of the workshop: innovation for inclusive processes in favour of citizens. In particular, the regional experiences showed that we can use e-health to improve the citizens' life.

06C07

**6 October 2009,
14:30-16:15**

Organiser:

BIRTH - Bringing Innovative Regions Together for Health

Chair:

Gabriele Pastorino, European Observatory on Health Systems & Policies WHO European Centre for Health Policy

Speakers:

Marie Lagarrigue, European Commission, DG SANCO

Roberto ZUFFADA, International Health Projects, Regione Lombardia
Manfred ANDERGASSEN, Stiftung Vital, Autonomous Province of South Tyrol

Juan Alfonso BATALLER, Valencia Regional Health Service

More information:

Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen:

www.euroregione.info/en

Regione Lombardia:

www.regione.lombardia.it

"Better health for all!"

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Local solutions in a time of crisis

06C09

**6 October 2009,
14:30-16:15**

Organiser:

Local Authorities Acting for Europe

Moderator:

Béla Dajka, Directorate for Communication, Press and Protocol, Committee of the Regions

Speakers:

Jean-Louis Destans, General Council of the Department of Eure, France

Gilbert Mitterrand, General Council of the Department of Gironde, France

Jean-Marie Buchheit, 1st commission of the Department of Moselle, France

Juan Andrés Tovar, Diputación of Caceres, Spain

Valentin Cortes, Diputación of Badajoz, Spain

More information

www.opendays.europa.eu

Outline

Béla Dajka, moderator of the workshop, introduced the workshop by giving a few thoughts on the subject of "The crisis and the solutions brought to it by the local intermediate authorities, such as departments and provinces". He underlined namely the fact that local collectivities really have a role to play in this crisis, where citizens are hit very hard by unemployment and everyday difficulties. One question is then asked: how to react to this crisis at the local level, as the solutions seem to be so far from the citizens and the field?

Debate

Gilbert Mitterrand said that even if the approaches of the local collectivities are different, they are not necessarily uncoordinated, scattered and micro-local. According to him, local authorities must not only take emergency solutions but also reinforce their structural policies which already exist. In this way, the Department concentrated its efforts on the most precarious public, the most hit economic sectors and the most underprivileged territories. This reinforcement of the local policies must be operated at the local level, but it must also be done by other actors, such as the Regions, the State or even the European Union. **Juan Andrés Tovar** states that Spanish Provinces have to work mainly with municipalities with less than 20,000 inhabitants, which is the case of 219 municipalities out of 221 on the territory of Caceres. The Provinces receive fewer resources from the State but they still have to help the citizens and municipalities at least in the same way, and Caceres succeeded in it until now. The Government relied on local collectivities to find solutions and implement them even momentarily, for instance in the construction and public work sector. He underlines the difficulty of the job because Provinces have not a big population but a vast territory. **Jean-Louis Destans** says that the Department of Eure immediately suffered from the effects of the crisis because the local main economic sectors were directly concerned: the automobile industry (and its subcontractors) and the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries (Glaxo-Evreux lost 1,000 jobs). There were several solutions brought by the Department mostly coordinated and the local actors managed to find very quickly common policies. For instance, there were structural solutions with a support to the local economy and efforts in sectors which could not be delocalized such as roads and construction. **Valentin Cortes** states that unemployment is real, reaching 25%. Out of 73,000 unemployed people, 50,000 have no professional experience. Moreover, the most hit sectors are those of construction and services. According to him, elected local representatives must take the most out of the different public funds available. To face the crisis, Badajoz developed "an employment plan" in cooperation with the savings banks. In addition to that, Mr. Cortes says that local actors must act together even if, depending on the territory, policies have to be adapted and well-targeted. **Jean-Marie Buchheit** underlines the border character of the Department of Moselle, with the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, the German Länder of Saarland and Rheinland-Pfalz, and Belgium. The population is mostly bilingual and the quality of labor force is high. It made it possible for the population to cross the borders to find a job (95,000 people nowadays). Three main policies constitute the economic development plan, that is to say: keeping the industrial fabric, a high quality of labor force and the opening to the close territories. Other initiatives were undertaken, such as the creation of "department megazones".

Conclusions

Many questions were asked afterwards, of which one of the most important ones was: "Are there positive signs about an end of the crisis?" to which Jean-Louis Destans answered that there are technical effects of an economic upturn and managers seem to be more pleased with the situation. However, this doesn't mean the end of the social crisis which is only beginning and nothing indicates that the upturn will last. Mr. Cortes has the same impression of positive signs. The problem is that they don't have confirmed data to prove it and there is a confidence crisis and thus a decrease in consumption. The end of the crisis is awaited by all and that is the reason why local authorities are perfectly aware of the fact that they must react and concentrate on the implementation of actions to help the citizens to face this economic and social crisis.

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Climate change and cohesion as challenges for cooperation in Trans-European Transport projects

Outline

The workshop was opened by **Roger Read** introducing the speakers and their subjects. The Trans-European Transport projects TEN-T 1, TEN-T 18 and TEN-T 22 have big impact for the Nuremberg Metropolitan Region, giving some best-practice-examples for the future of European Transport: New challenges such as climate change and further economic growth, international competitiveness and cohesion must also be seen in connection with future Trans-European transport policy. The workshop therefore focuses on the development of an intermodal rail freight system for the TEN-T 1 transport axis (Berlin–Nuremberg–Bologna–Palermo) for trans-alpine transport to Italy and its impacts on CO₂ emissions and traffic loads. Projects and plans in and involving the Danube region will be presented based on the transport axes TEN-T 18 (Rhine/Meuse–Main–Danube inland waterway) and TEN-T 22 (rail transport: Athens–Sofia–Vienna–Prague–Nuremberg/Dresden).

Debate

Harald Leupold introduced the Nuremberg Metropolitan Region as a “gateway Region” to Eastern and Southern Europe, and the Nuremberg Freight Village, being the largest and most significant multifunctional logistic Centre in southern Germany. Its strategy is to increase the terminal infrastructure and develop intermodal chains along the three TEN-T projects. A fascinating project is “ChinaLandbridge”, a regular containertrain-connection between the FV Port of Nuremberg and Changping/Beijing. The transit time is planned with 15-18 days, being faster than seafreight and cheaper than airfreight. **Dr. Gerhard Jakisch** introduced the strategic DonauHanse® project: Its aim is to develop the strategic implementation plan in the fields of transport, environmental protection, energy security, the economy, security, education, tourism, culture, work, health and social affairs as contribution to the “EU strategy for the Danube area”. The project will be submitted as an integrated project in the two transnational European Territorial Cooperation Programmes Central Europe and South East Europe. One objective of this project is to show that partners from different funding areas within and outside the European Union can co-operate to realise one vision. **Alessandro Marino** pointed out that the development of the intermodal corridors TEN across Italy, in particular TEN-T 1, provides advantages as connection between Central Europe and countries of the Mediterranean Area and of the East. Italy has made great effort for the realization of the European corridors. An outstanding example is the cooperation between the Port of Nuremberg and the “Quadrante Europa of Verona”, also considering the savings of CO₂-emissions: 77% by good transport on rail in comparison to transport by lorry. Therefore the development of those intermodal connections responds to the demands of the economy and of the environment.

Conclusions

The workshop illustrated the ambitions of a Metropolitan Region in strengthening its position of a Gateway Region to Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. It made clear that cooperation is a key factor in playing a prominent role and matching the challenges of climate change, further economic growth and international competitiveness.

06C10

6 October 2009,
14:30-16:15

Organiser:

Nuremberg Metropolitan Region

Chair:

Roger Read, METREX, Glasgow,
Great Britain

Speakers:

Dr. Gerhard Jakisch, DONAUHANSE,
Vienna City Administration, Austria
Harald Leupold, Freight traffic
center Nürnberg-Roth GmbH,
Germany
Alessandro Marino, Italian Chamber
of Trade, Munich, Germany

More information:

Italian Chamber of Trade:
<http://www.italcam.de>
Donauhanse:
<http://www.donauhanse.net>
Nuremberg-Roth Port Authority:
[http://www.bayernhafen.de/cms/
index3.php/81fe3e/139/1078/-](http://www.bayernhafen.de/cms/index3.php/81fe3e/139/1078/)

"Due to its geographic location and excellent transportation infrastructure, the Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg carries the EU-Title of Gateway to eastern Europe."

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Multilevel governance and the implementation of the EU-Strategy for the Baltic Sea region: From proposal to action!

06C11

**6 October 2009,
14:30-16:15**

Organisers:

Baltic Sea Group

Chair:

Olav Jern, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia

Speakers:

Oda H. Sletnes, Norwegian Mission to the EU

Colin Wolfe, European Commission, DG Regional Policy

Gianluca Spinaci, Forward Studies Unit, Committee of the Regions

Prof. Dr. Andreas Føllesdal, University of Oslo

Dr. Merten Barnert, Information Office Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Pekka Sauri, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki

More information:

European Commission strategy for the Baltic Sea Region:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic/index_en.htm
Committee of the Regions White Paper on Multilevel Governance:
www.cor.europa.eu/governance

Outline

Realising the potential importance of the EU's first macro-regional strategy, the Baltic Sea Strategy, members of the Baltic Sea Group arranged a seminar on the possible methods of implementation of the strategy. Arguing that the heterogeneous constitutional structures of the states around the Baltic Sea make a Multilevel Governance approach ideal for the task, the members of the Baltic Sea Group have invited politicians, scholars and stakeholders to talk about their visions, challenges and opportunities. By the end of the seminar, participants will hopefully have gained deeper insight into topics like the European Commission's intent with a macro-regional strategy, the Committee of the Regions' views as expressed in their White Paper on Multilevel Governance, the views of regional authorities as well as an academic analysis of the Baltic Sea Strategy.

Debate

Oda Sletnes outlined the different ways Norwegian local and regional authorities are connected to their European counterparts, through sector programs, INTERREG, or bilaterally. Ambassador Sletnes continued by arguing that, although not a member of the EU, Norwegian interests coincide with European more often than not. Addressing the second topic of the workshop, the Ambassador argued that in order to successfully implement such an ambitious strategy as the Baltic Sea Strategy, the multi-level approach is the only real alternative. **Olav Jern** was the moderator of the seminar. After welcoming the participants to the seminar he started by expressing a wish for a fruitful and informational discussion around the topic of the seminar. He continued by giving a brief overview of the Baltic Sea Strategy, the four pillars, 18 focus areas and 80 flagship projects, before introducing the first topical speaker. **Colin Wolfe** gave a presentation focusing on the second part of the theme, namely "from proposal to action". Wolfe's speech gave the audience a better understanding of the action plan linked to the Baltic Sea Strategy. In order for the strategy to succeed, the coordinators in the Commission need to be able to report the progress made in their priority area, while the project leaders must receive all the support they require, and in such a way that they can adapt to an evolving reality. **Gianluca Spinaci** spoke of the role of the regional level in EU decision-making. Spinaci argued that this had been neglected so far, especially seen as how the regional level is the one enjoying the most trust in the citizens according to surveys. The Committee of the Regions is preparing a White Paper on Multilevel Governance, in which they present 13 major proposals for how to best implement such a system. The ongoing consultation process ends November 30th. **Andreas Føllesdal** gave an informative analysis of the challenges and opportunities connected with the Baltic Sea Strategy. Føllesdal began by presenting the position from which the Commission started, namely the challenge of finding a holistic approach to the Baltic Sea area. Next he outlined three main challenges to the current strategy, before finally arguing that the main opportunities in the current strategy included finding a system for increased accountability, better cost-sharing, and the potential role of a regional-level, external overseer of the European Commission. **Merten Barnert** gave a presentation on specific examples of how Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (MV) has chosen to approach the Baltic Sea Strategy. The focus has been on the tourism part of the 12th point in the Action Plan - maintaining and reinforcing attractiveness. MV envisages an important role for their State Chancellery, whose responsibility could be to coordinate priorities in the actions and flagship projects (on tourism) if the Multilevel Governance approach is embraced by the Member States. **Pekka Sauri** gave a presentation on an initiative from the Finnish cities of Turku and Helsinki called the Baltic Sea Challenge. It is aimed at harnessing the resources necessary to clean the Baltic Sea. The initiative meets the challenges of 21st Century governance by adopting a holistic approach; National and local level working together with their regional networks, companies, educational institutions and NGOs.

Conclusions

After the individual presentations the speakers participated in a panel discussion with the audience. Colin Wolfe opened the debate by defending a European Commission statement that the Baltic Sea Strategy will have only benefits, while admitting that perhaps they had become over-enthusiastic in the face of what has been deemed a new European political invention for transnational cooperation. At the end of the day the participants seemed to agree that, if nothing else, the Baltic Sea Strategy had great potential for becoming part of a strong model of governance for the implementation of European policy goals.



City Diplomacy: A tool for building measures of confidence

Outline

The seminar was an opportunity to demonstrate that city diplomacy has an important role to play, especially during these challenging times. By local and regional authorities working together across borders, city diplomacy can be understood to be a dynamic instrument for promoting social cohesion, environmental sustainability and conflict prevention. It is therefore an essential tool for creating a stable environment for citizens. This seminar was an opportunity to analyse the role and context of city diplomacy as a promoter of cross-border cooperation as well as to exchange experience and ideas for future developments.

Debate

Isidoro Gottardo opened the seminar by welcoming all the speakers and guests. City diplomacy, he noted, gives a new dimension to the principle of subsidiarity by shifting diplomatic capabilities from the national level and transferring them directly to the cities. Given the importance of the topic for citizens, he noted that the Open Days were a great occasion to hold an in-depth debate and to go beyond the usual inter-institutional discussions. **Eleni Loucaides** stressed that local and regional authorities, the levels of governance closest to citizens, are more aware of people's needs and best placed to determine and respond at times of crises or conflict. These authorities are also more often able to anticipate citizens' needs. She presented the concept of City Diplomacy as outlined in her opinion, which was adopted in February, and examples of best practise including the sewerage project in Nicosia. **Dubravka Suica** agreed that diplomacy on a local level can strengthen relations between countries and added that "the secret of the triumph of the Dubrovnik Republic was the recognition that the key to prosperity lies in the balance between the independence and alliances." She added that in a time of globalization, Europe needs to look for coherence, which will be easier with the cooperation of local and regional authorities due to their ability to establish practical ties of cooperation with counterparts in other regions. **Lellos Demetriades** shared his experience as a mayor of Nicosia for 30 years, by outlining the cooperation he had with Mr Akinci on the completion of important projects such as the sewage network. He also stressed that in his experience "you do not necessarily write to the government for its official approval on a controversial matter, but rather you should make sure that they will not react violently when you start doing whatever you think is right." **Mustafa Akinci** presented the conflict in Cyprus from an historical point of view and his experience from the cooperation in Nicosia. In his opinion, cooperation is often possible and forthcoming if there is mutual need. Leadership qualities and empathy are also very important elements for a successful cooperation. **David Robinson** spoke about how Belfast's good relations programme has helped to create a more stable environment in which people can live together peacefully in a climate of democracy, progress and prosperity. However, he added that there are still many challenges that need to be faced. **Kyriacos Charalambous**, explained that the role of the European Commission is to provide support to projects on the ground rather than to act as a political vehicle. This is because it is important that people have a sense of ownership. He concluded by saying "the testimonies that we have heard today, as well as the experience in Northern Ireland, confirm the underlining theme in the CoR opinion about the important role that local authorities can play and do play in the field of City Diplomacy: building measures of confidence."

Conclusions

- City Diplomacy can serve as a useful tool in times of crisis for the local and regional authorities.
- Committee of the Regions has the capacity to act as a catalyst and to give new impetus to initiatives such as City Diplomacy through its own policies by promoting for instance the exchange of best practices
- Cooperation of all stakeholders is essential in order for conflicts to be resolved.

06C12

6 October 2009,
14:30-16:15

Organiser:

EPP Group, Committee of the Regions

Chair:

Isidoro Gottardo, President of the EPP Group, Committee of the Regions

Speakers:

Eleni Loucaides, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Municipal Councillor of Nicosia, Cyprus
David Robinson, Belfast City Council, Northern Ireland
Mustafa Akinci who acted formerly in the capacity of the Leader of the Turkish Cypriot community of Nicosia
Lellos Demetriades who acted formerly in the capacity of the Leader of the Greek Cypriot community of Nicosia
Dubravka Suica, Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe
Kyriacos Charalambous, European Commission, DG Regional Policy

More information:

EPP/COR GROUP:
www.epp.cor.europa.eu

"We live in a time of unpredictable changes and ever more frequent conflicts which do not afford us the luxury of isolation and unilateralism. Ours is a period in which the cooperation of national governments, international organizations, local and regional organizations, and NGOs is no longer a desired route but a necessity."

(Eleni Loucaides)

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Capitalisation and knowledge management for effective European territorial co-operation

06C13
6 October 2009,
14:30-16:15

Organiser:

European Commission, DG Regional Policy

Chair:

John Walsh, European Commission, DG Regional Policy

Speakers:

Melody Houk, URBACT
Francesco Saverio Liguori, INTERACT
Claus Schultze, ERRIN

More information:

URBACT:
urbact.eu
INTERACT:
www.interact-eu.net
ERRIN:
www.errin.eu
DG Regional Policy:
www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/innovation/rfec.htm

Outline

The workshop was moderated by **John Walsh**. He presented key knowledge management (KM) concepts from enterprises active in the knowledge economy on how knowledge can be generated, coordinated and transferred. He made clear that data does not equal information and that information is not automatically knowledge. Tools are available for 1) connecting people to information, 2) connecting people to people and 3) initiatives in organisations designed to retain knowledge. He offered a few thoughts to the attending Managing Authorities and outlined that KM and good practise exchange can only go together. The challenge for the Managing Authorities is to keep up with the development so that they are in a position to help their regions. Mr Walsh explained that business and industry already actively use knowledge management that could provide inspiration for the public sector.

Debate

Melody Houk presented the URBACT programme and its focus on capitalisation. She argued that there is no capitalisation without dissemination. Key capitalisation tools in URBACT include the use of thematic experts, common methodologies to guide the networks' work (connecting people and documenting knowledge), policy summary documents and thematic poles connecting networks. **Francesco Saverio Liguori** presented the KM and capitalisation activities as a bridge between past experience and the future of ETC and making an important contribution to the objectives of ETC. In his view better KM is needed across ETC programmes to be able to provide evidence of the added value but also to lead to more effective exploitation of results. The KEEP initiative, collecting data on over 10,000 INTERREG III will soon be launched and facilitate access to a wealth of thematic and organisational information. **Claus Schultze** introduced the ERRIN membership-based network, which brings together regional representations, public authorities and universities working on regional research and innovation themes. KM is absolutely crucial to their common work, particularly with regard to promoting regional expertise and for developing innovative projects. He explained how they use different tools to facilitate networking and knowledge exchange and talked about the challenges of retaining the knowledge exchanged. A current initiative is to develop regional profiles in the RTD&I field which should eventually go on line. To avoid loss of knowledge due to staff changes they work on documenting their work. He raised the challenge of knowledge management and coordination within and between SF programmes and across EU policy fields – e.g. Cohesion, CIP and FP7 – and across existing KM platforms – e.g. Regions for Economic Change, Regions of Knowledge, ProlInno/Europe Innova and COR Lisbon Monitoring platform. Open online platforms and web 2.0. tools, such as blogs, wikis, etc. can be interesting in this respect, but a major challenge is how to incentivise individuals to contribute. In an active discussion the priority and challenge for managing authorities of integrating thematic knowledge into their work, the question of the ownership of knowledge and information generated and the importance of people in knowledge management were raised. Interventions from INTERREG IVC and ESPON also recognised the relevance of capitalisation to their work. With regard to capitalisation it was remarked that it should be accompanied by a KM approach managing project and programme quality all along the project/programme cycle and not wait for the finished products to be disseminated. Another point made was the danger of loss of knowledge at the end of various cooperation activities and the need for a knowledge base/market.

Conclusions

Mr Walsh concluded the workshop by summing up the discussions as follows:

- Knowledge management is the business of business. Public authorities need to learn how to talk the "language" of knowledge management and develop it for their needs.
- Taking ownership of information and knowledge generated in the public sector is increasingly important. ETC is contributing to this goal.
- The Commission would be happy to receive from the participants of the workshop good practise examples in the transfer of knowledge and the communication.
- A short related survey is available online for anyone with interesting ideas or experiences to share: <http://survey.interact-eu.net/index.php?sid=43811&lang=en>

"Good practise results should not only be well communicated but they should also be used and actively applied by others."

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Local cross-border territories at the service of citizens

Outline

Jose Palma-Andres introduced the EUROMOT workshop on local cross-border territories at the service of citizens by stating the importance to collect the point of view and the needs of local actors for the current discussions on territorial cohesion and the future of cohesion policy at European level. To make the process of European integration better shared and supported by the citizens, it must find its response in the concrete and visible results. In local cross-border territories, services to the citizens are precisely a very good example, as highlighted the testimonies of the workshop, on subjects such as transport, information services, health and training. Discussions focused on the challenges of how to maintain common cross-border services in the long run, how to organize the needed multilevel governance and how to involve citizens in the cooperation process.

Debate

Dr. Hans-Günther Clev first presented the example of public transport as a major factor for integration in cross-border territories and pointed out the important number of daily commuters on European borders. Several promising projects of cross-border transport services are underway, but public transport still needs to be promoted in a multilevel governance approach in order to find solutions to the many difficulties that remain, especially concerning joint operation, financing in the long term run, interoperability, etc. **Peter Udvardi** presented the setting up of the Ister-Granum EGTC on the Hungarian-Slovakian border, the second EGTC in Europe. He highlighted the experience of one of the EGTC organs for an innovative project financing. A solidarity fund, based on a percentage of taxes perceived by local governments on one side, has been set up for investment projects on the other side in areas such as schools, culture and education at the service of the citizens. **Klaus Baldauf** outlined the experience of the city twin Frankfurt (Oder)/Slubice at the German-Polish border, which is an excellent example of organizing common networks serving citizens from both sides of the border. Last June a conference on the common future of the city twin helped to involve citizens and civil society in the building up of a "common vision", basis of a cross-border local action plan for 2010-2020 in the context of the URBACT project "EGTC". Finally, the example of the Northern Ireland/Ireland border presented by **Andy Pollak** has shown that one of the major difficulties for cooperation in a political sensitive context is the difficulty of institutionalizing cooperation, even if the actors are implementing many very concrete and advanced single projects in areas such as health (exchanges between hospital), training, planning or information for citizens (common platform).

Conclusions

Jose Palma-Andres concluded the workshop by summing up the discussions:

- The workshop tried to show how local cross-border territories may use the European integration process and what common responses can be found to meet the needs in terms of "services to citizens".
- However, setting up concrete projects in a cross-border context still remains a complex exercise.
- The examples have put in evidence that stakeholders at different levels of competency need to organize a multi-level governance in order to develop adapted cross-border solutions.
- The presented projects finally showed the strong will of local actors to progress. It is therefore necessary at the EU level to find adapted ways to meet their needs.

06C14

6 October 2009,
14:30-16:15

Organiser:

EUROMOT – European network of cross-border local authorities

Chair:

Jose Palma-Andres, European Commission, DG Regional Policy

Speakers:

Dr. Hans-Günther Clev, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, EUROMOT

Peter Udvardi, EGTC Ister-Granum (Hungarian-Slovakian border), URBACT "EGTC" project

Klaus Baldauf, City of Frankfurt/Oder, Germany (German-Polish border), City Twins Association, EUROMOT

Andy Pollak, Center for Cross Border Studies, Northern Ireland (Republic of Ireland-Northern Irish border)

More information:

Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière:

www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

EGTC Ister-Granum:

www.istergranum.hu

City of Frankfurt/Oder:

www.frankfurt-oder.de

Center for Cross Border Studies:

www.crossborder.ie/

www.borderpeople.info

Urbact "EGTC" project:

www.urbact.eu/egtc

"Local cross-border territories are the places par excellence of European integration, visible for the citizens via common cross-border services."

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Euroregions, territories of projects for better governance

06C16

**6 October 2009,
16:45-18:45**

Organiser:

Euroregions for Territorial Integration

Chair:

Antònia Sabartés, General Secretary, Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée

Speakers:

Jean-Marc Venineaux, European Commission, DG Regional Policy

Jean-Louis Joseph, Euroregion Alpes-Méditerranée, Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

Philippe Guérin, Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée, Region Midi-Pyrénées in charge of Cooperation and European relations

Pere Joan Martorell, Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée, Government of Balearic Islands

Jakub Szymanski, Regional Policy Department of the Government of Malopolska, Poland

More information:

Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée : <http://www.euroregion.eu/eu/AppJava/fr/>
Euroregion Alpes-Méditerranée : <http://www.euroregion-alpes-mediterranee.eu/>

"The EGTC should be able to benefit from their own ERDF envelopes so as to improve and promote territorial cohesion at a euroregional level."

Outline

Antònia Sabartés opened the workshop by presenting common issues relating to both euroregions. Both are coastal regions and have mountains stretching across them. In this context, Mrs. Sabartés identified the key issues concerning these euroregions, which form a Mediterranean arc from Spain to Italy, crossing through France. Both euroregions share similar projects, such as the high speed cross-borders trains and projects in the field of research and innovation, in particular in relation with global warming. The Pyrénées-Méditerranée euroregion was created as a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) in December 2008. Becoming an EGTC offers the opportunity to manage European funds and to be more active as a political lobbying force in the construction of a euromediterranean zone. She presented the workshop as an opportunity to discuss the outcome of the European cooperation policy, with the help of two important euroregions in their sharing of experiences. The aim of the workshop was to present concrete initiatives taken within these euroregions, and exchange ideas and propositions with the European Commission so as to facilitate cooperation in the future.

Debate

Jean-Marc Venineaux presented the current stakes in relation to the constitution of Euroregions and EGTC in Europe. EGTC are a new opportunity to develop strategies and projects within a cross-border transnational area. Euroregions are now acquiring a stronger legitimacy in Europe, in terms of transnational, trans-regional and cross-border cooperation. Cooperation is now an objective unto itself in the context of the European Cohesion Policy. This objective currently gets 2.5% of the total of structural funds. Euroregions appear to be a relevant level when it comes to searching for solutions to climatic, environmental, social and economic challenges. Indeed, regions must deliver this message together.

Jean-Louis Joseph presented the Alpes-Méditerranée euroregion. It is composed of five French and Italian regions, representing 17 million inhabitants at the heart of Europe. This euroregion was created in 2006 and is now willing to become an EGTC. The euroregion has three main orientations: fighting climate change; developing innovation and a means of productive transition so as to fight the economic crisis; and favouring social and economic cohesion, identity and civilian participation. Mr. Joseph presented several regional poles of innovation of common economic and social development to be developed within the euroregion. **Philippe Guerin** insisted on the concrete achievements within the Pyrénées-Méditerranée euroregion. Composed of 14 million inhabitants, its creation begun in 2004 with the signature of a constitutive declaration entitled "Euroregion, a shared future". He presented the four concrete priorities that have been worked out: the creation of a cultural portal; the composition of a working group with the aim of influencing the Trans-European Network of Transport; the setting-up of regular meetings between chambers of commerce, and the founding of a social and economic euroregion observatory. Moreover, the euroregion is now working on academic cooperation with the creation of a "Eurocampus". M Guérin pleaded for more appropriate EGTC-managed financing. He requested the European Commission to plan specific ERDF envelopes for EGTC. **Pere Joan Martorell** presented the project "Labtechnoculturs" that benefited from ERDF funds (€ 1 million) for the SUDOIE area in order to develop a cultural and technological laboratory for the euroregion. Culture is one of the cross-border cooperation axes within the Pyrénées-Méditerranée euroregion. This project aims at creating several cultural routes between the four regions composing the euroregion. This project may soon be managed by the EGTC. **Jakub Szymanski** dwelled on territorial cooperation from the perspective of a new EU member State: Poland. He presented the TATRAS euroregion, a grouping of local authorities between Poland and Slovakia. Since the 1990's, this dynamic and active partnership was set up in order to promote tourism and local festivals. These themes were chosen because of their importance for the local inhabitants. This euroregion successfully managed structural funds (Pre-accession instrument). Its competency and responsibility are now growing, a letter of intent was thus signed to set up an EGTC. Mr. Szymanski called for specific envelopes dedicated to EGTC.

Conclusions

Antònia Sabartés concluded the workshop by summing up the discussions as follows:

- Euroregions constitute in a beneficial and valid level of governance
- The Commission and the euroregions should work together to build a stronger Europe for all citizens
- Regional EGTC enhance territorial cohesion
- The key to success for Regional EGTC is to manage specific structural funds



Sharing the experience of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland

Outline

The aim of the workshop was to present the work to date on the Peace Network. The Network aims to communicate the experience of managing, evaluating and implementing the EU PEACE funding in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland so as to enable participants to learn, exchange and transfer knowledge relevant to their various policy needs. The Network is currently working with partner organisations in Northern Ireland, Ireland, Cyprus, the Basque country, Belgium as well as a range of European organisations and presentations were provided on the current themes of the network: a) Use of EU for Funding for Peace Building, b) Community Based Approaches to Peace Building and c) Peace Building for Children and Young People.

Debate

Shaun Henry outlined the impact of the EU PEACE Programmes in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland since the mid 1990s. The EU's interventions have and continue to play a key role in empowering marginalised groups and local communities to contribute to actively building peace and improving community relations. He also outlined the aims and objectives of the Peace Network and highlighted the three current working groups that are established to share experiences with other regions across Europe. **Brandon Hamber** provided an overview of Working Group 1 of the Peace Network – 'Use of EU Funding for Peace Building'. This group aims to evaluate, share and learn from the experience of managing EU PEACE funding in a complex political environment and explore the tensions and challenges between sound financial management and the goals of peace and reconciliation. The key output of this group will be a handbook which will 'tell the story' of the PEACE programmes and can be used as a key source of information for other regions and decision makers across Europe. **Jokin Bildarratz** made an interesting presentation on the opportunities that the Peace Network provides for the Basque Country, particularly in relation to Working Group 2 – Community Based Approaches to Peace Building. He outlined some examples of the current community based approaches operating at municipal level in his country and invited participants to attend a seminar in San Sebastian on 23 November 2009, where the Peace Network will share practical examples from Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. **Siobhan Fitzpatrick** provided an overview of the work plan for Working Group 3 – EU PEACE funding for Children and Young People. The aim of this group is to examine the innovative ways in which PEACE funding supported children, youth and young people in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland and how the lessons learnt can be shared with other regions of Europe. **Andreas Ashiotis** outlined the importance of working with children and young people in Cyprus in order to assist them to build peace and reconciliation. He also outlined the aims and objectives of a forthcoming Peace Network seminar in Cyprus which will share practical experiences from Cyprus and from Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland on youth work.

Conclusions

Mr Colgan and **Mr Denness** concluded the workshop by summing up the discussions as follows:

- Key EU institutions (European Commission, European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee) confirm the importance of sharing the experiences of EU PEACE programmes in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.
- By the end of 2009, the Peace Network will be well established and will have developed a work plan for 2010.
- The network will be further developed to include new member regions and organisations.

06C17

6 October 2009,
16:45 -18:30

Organiser:

European Commission, DG Regional Policy and Special EU Programmes Body

Chair:

Jonathan Denness, European Commission, DG Regional Policy
Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body

Speakers:

Shaun Henry, Special EU Programmes Body
Professor Brandon Hamber, INCORE, University of Ulster
Jokin Bildarratz, EUDEL (Association of Basque Municipalities)
Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Early Years
Andreas Ashiotis, Council of Reconstruction and Resettlement, Cyprus

formation:

Special EU Programmes Body: www.seupb.eu

"We consider the event to be a real success. Highlighting the key objectives of the Network the seminar updated key EU stakeholders about the work that has been completed to date as well as outlining future activity. By holding the seminar during the OPEN DAYS we were also able to raise the profile of the PEACE Network and potentially attract increased membership from across Europe."

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Strategic forum of Euroregions: Territorial co-operation beyond 2013

06C18

**5 October 2009,
16:45-18:30**

Organiser:

European Commission, DG Regional Policy and Eixo Atlântico do Noroeste

Chair:

José Palma Andrés, European Commission, DG Regional Policy

Speakers:

Soeren Revsbaek, City of Naestved, Denmark and Member of UBC Executive Board

Xoán Vazquez Mao, Eixo Atlántico, Spain

Rui Nuno Baleiras, Regional Development, Portugal

Carlos Beltrán, General Direction of Community Funds of the Ministry of Economics and Treasury, Spain

More information:

Eixo Atlántico:

www.eixoatlantico.com

Union of Baltic Cities:

www.ubc.net

Community Funds of the Ministry of Economics and Treasury of Spain:

www.dgfc.sgpg.meh.es

Portuguese Government:

www.portugal.gov.pt

“Cross-border cooperation has been and is one of the European policies that has brought the European construction closer to the citizen, and Interreg, is without a doubt, the financial tool that has best identified the involvement of the UE cross-border territories.”

Outline

The workshop was opened by **José Palma Andrés**. Two Euroregions were presented as different Cross-border Co-operation Structures, constituted by different models of governance and objectives. There were also introduced the approaches from the Spanish and Portuguese governments in territorial co-operation. The discussion contributed in the develop of future strategies, learning from good practices and different approaches and experiences, taking a concrete experience on low density territories as a new approach on cohesion policy and of a collective action to enhance the economic value of territories with specific features. Finally, a more general discussion on second-generation cross-border Cooperation looked the joint management of collective facilities and service delivery.

Debate

Carlos Beltrán evoked what is being done in Spain on territorial cooperation towards implementation of the programs (SMEs, Innovation, the concentration of investments in less developed territories and concentrate investment in significant projects avoiding the small projects). On the future, he raised the idea of one program for each border structuring projects and the impact on local service. **Soeren Revsbaek** introduced the participants to the Union of the Baltic Cities, a network of 107 cities from 10 Baltic Sea countries. The UBC Statute defines the main aims of the UBC, as promotion and strengthening cooperation and exchange of experience among the cities in the Baltic Sea Region, as well as advocating for common interests of the local authorities in the region. Mission of UBC combines, inter alia: promotion the Region in Europe and in the World, supporting Sustainable Development and the promotion of Local Level Governance in Europe and in the Baltic Sea Region. **Xoán Vazquez Mao** gave an interesting presentation of the second generation cross-border cooperation. He defined it as: a structure of economic development, a unifying concept and as a political strategy. He also proposed: to convert cooperation in one of the main axes of cohesion policies, to define a new conceptual framework and a new strategy through the joint development with the White Paper of cooperation, to promote Euro regions as areas of cooperation where European integration is displayed with executive powers in the actual removal of administrative boundaries and transform existing structures European Regional Development Agencies. **Rui Nuno Baleiras** evoked a concept of action in border areas of low population density, in contrast to other types of boundaries that are of high urbanization, based on indicators such as population, business location and economic activity in general. He mentioned the vicious cycle of the territories of low population density that should be helped (in the population - aged ones - in the market - in economic investment). He launched for the future, the idea of analyzing the borders through the concept of sub macro regions (e.g. logic of the River Douro). He reported the existence of the pilot project 'PROVERE' which is intended to support the frontier areas of low population density.

Conclusions

José Palma Andrés concluded the workshop. Some of the proposals for the future were:

- One program for each border structuring projects and impact on local service.
- Analyzing the borders through the concept of sub macro regions.
- Boost the bottom-up approach for the future.
- Promote Euro regions as areas of cooperation where European integration is displayed with executive powers in the actual removal of administrative boundaries and transform existing structures European Regional Development Agencies.

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Advanced co-operation in the North Sea – English Channel

Outline

This workshop brought forward ideas of a closer cooperation in the North Sea Basin and presented a paper with a framework for an EU-North Sea Strategy. The workshop gave an opportunity to other stakeholders to take part in the discussion. The participants underlined that the regions around the North Sea and the English Channel are not only facing big challenges, but also have common interests. The process of developing an EU-Baltic Sea Strategy and the creation of a new political level is an opportunity for a more efficient regional cooperation in the North Sea and English Channel area. The politicians of the North Sea and English Channel regions came to the conclusion to apply for an own-initiative opinion in the beginning of the 5th term of the CoR regarding a North Sea Strategy. They also decided to contact Members of the National Parliaments and the National Governments in order to initiate supporting political decisions.

Debate

During his welcome speech **Rob Bats**, member of the Executive Board of the province of Drenthe, discussed his wish for the North Sea area to become a macro-region through which a constructive co-operation with different partners – Europe, states and the regions - will be accomplished. In this way, the regions can contribute to an innovative and prosperous Europe. **Hermann Kuhn** pointed out that the foundation of the CoR-Intergroup "North Sea-English Channel" was an important step to broaden the basis for a deeper cooperation in this area on the European level. The CoR-Intergroup wants to advance the process towards the establishment of a North Sea Strategy and presented a paper with main elements for a macro-regional strategy for this area that was discussed during the workshop. The CoR-Intergroup will approve this position paper during its December session. **Gunn Margit Helgesen** explained that the 54 regions of the NSC are also working on a strategy for the North Sea Region. The idea of an EU North Sea Strategy was also promoted during the General Assembly of the CPMR by Members of the NSC. The NSC appreciates the initiative of the CoR-Intergroup and is willing to further cooperate with the CoR-Intergroup "North Sea-English Channel" in order to achieve a joint opinion. A conference in spring 2010 will provide the next opportunity to discuss the views of all stakeholders and to agree on the next steps. **Haitze Siemers** accentuated that the Baltic Sea Strategy could inspire similar macro-regional approaches in other European areas. Learning from this example, but focusing on its own characteristics, the regions around the North Sea have to define their common aims and interests. He added that the cooperation in the fields of the for instance integrated maritime policy will be extremely important within a future North Sea Strategy. The representative of the Swedish EU-Presidency, **Ulf Savbäck** described the process of developing a Baltic Sea Strategy. The strategy will maximise the development potential of this macro-region. He also underlined Sweden's support for a closer cooperation between the states and regions around the North Sea and the English Channel.

07C01

7 October 2009,
10:00 – 12:30

Organiser:

Advanced Cooperation in the North
Sea-English Channel

Moderator:

Rolf Gustafsson, Independent
Swedish Journalist

Speakers:

Gunn Marit Helgesen, President of
the North Sea Commission

Ulf Savbäck, Representative of the
Swedish EU-Presidency, Coordinator
Baltic Sea Strategy

Haitze Siemers, European
Commission, DG Maritime Affairs

More information:

www.opendays.europa.eu

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



In search of a framework for co-operation in the Atlantic Area

07C02

**7 October 2009,
10:00-12:30**

Organiser:

Atlantic Alliance

Chair:

Eddy Hartog, European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Speakers:

Prof. Esko Antola, Centrum Balticum

Ana Teresa Lehmann, Vice-President, Norte Region

Colin Wolfe, European Commission, DG Regional Policy

More information:

Atlantic Area Programme:
www.coop-atlantico.com
Centrum Balticum:
www.centrumbalticum.org/
Atlantic Arc Commission:
<http://arcatlantique.org/>

Outline

The workshop was opened by **Eddy Hartog** who set out the key objectives which were to: assess the impact of trans-national funding in the Atlantic Area in fostering co-operation; draw on the experiences of co-operation in the Baltic and the development of the Baltic Sea Strategy; and to discuss the suitability of the Atlantic Area as an 'EU macro-region', with an integrated strategy for the area. The need for better complementarity of Regional Policy and Maritime Policy was also an important element and something that trans-national programmes such as in the Atlantic Area had to better reflect. Addressing the audience of 100+ participants, he challenged the established view that the Atlantic seaboard is peripheral by asking: *"Is the Atlantic Area really a periphery of Europe, or is it the gateway to the rest of the world?"*

Debate

Professor Esko Antola provided an overview of how cooperation in the Baltic Sea has developed and evolved and how it is now in the vanguard of the 'EU macro-region' concept. Addressing the key requirements of success, he underlined the need for a clear delivery chain of political commitment, political leadership and political ownership and for incorporating stakeholders in the governance process. On the Baltic Sea Strategy he outlined that it contains 78 flagship initiatives, but provided no new money and no new institutions to make them a reality. **Ana Teresa Lehmann** gave a brief overview of the current Atlantic Area programme and how it is addressing key challenges. However, she did say that the current programme had too many themes and needed greater focus. In terms of focus she also indicated a greater need to focus on results and also argued for more resources for the programme. On behalf of the Atlantic Area Managing Authority she did offer to steer the process of looking at the possibility of a future integrated strategy for the Atlantic Area and in this regard suggested a stakeholders meeting in Porto in the coming months. **Colin Wolfe** welcomed the opportunity to discuss future co-operation in the Atlantic Area. He felt there was already considerable action in the Atlantic Area but considered that the perspective is 'very land-based' with less regard for the ocean. He outlined the recent positive developments in territorial co-operation and also in the Atlantic Area, including the possible accession into the EU of Iceland. Regarding future action, on further developing co-operation, he underlined the need for 'political leadership and popular engagement' if concrete results are to be achieved.

A lively debate took place, with inputs from various participants. There was a generally positive regard for macro-regions but also questions regarding the need for actions at 'micro-region' level – the need for bottom-up as well as top-down. The need to demonstrate tangible benefits from an integrated strategy was seen as key to get Member States and other key stakeholders to accept the concept.

Conclusions

As a conclusion, **Eddy Hartog** asked participants what they considered as the optimum area for co-operation in the Atlantic Area. There was no consensus on the size and nature of the area but nonetheless interest in further considering the 'macro-region' concept and the possibility of an integrated strategy for the Atlantic Area. Some of the key messages emerging:

- The need for strong political commitment, political leadership and political ownership of the territorial co-operation process, to help guarantee success.
- The need to demonstrate tangible benefits, to secure commitment and 'buy-in' by Member States and other stakeholders.
- A willingness to explore the potential benefit offered by lessons from the Baltic Sea Strategy in the Atlantic Area.

"Is the Atlantic Area really a periphery of Europe, or is it the gateway to the rest of the world?"

(Eddy Hartog)

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Transport axis in the Baltic Sea Region: Sustainable and green corridors to get connected

Outline

The European Council is expected to agree on the Baltic Sea Strategy, first of its kind on a macro-regional level, during its meeting in late October 2009. Large part of the strategy is dedicated to concrete actions which will contribute to the area becoming safer, more sustainable, prosperous, attractive and accessible region. These overarching goals are designed to be reached through better transport connections, amongst others. At the same time, The Commission is preparing the revision of its TEN-T, Trans-European Transport Networks, policy which is seen as the principal instrument in major transport infrastructure projects within the EU. There are already several plans within the Baltic Sea Area for such TEN-T projects which are hoped to be included in the new programme guidelines. A selection of these projects was introduced during this workshop.

Debate

Gudrun Schulze opened the workshop by delivering the keynote speech. She started by explaining the background and history of the TEN-T policy. Since the birth of the policy some 15 years ago, the basis has always been in economic and social cohesion as well as green and sustainable development. The guidelines of the policy set the priorities for the implementation and projects of common interest. The ongoing work on revision of the policy is looking to do more comprehensive changes to the guidelines incl. the priority projects. Emphasis will be on environment, its global context and infrastructure needs. The goal is to link all possible funds to the future projects, focus more on the correlation of careful planning and implementation. A very probable new approach is the 2-layered method where the core projects will have to be presented with a comprehensive support network. **Olav Jern** acting as the moderator started the general part of the workshop by explaining his own region being highly dependent on export industry. Of all industry in Ostrobothnia, 65% is exported and thus, the region is competing with companies from all over the world. For this, the region needs to be better connected in order to maintain its competitiveness. **Tomas Sikström** started his presentation on the planned Bothnian Corridor project by stating that it is all a question of distance. Most of Finland and Sweden's regions are remotely located but however they possess large amounts of the natural resources needed by the whole of Europe. Therefore, the project connecting Finland and Sweden's mainlines to southern Europe as well making East-West connections is "by all means a European project" and important to us all. **Sebastian Schröder** pointed out in his speech the importance of his region's ports as the gate to the German motorway network for many Baltic Sea states and their ships and therefore, they are the way further in to Europe as a main connection point. Their proposed Baltic-Adriatic Corridor will not only serve as a connecting link but will also emphasis the greenest solutions by using modern intermodality options. **Sven Erik Hovmand** introduced the audience an ambitious project which will connect the Copenhagen/Malmö areas to Hamburg with a fixed link. The project started as a public-private partnership project in 2006 with the public authority support from Denmark. The project is planned to go ahead with or without TEN-T funding and construction is envisioned to start in 2012. The project does not only include a physical construction but also building mental bridges between the people of the areas concerned. **Robert Mazurkiewicz** stressed the importance of Poland and its regions being able for the first time to take part in the planning and negotiations of the renewed TEN-T guidelines. One of his main points was the need to link TEN-T to wider cohesion policy discussion. Within his area even the basic road infrastructure will still have to be upgraded and to ensure Northern Poland's competitiveness, their project of developing the Via Hanseatica Corridor should be included in future priority projects. **Marcin Kwiatkowski** delivered the final presentation focusing on the current project, CETC-Route 65 Axis, run by 11 regions along the E65 road from Northern Europe to the Adriatic Sea. The route connects the ports of the north and south without forgetting the support networks along its way. The route has also emphasised all available green solutions.

Conclusions

Mr. Ioannis Ghevelis summarised the Commission's position:

- It is currently analysing all relevant information for the renewed TEN-T policy and first concrete proposal is planned for spring 2010.
- TEN-T should be seen as a wholesome policy with continuity but also some changes especially to the planning and implementation
- Priority setting is a problem with the core projects.

Mr. Jern concluded the workshop with the notions that there are several good and necessary competing projects even within the Baltic Sea and money is limited. In big infrastructure projects progress is also always slow and so, every solution and option should be considered to have them realised.

07C03

7 October 2009,
10:45-13:00

Organiser:

Baltic Sea Group

Chair:

Olav Jern, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Finland

Speakers:

Gudrun Schulze, European Commission, DG Transport and Energy

Tomas Sikström, City of Umeå, Sweden

Sebastian Schröder, Ministry for Transport, Building and Regional Development of the Land Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schwerin, Germany

Svend Erik Hovmand, Femern Belt Development Foundation, Denmark

Robert Mazurkiewicz, Marshal Office of the Pomorskie Voivodship, Gdańsk, Poland

Marcin Kwiatkowski, CETC, Szczecin, Poland

Ioannis Ghevelis, European Commission, DG Transport and Energy

More information:

HealthNet:

www.healthnet.uk

Cornwall project:

www.healthycornwall.uk

OBEY project:

www.obey.hu

"We all have a great idea of the common Baltic Sea but we need to work together to make its competitiveness and connectivity a reality."

(Olav Jern)

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Macro-regions: The future for policy delivery?

07C05

**7 October 2009,
09:30-11:45**

Organiser:

European Commission, DG Regional Policy

Chair:

Danuta Hübner, Chairwoman, REGI Committee EP

Speakers:

Prof. Daniel Tarschys, University of Stockholm, Sweden

Mr Demszky, Mayor of Budapest, Hungary

Lumineta Odobescu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania

Stefano Grassi, European Commission, Secretariat-General

More information:

www.opendays.europa.eu

Outline

Danuta Hübner opened the workshop by reminding us all that the main challenges we are facing do not respect administrative borders. Finding shared solutions and exploiting shared opportunities is a must for the future. She highlighted the positive elements of the macro-regional work undertaken in the Baltic Sea Region, stressing that the process itself had been worthwhile. She explained how in her opinion future policy delivery must include a mix of top-down and bottom-up elements. The discussion continued, with the subsequent speakers analysing the contribution of macro-regions from their different perspectives followed by a lively discussion in which the limits of the concept were explored.

Debate

Prof. Tarschys stressed the increasing complexity we are creating around us. He argued that macro-regional cooperation is not new while recognising that the Baltic Sea Region Strategy had nevertheless broken new ground by involving such a wide range of partners and stakeholders. While doubtful about the need for an Action Plan, he recognised that assigning "lead roles" to some had been a "clever innovation". In order to maintain momentum, there should be macro-regional meetings at Prime Ministers' level in the margins of Council Meetings in the future. **Mayor Demszky**, of Budapest, stressed the historical importance of the Danube as a binding factor for many in Central and South-East Europe. He confirmed that it is everyone's aim to increase prosperity, security and peace in what has recently been a divided region. He argued that through a Danube Strategy, actors would be able to implement projects which go beyond borders and which contribute to the wider community. He stressed that the role of cities in this process would be vital. **Lumineta Odobescu**, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Romania, retraced the recent steps which have led to the development of a Danube Strategy and highlighted her country's commitment to this. She stressed that the Danube space had a genuinely European perspective and that working on the strategy would allow for capitalisation of numerous existing projects and initiatives. She was in particular looking forward to the mobilisation of a wide community in the coming months. **Stefano Grassi** highlighted some of the key elements raised by the Baltic work for the Commission, in particular the role of "honest broker" played by the Commission and its positive response to integrated policy-making. According to him, the strategy also provided the Commission with an opportunity to renew some partnerships with key actors. Contrary to Prof. Tarschys he singled out the action-oriented approach which he thought was one of the successes of the Baltic Strategy. The effectiveness of the macro-regional approach was still to be demonstrated: is it in the EU common interest to work with subsets of Member States?

A lively debate took place with some speakers advocating the extension of the macro-regional strategy approach to specific regions of the Union, others asking whether there was not a risk that these strategies would proliferate and become a new layer of bureaucracy with little added value. All those speaking from either the Baltic or Danube regions affirmed the value to them of the approach.

Conclusions

Mrs Hübner concluded the workshop by summing up the discussions as follows

- Macro-regional strategies will not resolve all governance and implementation issues in cohesion policy
- Nonetheless, there is immense interest in finding new ways to work together
- At this time, it makes more sense to focus attention on macro regions that have evident problems or challenges.

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Hospital and territories

Outline

The workshop was opened by **Pascal Garel** who presented its scope and the linkage between the different presentations. The aim of the workshop on hospitals and territories was to provide a quick vision on the diversity and complexity of the European hospital landscape. Most EU Member States rely on the regional and local levels for setting up healthcare policies. Reforms on hospital care governance go along this line but have different approaches in including the territorial factor. The workshop offered then an opportunity for hospital representatives to share views and experiences on how to reform the hospital care offer, taking into account the particularity of territories, their organization and competencies.

Debate

Claire Bouinot presented the connection between hospitals and territories. She explained that it holds a double meaning: the territory is a geographic reference to organise the hospital offer and the hospital can be used as a means for territory planning. She added that healthcare reforms implemented in several EU member States led to a revision of the territorial organisation for hospital competences, more often than not to more decentralisation, less often to deconcentration or re-centralisation. **George Harmat** presented the situation of the Hungarian healthcare, a system currently trying to find a balance. He showed that the territorial factor is not so much taken into account than other major issues. Indeed, serious resource gaps combined with a lack of human resources jeopardize the sustainability of the system. The main geographical approach has been the creation of weight-point hospitals that structure the Hungarian territory with designated all-specialty hospitals reached within 45 minutes. **Hannele Häkkinen** explained how reforming healthcare in Finland is on the contrary very much focused on local and regional issues. Municipalities are responsible for arranging welfare services, including hospital care. And reforming healthcare goes beyond healthcare itself. In the present reform on restructuring municipalities and services will result in the integration of social and healthcare and in this context should lower the barrier between primary care and specialised medical care. **Sandrine Haas** described the long process of decentralization of Health Policy in France. Her study showed how the creation of Regional Hospital Agencies in 1996 has promoted a more territorial organization of private and public hospitals supply. Although the evolution of hospitals landscape did not significantly affect the access to healthcare for the population, it does have reached a critical point where regional policies have now to be pursued with carefulness to avoid geographic as well as economic discrimination effects on patients. **Luigi Bertinato** gave the perspective of the Veneto region on the strategy to ensure quality and safety in hospitals. He clearly showed how deep into health organisation an Italian region may go. In doing so, he gave a detailed picture of the activation of a regional management model for patient safety as well as of a programme of health professional training and regional electronic information.

Conclusions

Pascal Garel concluded the workshop by summing up the discussions as follows

- In the European debates on convergence and harmonisation in healthcare, it is always worth looking at the essential differences between and within systems;
- Significant borders in the healthcare system are not only at national level but also within countries;
- But this diversity should be considered as a wealth worth looking at.

07C06

7 October 2009,
11:15-13:00

Organiser:

HOPE, DEXIA

Chair:

Pascal Garel, European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE)

Speakers:

Claire Bouinot, Dexia

George Harmat, Budapest children hospitals, Hungary

Hannele Häkkinen, Brussels Office of the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Brussels

Sandrine Haas, La Nouvelle Fabrique des Territoires

Luigi Bertinato, Office for International Affairs at the Department of Health and Social Services of the Veneto Region, Italy

More information:

HOPE: www.hope.be

DEXIA: www.dexia.com

"Promoting regional health strategies needs to be built on a broad partnership involving economic, public and civil society institutions and organisations."

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



EU resources and decentralised cooperation for development

07C07

7 October 2009,
14:30-16:15

Organiser:

Committee of the Regions,
Directorate for Consultative Works
with European Commission, DG
Development and Humanitarian Aid
and DG EuropeAid DG

Chair:

Christophe Rouillon, Mayor of
Coulaines, Member of the CoR

Speakers:

Olivier Luyckx, European
Commission, DG Development and
Humanitarian Aid

Angelo Baglio and **Denis Pourchet**,
European Commission, EuropeAid
DG

More information:

European Commission, DG AidCo:
[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/
index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm)

European Commission, DG Dev:
[http://ec.europa.eu/development/
index_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/development/index_en.cfm)

Committee of the Regions:
[http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/
HomeTemplate.aspx](http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/HomeTemplate.aspx)

Outline

Within the 2007-2013 financial perspectives, the EU has initiated an important reform to simplify its international actions, reducing notably the number of financial instruments. Among them are instruments to fund EU cooperation with developing partners.

Debate

In line with their increasing roles in development issues, local and regional authorities (LRA) are in various cases among those entities eligible to receive EU funds. For example they can submit proposals under the thematic programme "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development" of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), under the geographical component of this instrument. They can also participate in cooperation for development activities using not only others thematic programmes, but also the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) or the European Development Fund (EDF).

However in most cases LRA are not fully aware, informed and/or acquainted with these instruments and the funding possibilities or modalities. In order to better support LRA initiatives, the workshop proposes to assess the different EU instruments available to support LRA in cooperation for development activities (notably ENPI, EDF, DCI programmes). It also aims to highlight practical and implementation issues linked to these instruments. Finally, the workshop intends to provide an open discussion on ways to improve the use of these resources for LRA.

Theme C - Workshops

Territorial co-operation: Working together across borders



Clean Baltic shipping

Outline

The Clean Baltic Shipping seminar presented initiatives and concrete examples of how shipping companies and harbours can reduce the environmental impact of maritime transport on the Baltic Sea. **Stefan Musiolik** of the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation presented the organisation's « Clean Baltic Shipping » initiative. The initiative's ideas have fed into the EU's Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and Mr Musiolik expressed hope that these ideas now will be implemented. The actions proposed by the initiative are :

- shore-side electricity for ships
- environmentally differentiated fairway and/or port dues
- voluntary ban on waste-water discharges
- best practice awards
- labels for clean Baltic shipping and sustainable port management.

Tom Strang of the European Cruise Council said that the cruise companies of Europe have committed themselves to concrete actions for clean Baltic shipping through the Baltic Sea Challenge launched by the cities of Helsinki and Turku. The cruise industry clearly is a leader in clean shipping, and should serve as inspiration for the rest of the shipping industry. **Ralf Gierke** of the port of Lübeck and **Denver Ehrlich** of the AIDA cruise company presented their excellent practices to minimise water and air pollution. In particular the provision of electricity to ships at berth is a big challenge, and so far there seems to be no one-size fits all solution. There are many good examples that can be considered, but none has yet proven to be stronger than the other.

Conclusions

Haize Siemers, head of unit at the European Commission's directorate-general for maritime affairs, concluded the seminar by emphasizing that there is a huge variety of different actors involved in maritime transport. Bringing these actors together, making them understand each other and see the bigger picture, remains the biggest challenge for clean shipping. Actors from global to local and from shipyards to ship dismantlers all have a crucial role to play. Increasingly all these actors are committing to a common objective – a clean Baltic Sea.

07C08

**7 October 2009,
16:45-18:15**

Organiser:

Baltic Sea Group

Chair:

Haitze Siemers, European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Speakers:

Stefan Musiolik, BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Affairs

Ralf Gierke, Stadtwerke Lübeck

Tom Strang, European Cruise Council

Jukka Kallio, Harbour Master at Port of Helsinki

Denver Ehrlich, AIDA Cruise Ship Company

Haitze Siemers, European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

More information

www.opendays.europa.eu

