Euroregions, Excellence and Innovation across EU borders

A Catalogue of Good Practices

UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Department of Geography

RECOT

European Network of Territorial Cooperation

UNIVERSIDADE DE VIGO

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Euroregions, Excellence and Innovation across EU borders

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List of Abbreviations

AC	Autonomous Community (ES)
AEBR	Association of European Border Regions
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation
CB Equip	Cross-Border Equipment
CC	Community of Communes (FR)
CESCI	Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (HU)
CoE	Council of Europe
CoR	Committee of Regions
DGRegio	Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission
EC	European Commission
ECG	Euroregional Cooperation Grouping
EEIG	European Economic Interest Grouping
EFQM	European Foundation for Quality Management
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
EIPA	European Institute for Public Administration
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
EU	European Union
LGTC	Local Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
MOT	Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (FR)
MS	Member States
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RIS	Regional Innovation Systems
TB Parks	Transboundary Parks

About the RECOT Network

The present Catalogue of Euroregional good practices constitutes the main output of the COOP-RECOT II research project (“Territorial Cooperation in Spain and the EU: A selection of guiding experiences for Excellency and Innovation for the 2014-2020 period”). It has been developed by an interdisciplinary research team headed by the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), with the participation of Vigo University (UVigo) and external collaborators from other institutions. The authors and collaborators belong to a wider research network, RECOT (European Network on Territorial Cooperation). Since its consolidation in 2007, RECOT has been gathering practical experience and theoretical knowledge in topics related to European Territorial Cooperation for over a decade. Beyond the COOP-RECOT II’s participants, the network also involves collaborators coming from the University of the Basque Country (UPV) and the University of Girona (UdG) in Spain, as well as several researchers proceeding from different European universities (such as Portugal, France, UK, Slovenia or Italy). Over the years, the network has proved to be very useful in terms of developing projects, exchanging information, facilitate academic and institutional contacts, organize and participate in international events and ultimately generate several scientific publications both at international and local level. Some recent examples include the COOP-RECOT I project (Funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain, 2009-2012) and the BORDERGOVEU-NA project (Funded by the SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, Canada, led by the University of Regina, 2012-2017).

One final thought goes to RECOT’s founder and inspirer Professor Francesc Morata Tierra, who was responsible for the direction of the Network until 2014 and to whom memory we dedicate this Catalogue as the legacy of his work on Euroregions and Cross-Border Cooperation.

Table of contents

Index of Euroregional Structures

Introduction

Euroregions matter

Our Catalogue of Euroregional Good Practices is intended to be a supportive tool for better understanding the activities of Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) organisations known as Euroregions. As a simple definition, Euroregions can be identified as European cross-border structures that play influential roles on the borders of European countries, especially during a time when doubts continue to challenge the entire European Integration process. **Euroregions truly matter**: they are a symbol of communal living across borders, which shape the diversity of the European continent. Today they are present over most of the European Union borders. Furthermore, they also show a natural propensity for increasing the potential of this kind of territorial cooperation. Not only do Euroregions remarkably show a strong potential for developing CBC actions among territorial actors from both sides of the border, they are also capable of mobilising institutions at multiple subnational levels (such as regions, supralocal entities or local councils). The most significant opportunities seem to derive from their very nature: thanks to political agreements that formally ensure their stability over time, they express a common desire for cooperation among all partners involved.

Today it is possible to find a wide breadth of academic and institutional literature on the key features of CBC and Euroregions. In the proceeding sections, we discuss the various issues and perspectives we encountered while gathering fundamental concepts required in constructing our own framework.

To provide a meaningful example for this introduction, first and foremost, we consider the theoretical work of Perkmann (2002, 2003) to be pioneer in its efforts to offer a global perspective on these organizations. Indeed, his work has become instrumental for many subsequent analyses in this field. As early as his first study, Perkmann set out to address the main features of Euroregions by elucidating on their multiple goals, the variety of political and legal structures that form them as well as the potential factors that either ensure their success or impose obstacles or constraints to their developmental processes. Most importantly, he clearly understood that such entities do not constitute a new layer of supranational public administration, and that despite historical, cultural or economic similarities (or disparities), the essential ingredient for developing cross-border agreements is primarily the will to cooperate. Furthermore, Perkmann also described the temporal and geographical evolution of Euroregions within the EU framework, whereby he immediately noted the importance of the French-German border and the Benelux union of countries. Even today there is increasingly prevalent concurrence concerning the birth of the first true Euroregion, namely the EUREGIO, which was founded in 1958 between Germany and the Netherlands. In Perkmann's view, the following European enlargement processes as well as the financial and legal policies of the EU and the Council of Europe (CoE) altogether facilitated in understanding the spread of the Euroregional phenomena. Accordingly, EU national states progressively accepted the role of these organisations while showing their support in the form of international agreements and other legal measures.

However, many Euroregions today still confront a significant number of legal, economic and administrative obstacles that limit the optimal implementation of cross-border initiatives. Furthermore, Euroregions are too often subject to fragile and everchanging governance structures based on the political will of its territorial members, while usually manned by small technical teams forced to override complex juridical frameworks to make cooperation work. In truth, the full potential of such organisations has yet to be achieved, both in terms of ideal governance structures and potential activities. If properly developed, Euroregional entities could hold a significant capability to access more EU funding from the INTERREG cross-border strand than the one they currently benefit from. More institutional and academic support through analyses and contributions are thus imperative if we are to address issues in an efficient way and provide realistic solutions. To quote a significant example: In their considerations for Cross-Border Planning, Peyrony & Denert (2012) stress how crucial it is for a Euroregional territory to have its own institutional policy to aid in shaping a joint vision and project for the given border area. As such, any form of policymaking will require the presence of specific instruments of reference, such as updated statistics and supporting studies with significant examples (2012: 231-232). Precisely for this reason, our **Catalogue of Euroregional Good Practices** particularly highlights the practical activities of Euroregions, wherein we present the phenomenon from a bird's eye view together with a collection of successful CBC experiences selected according to the criteria of **Excellence and Innovation**.

This is not to say that the specialised literature has ignored the topic. On the contrary, when looking at contemporary academic and institutional documents on CBC and Euroregions, the topic continues to generate a great deal of interest. However, most of the published research tends to deal with specific case studies or a reduced sample of cross-border organisations. When considering the opportunity of compiling an updated catalogue of Euroregional good practices, the selection of references to previous works pertaining to cataloguing and classification leads to a significantly smaller number of contributions. Among the most relevant is an analysis conducted by Wassenberg, Reitel, & Peyrony (2015), which was published to commemorate the 25th anniversary of INTERREG. Entitled *Territorial Cooperation in Europe: A Historical Perspective*, this analysis not only helped in framing the state of modern European CBC studies, but also underlines the presence and activities of Euroregions. The dedicated research team, which operated under the Commission's supervision and fully cooperated with the *Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière* [MOT] French agency, was also inspirational in their first attempt to enlist and classify all the existing CBC organisations across the EU territory. In our own selection, familiar concepts such as Cross-Border Equipment, Transboundary Parks and the definition of Working Communities clearly resonate with the aforementioned research. Other useful examples were either derived from more generic catalogues of territorial cooperation or narrowly focused classifications that provided interesting feedback. In the first case, the catalogue published by the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission (DGRegio-EC) (European Commission, 2011) provided examples of project cataloguing that focused on the three strands of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC). In the second case, the research carried out by Decoville, Durand, & Feltgen (2015) focused on classifying Euroregional urban experiences. The third case, in which Gasparini & Del Bianco (2011) aimed at classifying Euroregions from the Balkan area, provided interesting examples when looking for cataloguing experiences.

A similar outcome was obtained when merely searching for pre-existing lists of Euroregions. Up to now, no official EU list of all the Euroregional experiences across Europe has been compiled. Nevertheless, there have been some limited attempts made

so far by institutions and academia. In the process of putting together our own list, we started from a prior research involving the collaboration of Markus Perkmann (Oliveras, Durà & Perkmann, 2010). From there, extensive research led to identifying further lists that could potentially help us obtain evidence of other existing Euroregions. The documents we reviewed include: The Committee of the Regions [CoR] European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation's (EGTC) list (CoR Website, 2017); the listing on the website of the EUREGIO project (EUREGIO Project Website, 2017); the Association of European Border Regions' (AEBR) public members list (AEBR Website, 2017); the online digital database of the Hungarian Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI) (CESCI Website, 2017); and finally, from the academic paper of Morata (2007) as well as the technical report of Otocan (2010).

To put it bluntly, the relatively scarce comparative material on a Euroregional global perspective could be attributed to the numerous challenges and meticulous tasks involved with cataloguing. Euroregions can vary a great deal in their structure and operations depending on crucial factors, such as the context of the border and the number and typology of mobilised actors. Furthermore, they often require a high degree of technical expertise in deciphering their mechanisms across all European administrative cultures and languages. With this **Catalogue of Euroregional Good Practices**, which was put together after four years of research, the COOP-RECOT II research team aims to provide a strong output for a revitalised discourse on how to fully realise the potential of Euroregions. Therefore, we seek to provide a new tool in our quest for optimal solutions that could inspire a higher level of cross-border cohesion and favourable advancement of the European Integration process.

Finally, we intend to fulfil the aforementioned objectives by introducing two separate sections in the catalogue. In the first section, we begin by introducing contemporary theoretical contributions to CBC and Euroregions, including a perceptive explanation of our working methodology throughout the research. By showing the process leading us to generate a global list as well as a specific selection for this catalogue, we aim to provide a solid quantitative analysis of our sample. In the second section, we present our research on 80 CB Euroregional structures selected in the form of data sheets that detail important information derived from our database. The technical data are also accompanied by a short description of the Euroregion as well as the features of a corresponding CBC project in 61 cases.

Goals & Outputs of the Catalogue

As noted in the preceding section, at the start of this project, there were already some attempts at conducting some global analyses on the phenomena of Euroregions. Building upon such previous experiences, this catalogue now purposefully aims to reinforce past global outlooks by presenting a selected sample that could offer a renewed perspective based on comparative information and study. In such a way, this document can prove to be highly useful to Euroregions themselves, participating European institutions (such as the DGRegio-EC or the CoR as well as other Territorial Cooperation-related organisations, such as the AEBR.

More specifically, the main goals of this catalogue include:

- A global review of existing information on Euroregions within the EU during the programming period of 2007-2013, which has been refined using our own operational definition of the term "Euroregion";
- A comparative analysis for detecting all the cases considered as examples of good practices of "Excellence and Innovation", including an analysis of CBC projects promoted or sponsored by Euroregions;
- A global analysis sample of best selected experiences.

The pursuit of the aforementioned objectives, which resulted in the subsequent outputs listed below, is clear and consistent throughout the whole publication:

- 1 Operational List of 343 European Territorial Cooperation structures analysed. Of these, 299 were identified as cross-border cooperation structures with at least some Euroregional features, and ultimately 267 met our operational definition of "Euroregion";
- 1 Database of 61 Euroregions and 61 CBC projects (one each) selected using Innovation and Excellence criteria;
- 1 Comparative Analysis produced by using the data provided in the aforementioned database;
- 80 Euroregional Info Sheets (61 Euroregions and their respective CBC project, 9 Transboundary Parks and 10 Cross-Border Equipment).

PART I

Concepts, Methods & Results

Chapter 1. Concepts & Methodology

1. From Theoretical Concepts to Operational Definitions

An adequate understanding of this Catalogue of Euroregional Good Practices requires a methodological explanation, in terms of the operational use of theoretical concepts and working process for compiling our database as well as our general selection criteria. In the following section, we provide all the necessary clarifications of our step-by-step process in preparing this document. We begin by presenting our own definitions of the concepts of Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC), Euroregion, Excellence and Innovation.

1.1 On Cross-Border Cooperation

So far one can find a vast range of literature on the topic of Cross-Border Cooperation, either on the global phenomenon across borders all over the world or specifically focusing on CBC practices of European border regions. As there are practical restraints preventing us from introducing a full state-of-the-art discourse on CBC, we therefore refer to some of the most relevant contributions used in the present Catalogue.

For those encountering CBC as a theoretical concept for the first time, we consider it worth getting acquainted with the work of Van Der Molen & Ietswaart (2012), namely *Crossing Borders Theory*, one of the most recent and probably interesting attempts at developing a comprehensive guide on this kind of cooperation. Arising from the European context in the field of knowledge-transfer, the Dutch authors conceptualised a joint action across borders through what they define as a practice-oriented theoretical framework for developing strategies and correctly using management tools. Furthermore, they introduce practitioners to the day-to-day handling of cooperative processes by using a simplified language including practical examples and models (2012).

Beyond introductions and practical guides, one of the first widely accepted definitions of CBC at the European level originates from a key international treaty, which opened the door for stronger joint action across the borders of the European Community. In the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (also called the Madrid Convention of 1980) launched by the Council of Europe, transfrontier co-operation was intended, in strict juridical terms, as '[…] any concerted action designed to reinforce and foster neighbourly relations between territorial communities or authorities within the jurisdiction of two or more Contracting Parties and the conclusion of any agreement and arrangement necessary for this purpose' (CoE Website, 1980).

Over thirty years later, EU institutions still place a great deal of importance on CBC, insofar as transfrontier co-operation is incorporated as one of the key lines in the grand objective of ETC: 'European Cross-Border cooperation, known as Interreg A, supports cooperation between NUTS III regions from at least two different Member States lying directly on the borders or

adjacent to them. It aims to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purposes of the overall harmonious development of the Union' (EC Website, 2017a).

Outside the realm of institutions, we also consider the definition provided by De Sousa (2013) to be one of the most comprehensive descriptions of the phenomena as such: 'Cross-border co-operation can be defined as any type of concerted action between public and/or private institutions of the border regions of two (or more) states, driven by geographical, economic, cultural/identity, political/leadership factors, with the objective of reinforcing the (good) neighbourhood relations, solving common problems or managing jointly resources between communities through any co-operation mechanisms available' (2013: 5).

However, being aware of all the previous features described, we prefer to use a simpler definition, which is operationalised here for the sake of this research and hereby resuming CBC as 'An **institutionalized collaboration** between **contiguous subnational authorities** across national borders' (Oliveras, Durà & Perkmann, 2010: 24).

At any rate, the existing relationship between CBC and Euroregions needs to be further considered. As derivable from previous definitions, cooperation across borders per se does not necessarily imply the presence of a permanent cross-border structure. A consistent share of CBC practices is nowadays carried out by border entities, which can either be sub-national authorities or other typologies of actors. Furthermore, they usually obtain such results by independently participating in European calls for projects or even on their own initiatives.

Notwithstanding, we would like to make the case for the presence of permanent cooperation structures, such as the Euroregions, as essential tools for achieving a more advanced and stable CBC: 'Its higher expression is reflected in the creation of cooperation-based organizations, which are in turn oriented towards the **coordination of horizontal and vertical policies and joint actions'** (Oliveras, Durà, & Perkmann, 2010: 24). Nor are we alone in making a similar statement, as evidenced by academics studying multilevel governance in a cross-border context. Nadalutti (2013) clearly speaks of the importance of CBC in changing the rules of the political game in place between national and sub-national actors, and the mediating role that European institutions have carried out by establishing new channels for policy communication: '[…] there has been a move from a "zero-sum game" to a "non-zero-sum game" […]. At the supranational level [it] has developed a more negotiated, contextually defined system of institutional exchange, which is changing to some extent the zero-sum nature of intergovernmental relationships […].' (2013: 768).

At the same time, the European Commission's contribution to the process is far from over, as it is currently involved in a new brainstorming process for innovating CBC initiatives. Such is the context for understanding the recent proposal of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council on the establishment of the European Cross-Border Convention (a new juridical tool to overcome existing legal and administrative obstacles. See MOT, 2017a, 2017b; Pucher, Stumm, & Schneidewind, 2017) and the recent Communication of the EC proposing 10 new lines of actions for improved CBC through the constitution of a Border Focal Point (EC Website, 2017b).

1.2 What is a Euroregion?

At the time of this writing, **no official definition for the term "Euroregion"** has so far been universally recognised despite the many institutional and academic attempts. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the presence of a set of common features widely recognised in most academic contributions concerning these cross-border structures.

Cross-Border Cooperation as the essence of the Euroregion. A Euroregion can be very simply defined as a territorial unit formed by two contiguous sub-national units belonging to two separate states (Perkmann, 2002). This does not necessarily entail any compromise for co-operation and can even be understood as a simple geographical definition. Regardless, as the very same authors argue, this concept is used first and foremost in the context of CBC activities and entails some degree of institutionalisation demonstrated by the interaction of agents on both sides of the border. Similar definitions by other authors all tend to revolve around such an idea, as can be seen in the recollection of academic views presented in Medeiros (2011, 2013). Indeed, this may be one feature common to all Euroregions alike, even though some entities labelled as Euroregions may find themselves working more in the field of ETC interregional cooperation. When considering the main reasons behind CBC initiatives, Kramsch & Hooper (2004) bring the reasoning even further by unveiling the true purpose of Euroregional structures: 'Common among all Euroregional initiatives, however, is an attempt to re-inscribe border areas formerly considered marginal and peripheral to the territorial projects of nation-states to those of centrality and dynamism at the very heart of Europe. It is thus not fortuitous that the Commission itself refers to its trans-boundary regions as "laboratories of European integration"' (2004: 3). However, beyond the common purpose, the shapes of institutionalisation, the territorial dimensions, the geographical profiles and the pursued objectives can vary considerably among different structures.

Subnational actors and different models of institutionalization. Since the initial work of Perkmann (2003) several analyses have shown the fundamental role played by local and regional actors in the organization of cross-border governance models. Rather than creating new layers of administrative government, Euroregions usually assume a variety of (more or less) formalised structures and different legal instruments to implement cross-border initiatives (Morata, 2007). Cooperation structures vary according to many factors and the combination of these variables shape the depth and the intensity of the cooperation. Broadly speaking, Euroregions may differ in terms of governance structure through the degree of institutionalization, the legal character of the organization (with or without legal personality), the scope of the agreement and the goals pursed by the promoters of the initiative.

The AEBR identifies in its officially published Practical Guide to CBC (AEBR, 2000) several models of institutionalization (assemblies, permanent secretariats with administrative staff, basic agreements built upon public or private law, etc.) and it highlights the recurrence of multilevel governance contexts. As the practice of cross-border cooperation has increased, cross border governance toolkits have notably increased accordingly (MOT, 2013, 2017a, 2017b). Nowadays, CBC agreements can mainly use three typologies of legal instruments: a) not binding cooperation agreements; b) instruments that confer legal personality to the organization (regulated either by private or public law); c) private law associations with a cross-border purpose. Due to the documented difficulties in applying transnational regulations in CBC practices (MOT, 2017a, 2017b), it is important

to notice that each of these instruments is usually subjected to the domestic law of the state where the Euroregion is legally established.

Legal instruments available to Euroregions. The most common among these legal instruments is the cooperation agreement, a contractual commitment on the part of the territorial authorities that have signed it to develop joint cross-border initiatives. There is no standard cooperation agreement and the cross-border governance structure is usually informal, flexible and without a legal personality. It is mainly a political agreement among territorial entities whose level of enforcement depends on political momentum and on interpersonal relations. Cooperation agreements may then present different levels of institutionalisation according to the previous existence of bilateral treaties signed by the respective Member states (i.e. 1993 Rome Treaty between France and Italy; 1995 Bayonne Treaty between Spain and France plus Andorra since 2012; 1997 Karlsruhe Agreement between Germany, Switzerland and Luxemburg) which can be equally subjected to private or public law.

Due to the aim of creating autonomous bodies properly capable of managing cross-border initiatives, several legal instruments that confer legal personality to cross-border organizations have been established over the last decade by EU institutions and the Council of Europe. The main cooperation formulas thus include the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), the European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) and the Euroregional Cooperation Grouping (ECG). Indeed, this diversity of legal frameworks can at times produce complexity and even confusion, as it was outlined in several studies (Sanguin, 2013, among others). The EGTC (created by Regulation /EC No 1082/2006) is a permanent and autonomous structure with legal personality and subject to public or private law according to the national jurisdiction governing the place where the headquarters are located. With more than 10 cross-border EGTCs created over the last decade, it is an instrument that has acquired high visibility in this kind of initiatives around Europe. The EGTCs' main advantages derive from: a) long term political commitment of its members; b) greater visibility with respect to third parts; c) the ability to enter into contracts and to compete for external and European funding.

EEIG and ECGs, in this sense, strongly resemble the functional logic of the EGTC. The first instrument is usually used for cross-border economic activities that involve private actors and for which a legal personality is also required. However, the main limitation of EEIGs lies in the restricted scope of the intervention which must be related to the economic activity of its members by excluding any additional CBC features. Even more like the EGTC, the second instrument listed (ECG) also allows to create a legal personality which manages the cross-border initiative on behalf of its members. Although generated by the third additional protocol to the Madrid Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation in 2009, the legal regime for ECGs however has not yet been stabilised across Europe (only five countries had ratified the protocol by the start of 2013: France, Germany, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine) (MOT, 2017).

Finally, Euroregions can also adopt more simplified organizational structures regulated by private law. Thus, another common typology of legal instruments used in cross-border agreements are different forms of associations which act as simplified structures with a legal personality but only governed by the private law applicable to the place where the headquarters (or registered office) of the organization is located. Unfortunately, since these associations are governed by private law, they cannot take the place of the participating territorial authorities in the CBC activities and they usually offer less guarantees with respect to cross-border bodies governed by public law. On the side of advantages, however, the flexibility of association structures makes them particularly well-suited to the realisation of concrete cross-border initiatives such as technical consultations, the promotion of a specific single project, preliminary studies as well as strategic planning initiatives.

Wide differences in sizes and territorial profiles. There is a high variety of territorial sizes among existing Euroregions, ranging from associations of small local councils up to joint state partnerships. This range has often triggered questions about any homogenous classification of structures, which may at first seem completely different. The situation has also motivated some to provide proposals connected to the territorial scale of cooperation: Medeiros (2013) tried to distinguish Euroregions from mesoregions and macroregions by stating, for instance, that the former extends less than 200 000 km^2. By doing so, he had hoped that the classification could lead to more adequate strategies for each typology. In this sense, the EU Macro-Regional Strategies (the Baltic Sea, the Danube, Adriatic-Ionian and Alpine) are clearly distinct from Euroregions, especially when considering the main partnerships composed by member states, which create joint strategies without establishing new cross-border structures. At the same time, the appearance of new terms, such as "Eurocity" or "Eurodistrict" and the specific geographical character of the border territories also suggested the creation of new types. For instance, Wassenberg et al. (2015) suggest both a classification according to three territorial scales (local, regional, supraregional) and a differentiation among urban areas, rural territories and natural spaces.

Multiple Objectives. The pre-existing studies acknowledged a great variety of interests coming from Euroregional activities. It is possible to speak of different focuses, differentiated levels of involvement and at times mention key sectoral priorities occurring more frequently in Euroregional cooperation. Our previous analyses led us to distinguish three levels of involvement:

- Some Euroregions act as **forums for exchanging experiences** or are directly involved in managing European funding, which is the case of many **Working Communities** or some of the large-sized Euroregions;

- **Most Euroregions develop their own projects** or plan in combination with other actors. Some adopt very general strategies, while others prefer to choose few specific sectors (sometimes they are even monothematic);

- Finally, there are also those exclusively created **to provide a specific service**, such as explicitly mentioned in Wassenberg et al. (2015) under the definition of cross-border equipment (e.g. a tri-national airport or a cross-border hospital) and transboundary park.

The Spread of Euroregions in the European Union. In jointly reviewing the pioneering article of Perkmann mentioned above, Oliveras, Durà & Perkmann (2010: 25-26) pointed out the existence of four stages of expansion of the Euroregional phenomena. As we will see in the following, each chronological phase is associated to specific historical and political factors that explain their background.

- 1950 - 1979: Predominantly a time for interstate agreements; first suprastate support (recommendation for further regulation by the CoE in 1966, first initiatives of the Nordic Council); local twinnings and first Euroregional initiatives (EUREGIO, also known as Gronau Euroregion);

- 1980 - 1990: Increased European political and juridical support; Madrid Convention (1980); European Charter of Local Self-Government (1985); initiatives by the CoR; recommendations provided by the AEBR (European Charter of Border and Cross-Border Regions, 1981); Mediterranean enlargement of the European Community;

- 1990 - 2006: Political and economic support is provided by the European programmes, especially in the case of INTERREG, in light of European agreements for further integration and the following enlargement processes towards Eastern and Northern Europe (main expanding period for the new EU);

- 2007 - onward: Consolidating stage; definition of the main EU objective of the European Territorial Cooperation; the creation of the new EGTC instrument and the stabilisation of presently existing Euroregions by means of creating new structures to compensate for obsolete ones.

An Operational Definition for the Catalogue of Euroregional Good Practices[1]. The academic project ultimately focuses on how to make the best use of our research products, i.e. the database and the resulting **Catalogue of Euroregional Good Practices**, in order to compare and exchange experiences among specific Euroregions and some of their most significant CBC projects. For this reason, our own operational definition of a Euroregion was geared towards enlisting organisations **that explicitly declared an interest in either directly developing or indirectly promoting and participating in cross-border projects**. Based on this, we operationally excluded other organisations that did not directly fit the criteria. The final operational definition employed throughout the research project led us to consider a **Euroregion as an organisation or institution that**:

- covers a **cross-border territory** and usually **hosts a corresponding population** (except for some Transboundary Parks) or **providing a specific service for the population** in the surrounding area, as in the case of Cross-Border equipment;

- represents a **declared will of cooperation** (= permanent/progressive cooperation), being reinforced by **public institutionalisation via political agreement**; and

- clearly shows signs of **joint activities** as well as consolidation of **public cross-border policies**, particularly when developing a **common strategy**. Such activities may be shaped by either funded projects, as in the case of most of the Euroregions considered, or the provision of permanent services, i.e. Cross-Border Equipment and Transboundary Parks.

1. Hereby, the authors especially want to remark that with the aforementioned selection process, it is not our intention to deny the Euroregional character of any organisations not included in our sample.

1.3 Excellence and Innovation

In deciding to create a sample of optimal Euroregions and their associated CBC projects, an important research task proved to be determining and establishing the specific criteria that could justify our selection. Despite some promising exceptions, there were still relatively few contributions regarding **Excellence and Innovation** in a cross-border context. From their very inception in social sciences, the concepts of **Excellence and Innovation** presented a strong synergy, which greatly aided in adjusting to the processes of globalisation and technological revolution. To cite some notable examples, both the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Union (via the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy in 2000 and the EU2020 Strategy) incorporated these aspects as important tools at the core of their long-term policies in order to achieve sustainable development and territorial cohesion.

a. Excellence

A much relevant definition of Excellence is offered by The European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM), an organisation which has been supporting and strengthening the European business world for decades. In their official publications, they uphold that ‘Excellent Organisations achieve and sustain outstanding levels of performance that meet or exceed the expectations of all their stakeholders’. This means that Excellence is associated to the effort of achieving best results in one or several ambits. The model designed by the EFQM and built on their expertise on the subject is marked by the following criteria: sustaining outstanding results; adding value for costumers; creating a sustainable future; developing organisational capability; harnessing creativity and innovation; leading with vision, inspiration and integrity; managing with agility; and succeeding through the talent of people (EFQM Website, 2017).

Naturally such terms for Excellence can be applied to all kinds of organisations (political, social, cultural or other). In the *cross-border context*, we observed that Euroregions tend to achieve excellence when fulfilling the following criteria:

- effectiveness in globally running the co-operation processes (governance features);
- presence of continuous and self-reinforcing co-operation processes; and
- stable or increasing dynamics for improving the quality of the co-operation.

b. Innovation

As a fundamental reference to the concept of Innovation, we firstly took the popular one introduced by the OECD in their *Oslo Manual*. Despite its original conception in 2005, the definition is still applied in later proposals. Today, although its content is adaptable to various organisation types, it is mainly directed at the business sector. At the crux of the argument, Innovation is defined as ‘the implementation of a new or significantly improved product (good or service) or process, a new marketing method, or a new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations’ (OECD, 2005a, 2005b, 2015). In elaborating an innovative strategy, it is also remarked that ‘[it] is clearly a much broader notion than R&D or technological change and is therefore influenced by a wide range of factors, some of which can be influenced by policy’ (OECD, 2015). Based on this perspective, innovative territories can be considered as those seeking to exploit new processes based on expert knowledge and technological change in all sectors of society. In a further OECD publication (2013) on the

cross-border topic, the organisation makes a particular appeal to support innovation policies in cross-border regions. One of the main concepts of the study, the *Cross-Border Regional Innovation Systems (RIS)*, firstly developed by Trippl (2010), is therefore essential to coordinating innovative strategies for all border territories.

Nevertheless, even more can be added to the general argument under institutional terms, and our operational definition can also greatly benefit from the relatively new concepts of public innovation and social innovation. The European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), whose main task is to improve European public administrations, actively promotes Innovation as one of their main criteria for action: "[…] the novelty of the solution, the degree to which the case shows a leap of creativity in the practice of public administration and demonstrates a different approach which goes beyond what was previously applied" (EIPA Website, 2017). Along the same lines, further aspects to consider are the stakeholders' involvement, the relevance of action taken and the impact of the results obtained. The very same EC incorporated the idea of social innovation in their strategies, in which they take particular care in valuing improvements in the quality of civic life and general welfare (Hubert, 2010). Even in this case, the concept has been at times translated into a cross-border context, as in the case of the border between the two Irelands, which stem from the actions of the *North-South Social Innovation Network* (NSSIN Website, 2017).

Our own cross-border operational definition of Innovation derives from previous perspectives when analysing Euroregional structures and their selected projects. In practical terms, we tend to consider the CBC activities to be innovative when at least one of the following criteria is observed:

- there is technological progress involved in the project execution;
- new techniques or methodologies in processes or organisations are employed to improve the overall project development; or
- there is evidence for applying novel concepts, such as those intended for social and public innovation.

2. The Construction of the Catalogue of Euroregional Good Practices

2.1 Generating an operational list of all existing Euroregions

Here we provide detailed information on the methodological procedure we followed during the main steps of the COOPRECOT II research project. We elucidate in the following the three main research stages. To commit to a selection of best practices, we needed first of all a total list of all existing Euroregions, on which to begin our investigation. The very first version of our operational list was composed by assembling all previous academic and institutional listings already cited in our Introduction. A further attempt to expand the inventory was conducted by means of a heuristic exploration of other web resources, minor thematic indices and additional references gathered from previous expertise. By the end of this first methodological step, we had achieved a **total of 343 identified European Territorial Cooperation structures**.

Since the lack of an official or universally accepted definition of a **Euroregion** (see preceding section), we noticed that some of the organisations we listed could not meet the generally accepted criteria for a Euroregional structure. In most cases, we identified organisations that were dedicated to forms of ETC other than CBC. Indeed, **44 structures were excluded from our selection as they did not fulfil our working definition of a Euroregion, hence allowing us to lower the total to 299 cross-border structures analysed, which generically possessed at least some Euroregional features**[2].

In any case, following our initial classification work, we **further reduced the total number** when we observed interesting anomalies to our operational definition. More specifically:

- **16 Working Communities** were identified and excluded according to our objectives laid out in the Operational Definition section. In this case, some specific features simplified the process of their exclusion (i.e. lack of a project strategy or major presence of State-level actors instead of subnational authorities);

- **7 External Borders Euroregions** were identified outside of the European Union. Interestingly, these cases all developed around the start of the 21st century following the positive climate inspired by the enlargement of the EU towards Eastern Europe. All of them were created alongside state frontiers not belonging to the EU, and the major concentration appears along the Eurasian borders of countries, such as Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia or Georgia. Although interesting speculations could be made about the spread of Europeanising practices beyond the Union through the soft power of diplomacy and conditionality, it nevertheless appeared clear to us that these could not be included in our official listing. Due to the general low levels of activity resulting from the climate of political and economic instability during the 2010s plus a total alienation from EU Territorial Cooperation strategies and policies, such as INTERREG, we soon had to exclude them from our operational selection. This would also help us **to distinguish them from other Euroregional realities with the mixed presence of Member States and at least 1 Non-EU Member State (as in the case of CBC structures with Switzerland), which were instead considered for the next stages of the selection**.

- Finally, **9 Transformed Euroregions** proved to be highly interesting anomalies, such that they, although not included in our final operational listing, still deserved their own categorisation. In their simplest definition, the transformed cases represent Euroregions that have been either absorbed into another Euroregional structure or replaced by an entirely new one altogether. However, contrary to border areas where the actors involved in cross-border activities have ceased the co-operation, we witness here the conversion of the structures towards new arrangements for increased effectiveness of CBC. We therefore decided to provide a suitable reference of these exceptional cases, while naturally including their existing replacements in the final operational listing of Euroregions.

2. As a further foreword to our methodological process, we would like to clarify herewith that despite having satisfactorily achieved a huge sample of cross-border structures for this research, there remains the risk of overlooking some organisations that would embody our working definition, as we were not made aware of them during our research. If this were the case, we heartily invite the reader to provide us feedback by contacting the authors and help us expand the operational list even further.

Thus, once we s**ubtracted the 32 excluded anomalies** from the selection, the list of existing Euroregions according to the operational definition brought us to a **total of 267 Euroregional structures**.

2.2 Classifying the operational list of Euroregions

Employing the operational definition was instrumental in delivering a comprehensive total of 267 Euroregional organisations. Nevertheless, we were also aware that a further selection was necessary in order to dig deeper in our search for excellent practices. Most importantly, no prior listing or web resource was effectively able to distinguish those Euroregions currently developing CBC activities from those that may have succumbed to the numerous circumstances leading to their inactivity, such as political discords or recent budget cuts triggered by the Eurozone crisis.

Indeed, one of the fundamental tasks of the classification was understanding which Euroregions were presently active and which ones had become inactive. Initially, we contacted most Euroregions in our list via e-mail and telephone as we requested them to provide with general information. In the end, given the obstacles associated to the fieldwork, we completed our classification by making use of a heuristic Internet investigation of respective Euroregion websites. Thus, we decided to provide **an operational definition of an 'Active Euroregion', namely as a structure that**:

- possesses an up-to-date website with sufficient technical information;
- shows clear signs of ongoing or recent CBC activities (meetings; joint seminars; workshops, etc.); and
- employs a visible and updated communication strategy.

Conversely, in our assessment, **an 'Inactive Euroregion' is a cross-border structure that:**

- does not fulfil the criteria for an Active Euroregion;
- does not show any traces of activities even by means of transversal web enquiry (local media, Google-related research, etc.);
- possesses an active website, but has not been updated for over 3 years; or alternatively:
- shows some hints of its existence (such as minor actions reported by local media), but generally shows a very low level of cross-border activity.

Research and classification activities for Euroregions **officially stopped in January 2017**. Meanwhile, we decided **to limit our analyses on Euroregional CBC projects to those included in the 2007-2013 EU framework period**. Having established the fundamental ***Active/Inactive criterion***, the easiest way to begin approaching our extensive list was to consider those special cases for Euroregional structures already identified in Wassenberg, et al. (2015) and employed in our own classification. In the case of cross-border natural areas, we effectively identified **40 Transboundary Parks (TB Parks)** within our Operational List, whilst the cross-border infrastructures and their relative management organisations accounted for **13 Cross-Border Equipment (CB Equip)** in total.

However, some necessary clarifications need to be made about the selection of these structures. Generically speaking, unlike their more traditional counterparts, the application of an ***Active/Inactive*** criterion did not seem appropriate for the final selection on the catalogue. This is because, from the time of their creation, both cross-border natural areas and the infrastructure are conceived as initiatives that are funded for their arrangement or construction. Furthermore, once officially inaugurated, official political agreements, instead of a volatile joint will of cooperation among standard Euroregions, essentially tend to ensure the maintenance of greater stability; this apparently seems to be more the case when co-operation involves huge investments and higher economic interests (such as cross-border hospitals and trinational airports). In the case of TB Parks, we considered all of them as active albeit with different degrees of cross-border activities. Given these circumstances, it thus became obvious to us to shift and orientate our selection for this Catalogue towards those cross-border natural areas that presented more advanced Euroregional features, such as an advanced governance system or a visible cross-border communication strategy. This is precisely the reason why we decided to select **9 TB Parks out of 40** for inclusion in this publication.

We also had to consider CB Equipment under a different perspective. When conceiving them as mere cross-border infrastructures, we anticipated the total number of selectable units to exceed the 13 identified in our selection. Particularly in the case of Central and Western Europe, the European integration project benefitted considerably from structures such as symbolic walkways, paths and bridges as tangible ways of healing the scars of history ravaged by conflict along the European state borders. At the same time, we would also like to point out that our idea of **"Equipment"** has likewise been operationalised by our operational definition of **Euroregion**, and as such, pertains to any large-scale infrastructure that requires a stable joint coordination for successfully providing services. After refining the Active Euroregion criterion, we then had to distinguish between thirteen already existing structures for our selection; of these, we knew that three were still under construction. Thus, in the final selection, we automatically selected **10 CB Equipment units from the original list of 13**. Finally, we also need to explain how we deliberated on not including the corresponding projects of the selected 19 Euroregional structures. In terms of TB Parks, although some clearly showed the presence of joint projects, their initiatives still do not necessarily relate to a CBC action funded by the INTERREG. As a matter of fact, many apply to other kinds of European programmes such as LIFE.

In contrast to a TB Park, a CB Equipment is usually dedicated to ensuring its own service instead of producing cross-border projects. Nevertheless, we are also aware that some notable exceptions may exist, as in the case of the Cerdanya Hospital, which aims to develop a cross-border health governance system. For the sake of clarity, we eventually refrained from analysing such activities, and thus only included Euroregional sheets dedicated to the Euroregional structures.

After removing 40 TB Parks and 13 CB Equipment, we still had to filter through **214 Euroregions** using our criteria. For this process, we conducted extensive research on the status of the organisations and documented essential details in our operational list, such as websites, contact details and specific observations made on each individual case. Interestingly, our investigation of the Euroregions in question revealed a number of interesting quasi anomalies. Although these Euroregions fulfilled all our criteria, they still exhibited some additional features that would otherwise prove unsuitable for our selection.

Monothematic Euroregions proved to be structures fitting our operational definition which exclusively dedicated themselves to one kind of cross-border public policy, for example, one focusing on health and another on transportation. In contrast, **micro Euroregions** represented highly interesting local cross-border realities shaped by small-scale projects. Their source of income did not always necessarily consist of managing big amounts of EU funding from the INTERREG programmes, since their means of subsistence seems to mostly come from their own expenditures. At the end of this lengthy classification process, we arrived at the following numbers:

- From a total 214 Euroregions, **158 were Active and 56 were Inactive**;
- From of a total of 158 Active Euroregions, **4 were monothematic, 2 were micro and 152 were 'standard'**.

2.3 Obtaining the final sample and elaborating a Euroregional database

Starting from the list of 158 Active Euroregions, **we further explored the elements included in this shortlist to provide a sample of "Especially Active Euroregions" to be selected for this catalogue**. Thus, they were subjected to an in-depth analysis by means of a second exploration of their website content. This time, we supplemented the research by studying documentary materials, such as technical reports and strategies downloadable on the Internet. Furthermore, we relied on academic literature on case studies, and in some cases, requested additional information via e-mail. In the meanwhile, our methodology also suggested that the analyses of projects were required at this stage in order to identify the best practices for **Euroregional cooperation**.

Throughout all the material supervised, the following criteria were taken into consideration for the final selection:

- At the *organisational level*, we enquired about distinct traits of stable governance in place among the participating actors. At the same time, we positively valued the presence of a Euroregional strategy and/or long-term cross-border planning of various kinds.

- At the *project level*, we were especially interested in the capacity for generating projects. According to our operational definitions, we scrutinised a minimum of 3 to 5 CBC projects per Euroregion during the EU funding framework 2007-2013 and observed the presence of important features, such as the relevant assigned budget and the presence of innovating proposals in the content of the project. Furthermore, we noticed other excellent dynamics, such as the transparency of the initiative, communication levels, degree of actor participation, etc.

- Complementarily, a *geographical consideration criterion* was applied when collecting relevant cases from all over the EU. Having identified a solid nucleon of best practices in the central and northern part of the European continent, we still wanted to achieve a degree of equal representation across all the EU borders.

From 158 Active Euroregions, **61 were finally marked as "Especially Active"** and thus selected for inclusion in this **Catalogue of Euroregional Good Practices**. Of these, the corresponding sub-typology was: 2 monothematic Euroregions, 2 micro Euroregions, and 57 'standard' Euroregions.

The final methodological step of the research project consisted in producing a Euroregional database incorporating the **61 Especially Active Euroregions and 61 Euroregional Cross-Border Projects** (one per selected Euroregion). This was mainly conceived for two purposes: on the one hand, the compilation of specific information was essential in gathering general information to be later transferred into the Euroregional sheets of the Catalogue; on the other, the database was used for quantitative analysis useful to understanding Euroregional trends. The **Euroregional Database** includes:

- For the **Especially Active Euroregions, 4 data categories**: General information (i.e. date of creation; nationality of the participating actors; location of headquarters; etc.); Geographical details and typologies; Governance mechanisms of the organisation and classification of the participating actors; and territories included in the Euroregion.

- For **the CBC projects, 3 data categories**: General Information (i.e. Name of project, date of activities, main theme, general description of outputs); actors involved; and disclosed budget.

To conclude this section, the reader will find below a **Summary Table** of the identified typology and classification, which show the final numbers produced by our research (see Table 1). Moreover, we present the entire Operational Listing of Euroregions divided into several tables based on the typology suggested by Table 1.

Table 1 – Summary of the Euroregional Operational Listing.

Typology		Status & Classification			Catalogue Selection	
					Excluded	Selected
Euroregions	214	1. EUR (Active)	152	158	95	57
		2. EUR Monothematic (Active)	4		2	2
		3. EUR Micro (Active)	2		-	2
		4. EUR Inactive		56	56	-
Cross-Border Equipment	13	1. Active		13	-	10
		2. In constitution			3	0
Transboundary Parks	40	1. Advanced EUR Features (Active)		40	-	9
		2. Active			31	-
Euroregion + CB Equip. + TB Parks	**267**			**267**	**187**	**80**
Excluded (Unfitting Criteria Catalogue)	32	1. Working Communities		32	16	-
		2. EUR External Borders			7	-
		3. EUR Transformed			9	-
Excluded (Not EUROREGIONS)	44	1. Excluded (Not EUROREGIONS)		-	44	-
TOTAL ETC STRUCTURES ANALYZED	**343**	**TOTAL CBC STRUCTURES ANALYZED**		**299**	**263**	**80**

Source: compiled by the authors

3. Global Listings of Euroregions

Table 2 – List of Active Euroregions

ACTIVE EUROREGIONS (Total = 158)	
'STANDARD' EUROREGIONS (Total = 152)	
Abaúj-Abaújan EGTC	Egrensis Euregio
Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion	Elbe-Labe Euroregion
Cross-Border Agglomeration of the European Pole of Development (P.E.D.)	Ems-Dollart Region
Alentejo-Centro-Extremadura Euroregion (EUROACE)	Erzgebirge Euroregion
Alps-Mediterranean Euroregion	EUREGIO (Gronau Euroregion)
Alzette-Belval "Etablissement Public" + associated EGTC	EUROPAREGION Tyrol-South Tyrol Trentino + associated EGTC
New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre Euroregion+ associated EGTC	European Common Future Building EGTC
ARKO Regionen (Swedish-Norwegian)	Euroregion Without Borders + associated EGTC
Arrabona EGTC Ltd.	"Faja Pirítica Ibérica" EGTC
Badajoz-Elvas Eurocity	Fehmarnbelt Committee
Baltic Euroregion	France-Geneva Regional Committee
Baltic Sea Seven Islands	Frankfurt-Slubice Cooperation Centre
Banat Triplex Confinium EGTC	Freiburg Region-Centre and South Alsace Eurodistrict
Basel Trinational Eurodistrict	Galicia-Northern Portugal Euroregion + associated EGTC
Basque Eurocity	Gate to Europe EGTC
Bavarian Forest-Bohemian Forest-Lower Inn EUREGIO	Glacensis Euroregion
Belovezhskaya Puscha Euroregion	Gorizia-Nova Gorica GECT
Benego (Belgian-Dutch Border Talk)	Görlitz Zgorzelec Eurocity
Beskydy (Beskidy) Euroregion	Gothenburg-Oslo Region (GO Council)
Bidasoa-Txingudi Cross-Border Consortium	Greater Copenhagen & Skane Committee
Biharia Euroregion	Greater Geneve
BODROGKÖZI EGTC Ltd	Greater Region EGTC
Bornholm and Southwest Escania Euroregion	Guadiana Eurocity
Bothnian Arc	Haparanda-Tornio Conurbation
Bug Euroregion	Hedmark-Dalarna TRUST Committee
Carpathian Euroregion	High Valleys Conference
Catalan Cross-Border Space Eurodistrict	Huesca Pyrenees EGTC
Catalan Valleys of Tec and Ter-Cross Border Country of Art & History EGTC	Inn-Salzach Euregio
Chaves-Verín Eurocity + associated EGTC	Inntal Euregio
Cieszyn-Český Těšín Euroregion	International Lake Constance Conference (IBK)
Council of Torne Valley (Tornedal Council)	Ipoly-Völgye EGTC
Country of Lakes Euroregion	Ipoly/Ipel'-Ipoly/Ipelsky Euroregion
Danube-Kris-Mures-TiszaEuroregion (DKMT)	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)
Danube-Vltava Europaregion	Ister-Granum EGTC Ltd.
Danubius Euroregion	Karjala-Karelia Euregio
Delta-Rhodopi Euroregion	Kassa-Miskolc/Košice-Miškolc Euroregion
Doubs Urban Conurbation	Kerkrade-Herzogenrath "Eurode"
Duero-Douro EGTC	Kvarken Council
East Border Region Ltd. Committee	Leman Council (Lake Geneva Council)
'STANDARD' EUROREGIONS (continuation)	
León-Bragança EGTC	Rhine-Waal Euregio
Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis	Rousse-Giurgiu/ Ruse-Giorgiu Euroregion
Linieland van Waas en Hulst EGTC	Saar-Lor-Lux Rhine Euregion
Lower Danube Euroregion	Saarmoselle Eurodistrict + associated EGTC
Lyna-Lawa Euroregion	Sajó-Rima / Slaná-Rimava EGTC
Mash EGTC	Salzburg - Berchtesgadener Land - Traunstein Euregio
Meuse-Rhine Euroregion	Scheldemond Euregio
Meuse-Rhine-North Euregio	Sicily-Malta Cross Border Region
Mid-Nordic Committee	Silesia Euroregion
Mittskandia	Silva Nortica Euregio
MontBLanc Space	Siret-Prut-Nistru Euroregion
Morava Euroregion (Weinviertel Euroregion)	Skärgården (Skärgårdssamarbeter)
Mura Region EGTC	Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion
Mura-Dráva Eurorégion + associated Local Action Group (LAG)	Spoločný Region EGTC
Narva-Ivangorod City Twins	Spree-Neisse-Bober Euroregion
Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion	Stara Planina Euroregion
Nemunas-Niemen-Neman Euroregion	Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict + associated EGTC
Nestos-Mesta Euroregion	Svinesund Committee
Newry-Dundalk Twin cities	Svinka EGTC
Nishava/Nisava Euroregion	Tatry Euroregion + associated EGTC
North-West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCB)	Tisza EGTC
Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC	Torysa EGTC
Novum EGTC Ltd.	Trinational Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine Valley
Ozerny Krai Euroregion	TRITIA EGTC
Pannon EGTC	Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó EGTC
Pomerania Euroregion	Union of Municipalities of Upper Silesia and Northern Moravia
Pons Danubii EGTC	Upper Rhine Commission (Hochrheinkommission)
Pntibus EGTC Ltd.	Upper Rhine Conference (Oberrhein Conference)
Pourtalet Space EGTC	Valença-Tui Eurocity
Praded/Pradziad Euroregion	Valga-Valka City Twins
Pro Europa Viadrina Euroregion	Via Salina Euregio
Pskov-Livonia Euregio	Weert-Maaseik-Bree Euroregion
Puszcza Bialowieska Euroregion	West Vlaanderen/Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale EGTC
Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion + associated EGTC	White Carpathians Euroregion
Raba-Danube-Vag EGTC	ZASNET EGTC
Regio PAMINA Eurodistrict + associated EGTC	Zemplen/Zemplinsky Euroregion
Regio TriRhena (Regio Basiliensis)	Zugspitze-Wetterstein-arwendel Euregio
MONOTHEMATICAL EUROREGIONS (Total = 4)	
ACUTEzorg Euregio	FinestLink (Helsinki-Tallinn)
CAWT Region (Co-Operation and Working Together)	EUCOR The European Campus EGTC
LIST OF MICRO EUROREGIONS (Total = 2)	
Pyrenees-Cerdanya EGTC	"Vis-à-Vis" GLCT

Source: compiled by the authors

Table 3 – List of Inactive Euroegions

INACTIVE OR VERY LOW INTENSITY EUROREGIONS (Total = 56)	
Adriatic-Alpe-Pannonia Europe Region	Morava-Pcinija-Struma Euroregion
Andalucia - Gibraltar - Marocco	Muránia Euroregion
Arc Manche	Neogradiensis Euroregion
Bartuva/Bartava Euroregion	Neue Hanse Interregio
Belasica/Beles Euroregion	North Calotte Council
Black Sea Euroregion	Pleven - Olt Euroregion
CENTRE Cross-Border Region	Polnisch-Deutsches Verband "Bez granic - Ohne Grenzen"
Centrope Europaregion Mitte (Vien-Bratislava-Brno-Győr)	Prespes-Ohrid Lakes Euroregion
Crete - Cyprus Euroregion	Puglia - Ionian Islands - Epyros- Albania Euroregion
Cross-Border Association of the Municipalities of the Great Lake Alqueva (ATMTGLA)	Quark (Finland-Sweden)
Danube 21 Euroregion	Raetia Nova Euroregion
Danube East Euroregion	Rat Wallis - Val D'Aosta
Danube South Euroregion	Rives-Manche Region (East Sussex/ SeineMaritime/ Somme)
Drina-Sava-Majevica Euroregion	Rodopi Euroregion
Duna Euroregion (Duna-Körös-Maros-Tisza)	Saule Euroregion
Duna-Dráva-Száva Euroregion	Sesupe/ Szeszupa Euroregion
Epyros - South-Albania Euroregion	Skärgarden (FI/SE)
Estonian - Finnish 3 + 3 Regional Cooperation	Slovenian-Hungarian Cross-Border Development Council
Eurobalkans Euroregion (Nis-Sofia-Skopje)	South Baltic Four Corners Co-operation
European Border Cities EGTC (Hungary-Romania)	Strymon/Strouma Euroregion
Evros-Meric-Maritsa Euroregion	Styria / North East Slovenia Euregio
French-Italian Alps Conference (CAFI)	The Wadden Euregio
Fyns Amt / KERN Region	Trakia Euroregion (Greece-Turkey-Bulgaria)
Guben/Gubin Eurocity	Triple Danube Euroregion (Hármas Duna-Vidék)
Imatra-Svetogorsk Eurocity	Upper Prut Euroregion
Inferior Danube Euroregion	Váh - Dunaj – Ipel Euroregión
Karst-Bodva Euroregion + associated EGTC	Vilcelele-Sitovo-Isperih Local Border Region
Kras/Karst/Karszt Euroregion	West Nyugat / Pannonia Euroregion

Source: compiled by the authors

Table 4 – List of Cross-Border Equipment

CROSS-BORDER EQUIPMENT (Total = 13)	
ACTIVE (Total = 10)	
CEVA Railway Link (Cornavin - Eaux-Vives - Annemasse)	Great St Bernard tunnel
Channel Tunnel	Hopital of Cerdanya EGTC
Danube Bridge	MontBlanc Tunnel
Euroairport Basel Mulhouse Freiburg	New Europe Bridge
LGTC Fireboat Europa 1	Oresund Bridge
UNDER CONSTRUCTION (Total = 3)	
New Railway Line Dresden-Prague EGTC	Helsinki - Tallin Tunnel
Fehmarn Belt Tunnel	

Source: compiled by the authors

Table 5 – List of Transboundary Parks

TRANSBOUNDARY PARKS (Total = 40)	
ADVANCED EUROREGIONAL FEATURES (Total = 9)	
Maritime Alps Mercantour European Park	Mura-Drava-Danube Transboundary Biosphere Reserve
Bourtanger Moor - Bangerveem International Nature Park	International Nature Park of Tejo
De Zoom - Kalmthouse Heide	Tri-National Prespa Park in Albania, Greece and Macedonia (FYROM)
German-Dutch Nature Park Maas-Schwalm-Nette	Wadden Sea Unesco Site (Common Wadden Sea Secretariat)
Mount Viso Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve	
ACTIVE (Total = 31)	
Bavarian Forest / Sumava National Park	Novohrad - Nógrád Geopark
Bialowieza National Park	Őrség - Raab - Goricko Nature Park
Biele Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (White Carpatians)	Oulanka National Park / Paanajarvi National Park
Bohemian-Saxon Switzerland	International Marine Park Bocche di Bonifacio
Danube Delta Cross Border Biosphere Reserve and Research Center	Pasvik Inari Trilateral Park
East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve	Pieniny National Park
European Nature Reserve Lower River Inn	Pyrenees National Park / Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park
Friendship Park & Research Center	Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica (RBT)
German-Luxembourg Nature Park	Slovensky kras-aggteleki-karszt park
Geschriebenstein-Írottkő Nature Park	Tatra Transboundary Biosphere Reserve
Hainaut Cross-Border Nature Park	Three Countries Park (3LP)
High Coast / Kvarken Archipelago	Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Gerês-Xurés
High Fens – Eifel Nature Park	Unteres Odertal Internationalpark
Julian Alps Transboundary Ecoregion	Vosges du Nord - Pfalzerwald Transfrontier Biosphere Reserve
Karkonosze Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve	West Polesia Transboundary Biosphere Reserve
Nature Park Nagelfluhkette	

Source: compiled by the authors

Table 6 – List of Excluded Euroregions

EXCLUDED EUROREGIONS (Unfitting Catalogue Criteria)	
WORKING COMMUNITIES (Total = 16)	
Alps-Adriatic Alliance	COTRAO (Western Alps Working Community)
Andalucía-Alentejo-Algarve Working Community	Cross-Channel Euroregion (Kent - Nord Pas de Calais)
ARGE Alp (The Association of Alpine States)	Galicia-Northern Portugal Working Community
ARGE Donau (Working Community of Danube Countries)	Regio Insubrica
ARGE Kärnten - Slowenien	Regio Sempione
Braganza-Zamora Working Community	TransJurassian Conference
Castilla y León - Portugal Centro Working Community	Valais - Aosta of Great St. Bernard Valley Council
Castilla y León - Portugal Norte Working Community	Working Community of the Pyrenees (CTP)
EXTERNAL BORDERS (Total = 7)	
Dnieper Euroregion	Sloboda Euroregion
Dniester Euroregion	Slobozhanschina Euroregion
Donbass Euroregion	Yaroslavna Euroregion
EuroCaucasus Euroregion	
TRANSFORMED (Total = 9)	
Aquitaine-Euskadi Logistic Platform (New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre Euroregion)	Dobrawa Euroregion (Glacensis Euroregion)
Benelux-Middengebied Euroregion (Scheldemond Euroregion)	Helsinki - Tallin Euroregion (FinestLink)
Catalunya/Midi-Pyrenees/Languedoc-Roussillon Euroregion (EPM Euroregion)	Oresund Committee (Greater Copenhagen)
Council for Cooperation of Border Regions (Pskov-Livonia Euregio)	Østfold-Bahusia Euroregion (Svinesund Committee)
Working Community Braganza- Zamora (ZASNET EGTC)	
DISCARDED EUROREGIONS (TOTAL =31)	
OTHER DISCARDED NOT EUROREGIONS AND NOT LISTED (Total = 44)	

Source: compiled by the authors

Table 7 – List of Euroregions, Cross-Border Equipment and Transboundary Parks selected for the Catalogue

SOUTHWESTERN EUROPE (Total = 11)	
EUROREGIONS (Total = 9)	New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre Euroregion
	Bidasoa-Txingudi Cross-Border Consortium
	Duero-Douro EGTC
	Pourtalet Space EGTC
	Chaves-Verín Eurocity
	Bayonne-San Sebastián Basque Eurocity
	Galicia–Northern Portugal Euroregion
	Pyrenees–Mediterranean Euroregion
	Pyrenees-Cerdanya EGTC
CB-EQUIPMENT (Total = 1)	Hospital of Cerdanya EGTC
TB-PARKS (Total = 1)	International Tagus Natural Park
WESTERN EUROPE (Total = 21)	
EUROREGIONS (Total = 16)	Alzette-Belval EGTC
	East Border Region Ltd.
	Ems Dollart Region (EDR)
	EUREGIO (Gronau Euroregion)
	Regio PAMINA Eurodistrict EGTC
	Saarmoselle Eurodistrict
	Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis
	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)
	Meuse–Rhine Euroregion
	Rhine-Meuse-North Euregio
	North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG)
	Rhine-Waal Euregio
	Scheldemond Euregio
	Dunkirk- Flandre-Côte d'Opale region and West Flanders EGTC
	Kerkrade-Herzogenrath Eurode
	CAWT Region (Co-Operation and Working Together)
CB-EQUIPMENT (Total = 1)	Channel Tunnel
TB-PARK (Total = 4)	Bourtanger Moor -Bangerveem International Nature Park
	De Zoom – Kalmthoutse Heide Cross-Border Park
	Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park
	Wadden Sea World Heritage Site

EUROREGIONS, CROSS-BORDER EQUIPMENT & TRANSBOUNDARY PARKS SELECTED FOR THE CATALOGUE (continuation)	
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN AND ADRIATIC (Total = 5)	
EUROREGIONS (Total = 3)	Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion
	Gorizia-Nova Gorica EGTC
	Sicily-Malta Cross-Border Region
TB-PARKS (Total = 2)	Maritime-Alps Mercantour European Park
	Mont Viso Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve
CENTRAL EUROPE (Total = 22)	
EUROREGIONS (Total = 17)	Leman Council
	Euregio Egrensis
	MontBlanc Space
	Freiburg Region and South Alsace Eurodistrict
	Strasbourg Ortenau Eurodistrict
	Basel Trinational District
	Greater Geneva
	Inn-Salzach-Euregio
	Inntal Euregio
	International Lake Constance Conference (IBK)
	Tri-national Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine
	Salzburg - Berchtesgadener Land - Traunstein EuRegio
	EUROPAREGION (Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino Euroregion)
	Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion
	Via Salina Euregio
	Praded Euroregion
	“Vis-à-Vis” LGTC
CB-EQUIPMENT (Total = 5)	Euroairport Basel Mulhouse Freiburg
	Great St Bernard Pass Tunnel
	MontBlanc Tunnel EEIG
	Europa 1 Fireboat LGTC
	CEVA Railway Link (Cornavin - Eaux-Vives - Annemasse)

EUROREGIONS, CROSS-BORDER EQUIPMENT & TRANSBOUNDARY PARKS SELECTED FOR THE CATALOGUE (continuation)	
EASTERN EUROPE (Total = 10)	
EUROREGIONS (Total = 6)	Banat Triplex Confinium EGTC
	Carpathian Euroregion
	Country of Lakes Euroregion
	Glacensis Euroregion
	Tatry Euroregion
	Ruse-Giurgiu Danubius Euroregion
CB-EQUIPMENT (Total = 2)	New Europe Bridge
	Danube Bridge
TB-PARKS (Total = 2)	Amazon of Europe Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Mura-Drava-Danube)
	Prespa Transboundary Park
NORTHERN EUROPE (Total = 11)	
EUROREGIONS (Total = 10)	Baltic Euroregion
	Bothnian Arc
	Frankfurt (Oder) & Slubice Cooperative Center
	Greater Copenhagen & Skåne Committee
	Kvarken Council
	Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion
	Svinesund Committee
	Pomerania Euroregio
	Fehmarnbelt Committee
	FinEst Link (Helsinki-Tallinn)
CB-EQUIPMENT (Total = 1)	Øresund Bridge

Source: compiled by the authors

Chapter 2. Euroregions and their projects. Territorial features governance and cross-border interventions

1. The bird's eye view of Euroregions. An Introduction to the statistical analysis

In this chapter, we show how we classify some of the main features of Euroregions. We conducted the analysis based on the sample data of 61 entities that we took into account in our Euroregional database and selected using our operational definition, i.e. Euroregions within the EU having the central task of developing CBC projects. As discussed in the previous chapter, the selection involved all those Euroregions considered to be **especially active, innovative and excellent** in terms of their governance structure and/or the relevance of the projects they execute. Furthermore, the selected sample also includes significant traits that make it suitable for further analysis. Firstly, the sample accounts for an important percentage of the total universe of currently active Euroregions, i.e. 38.6% of the 158 identified cases. Secondly, the 61 cases presented here are some of the most qualified for analysis based on the selection criteria we applied thereto and the available information concerning their activities. Thirdly, the selection also considered a geographical distribution factor which allowed for a balanced inclusion of cases from all over the EU. Finally, when considering the Euroregional projects selected for the analysis, i.e. one for each of the 61 cases, the same criteria apply. Moreover, particular care was taken in closely examining and observing how these projects obtained interventions from different thematic sectors, the amounts of funding and the typologies of participating actors. However, we have to point out that the following analysis does not include CB Equipment and TB Parks, although their presence in the second part of the publication, in the form of the **Euroregional Info Sheets**, would still prove to be useful to the reader for comparing these specific realities with the ones studied in our sample.

Thus, the final objective of the analysis is to identify general patterns that facilitate the interpretation of a great variety of CBC experiences developed by Euroregions. Ultimately, it is intended to convert such guidelines into future tools for supporting further definition and implementation of new policies for improved CBC activities. The need for analytical classification is therefore essential for sustaining territorial cooperation, insofar as it enables us to deal with key features of complex and dynamic realities pertaining to cross-border territorial governance. Hence, the purpose of the whole process is to explore various questions concerning the CBC and the Euroregional phenomena as well as theorise about their future evolution: What are the chronological and geographical patterns that can be traced in the expansion of Euroregions? Is it possible to predict a further expansion in the foreseeable future? Are there any major concentrations of Euroregions in certain regions or between certain states in Europe? Is there an optimal territorial and demographic scale? What are the main territorial profiles of Euroregions? Is there a relationship between the territorial scale, geographical profile and the cooperation's objectives? Would it be useful to create supporting instruments for each typology? What are the main institutional and administrative conditions that need to be fulfilled to effectively promote a CBC that best suits citizens in the Euroregion? Is there an optimal number of participating public actors for consolidating an effective cross-border governance system? Under which conditions would a Euroregion most likely employ an EGTC? When is the EGTC useful as a legal tool for establishing efficient cross-border governance? Is there a specific CBC project profile in terms of duration and amount of funding? What specific roles should different actors play in both the governance process and the concrete realisation of activities related to the CBC project?

Answering all these questions about Euroregional features and dynamics is very crucial for any future attempt of developing a theoretical model for explaining the behaviour of Euroregions, in which it specifically highlights all the common traits identified in the grouping as well as the specific characteristics associated to a typology. Indeed, such a Euroregional theoretical model can only prove to be concretely supportive in creating and shaping effective context-related policies.

The analysis proposed here is merely an attempt to focus on all these questions by making use of the limited amount of data provided by the sample. Thus, the main arguments discussed above will be treated in the following specific sections: the chronological appearance and spreading of Euroregions and their current geographical distribution on the European map (section 2); the geographical classification of Euroregions in terms of scale (territorial and population dimensions) and territorial profiles (section 3); the analysis of the governance systems based on the legal-institutional frameworks and the levels of density/interaction among public and private actors section 4); the activities of Euroregions based on a classification according to the thematic sectors involved (section 5); and a portrait of CBC projects based on their orientation, funding and the leadership of the actors involved in their execution (section 6).

2. Historical evolution and geographical distribution of Euroregions

2.1. Historical evolution. Three main stages

One of the fundamental steps towards understanding the explanatory patterns of Euroregions requires taking a closer look at their evolution through time and space. The data collected helps us to establish a chronological analysis of the increasing number of Euroregions in Europe by comparing the creation date of each individual organisation. By aligning the 61 entities contained in the sample (Graph 1), the continuity in establishing new Euroregional structures since the early 1970s is indeed remarkable. At the same time, such evolutional processes accounts for distinguishing **three main stages of spreading and diffusion of Euroregions**.

- 13 Euroregions were created earlier than 1990, whereby the prevalence of such initial cooperative structures was most apparent in the 1970s (the first historical EUREGIO is an exception, as it was created in 1958). Such pioneer cross-border structures are usually developed under a weak institutional and financial framework. This first stage is also in line with the two previously theorised phases in the previous chapter (1950-79 and 1980-90).

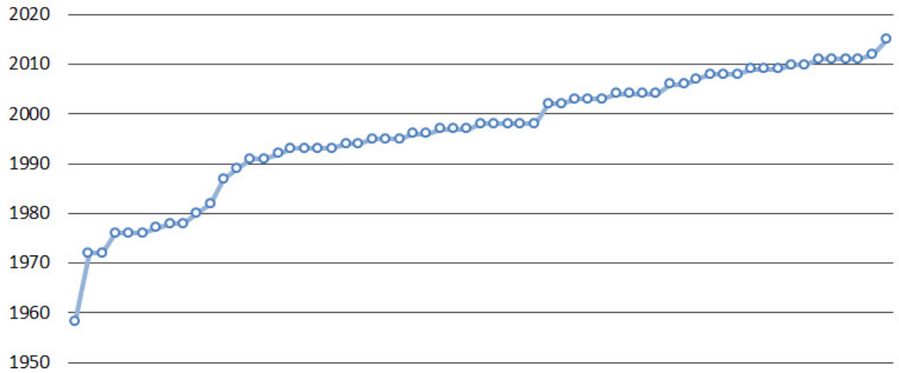
- 22 Euroregions were created in the 1990s, reflecting the general trends already established, not only under the Madrid Convention, but also thanks to the new incoming financial subvention provided by the INTERREG programmes.

- 26 Euroregions finally appear in the first decade of the 2000s, a good part of which was inspired by the newly established Territorial Cooperation Objective of the EU, as a consequence of the reform of Cohesion Policy in 2007.

These three main stages are also connected to the four stages of Euroregional expansion (c.f. Chapter 1, Section 1.2)

The chronological distribution widely confirms what had already been theorised by other studies dealing with the proliferation of Euroregions, especially during the 1990s and the first years of the 2000s. As put forth in the previous chapter, important explanatory factors are not only derivable from the European enlargement process, but also from the political, legal and financial support provided mainly by European institutions and additionally by the Member States.

Graph 1 – Chronological appearance of selected Euroregions in the sample



Source: compiled by the authors

The analysis suggests in broad terms **a correlation between the different historical stages described above and the institutional forms adopted by the Euroregions:**

- The first Euroregions were basically developed from CBC agreements among local and supralocal entities on both sides of the border involving pairs of European Member States, namely the Netherlands-Germany and France-Germany, etc. They are cooperation experiences involving a high number of public actors (with a total average of 30), generally between local and supralocal entities, and which rarely decided to convert their institutional agreement into an EGTC; in our sample, the only one which followed the trend was the current New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre Euroregion.

- The same pattern seems to apply to the 22 Euroregions created during the 1990s, of which only 3 eventually converted to an EGTC legal formula. However, the second grouping shows a higher institutional density having a total average number of 53 participating public actors. Many of them are both local and supralocal entities, and for the first time they are beginning to jointly develop new urban formulas for envisioning the border area. This is especially the case for the so-called 'Eurodistricts', which introduce for the first time the idea of developing urban policies at the Euroregional level.

- Lastly, the final block of Euroregions, i.e. the 26 created in 2000 onwards, accounts for a reduced institutional density, in which the total average goes down to 21 public actors, and the main shift is represented by a growing territorial extension ruled by the new presence of larger administrative levels (regional scale at the level of NUTS2). Such change is visible when comparing the 29 sub-national entities and regional bodies participating in Euroregional structures of this third block with previous numbers (21 in the 1990s and barely 14 in the 1980s). The third stage is also a moment in which the CBC phenomenon seems to attain a new sense of maturity and increasing complexity. This becomes clear when revealing the presence of border territories that host overlapping CBC structures at different scales but in the same geographical context.

2.2. Geographical distribution of Euroregions in the EU

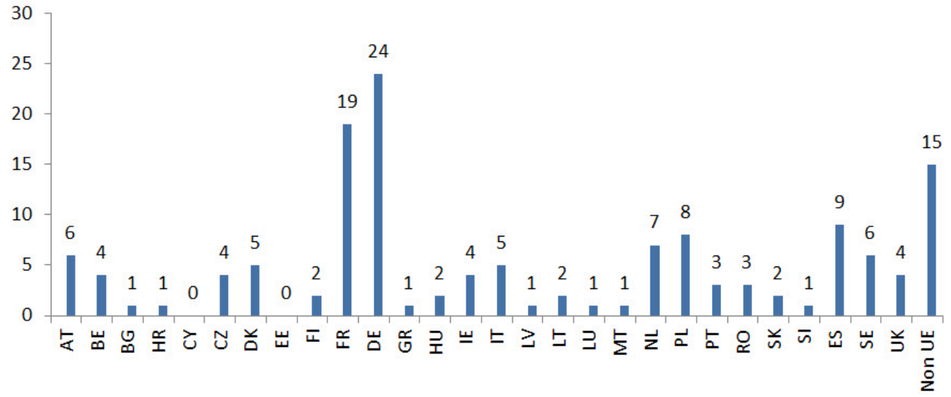
By observing the geographical distribution of Euroregions all over the EU territory, we can acquire a complete bird's eye view of the sample proposed. In the second part of this research, we discuss six geographical areas intended for classification purposes (cf. Reading Guide of the Catalogue, PART II). But first, in the current analysis at hand, we focus on the perspective of the EU member states. Thus, the following section provides estimations concerning the number of Euroregions per state, an appreciation of the presence of non-EU members and a recount of the number of states per Euroregion.

2.2.1. Total number of Euroregions per state

According to our criteria of selection the sample was created by considering a level of balance in the geographical distribution of cross-border experiences as well as including the European geographical periphery. Furthermore, both the length of each country's border and their location on the central or peripheral part of the European map also account for the final total of the cases presented. Nevertheless, it is still possible to observe that the **CBC experiences developed in the central part of continental Europe effectively show a greater presence in the total recount**. This seems to make even more sense when considering the chronological expansion of Euroregions. In this way, Germany and France (perceived jointly with the Benelux countries as the historical pioneers of territorial cooperation from as early as the 1950s) respectively participate in 24 and 19 Euroregional structures (Graph 2), and thus altogether constitute 30.5% of the 141 total state participations in Euroregional activities. After these countries, there is a large gap leading down to the presence of Spain (9 Euroregions), Poland (8), The Netherlands (7), Austria and Sweden (6), Italy and Denmark (5), and Belgium, Czech Republic, Ireland and the United Kingdom (4). The rest of the countries have lower degrees of participation. In our sample, Cyprus and Estonia are not represented in any case.

If observations were to be made using geographical macro-areas, the Northern European states, such as Denmark, Finland and Sweden would jointly account for 13 participations; the main countries constituting the Eastern Enlargement, i.e. Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, would account for 19 participations; the Benelux countries would have 12 participations; finally, the Mediterranean countries, i.e. Spain, Greece, Italy and Portugal, would be ascribed 18 total participations.

Graph 2 – Participation of EU Member States in selected Euroregions from the sample



Source: compiled by the authors

2.2.2. Non-Member States and new EU Member States

Since the Euroregional phenomenon was originally created as a cooperation instrument for European integration, **the majority of experiences in the sample occur along the internal EU borders**, whereby the total Member States participating in Euroregional experiences make up for 126 of the 141 entities recorded. Nevertheless, **the presence of central states that do not belong to the EU must also be noted**: Up to 12 of the 61 Euroregions of the sample include non-Member States with 15 state participations. A good part of this subtotal is represented by Switzerland (6), followed by Norway (2) and other countries mostly from the East and the Balkans, i.e. Albania, Belarus, Bosnia Herzegovina, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Russia and Ukraine, with only 1 participation.

Also an interesting aspect in the sample is **the strong presence of 13 'new' Member States which only later became part of the EU since the 2004 Enlargement**, and whose territories actively demonstrated a renewed interested in territorial cooperation; these 'new' Member States are Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Leetonia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Altogether, there are 15 Euroregions that include some of these new Member States, whereby six are formed by old and 'new' members, five exclusively by 'new' members, two by old, 'new' and non-Member States, and finally, two consist of 'new' and non-Member States.

On the other hand, eight Euroregions comprise of Member States before the 2004 Eastern Enlargement and non-Member States, i.e. Switzerland, Norway and Liechtenstein. Therefore, the data also indicate the importance of Euroregions as instruments of European external action and foreign policy and as a further aiding tool for the frequent enlargement processes that occurred in the past decades.

2.2.3. Number of states per Euroregion

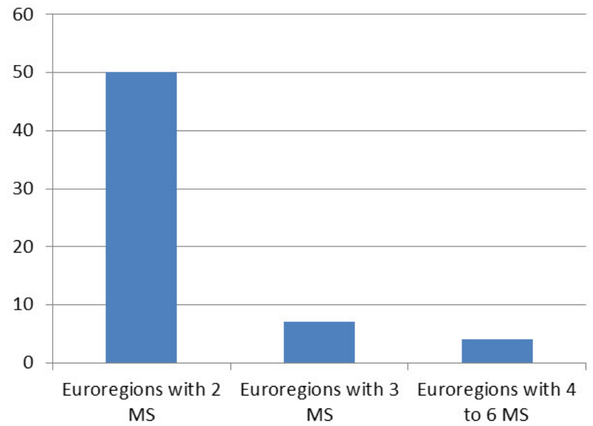
Although there are specific cases of Euroregions among territories belonging to three or more Member States, **the clear majority in the sample deals with bilateral cross-border Euroregions**, which are understood as territories belonging to two Member States, and thus divided by a political-administrative border (Graph 3). **Among all the Euroregions involving territories from three or more nation states, the presence of non-EU Member States is also remarkable and therefore worth mentioning here**. Indeed, among the Euroregions with three or more Member States, it is possible to find:

- 1 Euroregion with 6 states: the *Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion* created in 2006 between the territories of 3 Member States (Croatia, Italy and Greece) and 3 non-Member States (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro)[3];

- 2 Euroregions with 5 states: the *Baltic Euroregion* created in 1998, including the territories of 4 Member States (Denmark, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden) plus Russia; and the *Carpathian Euroregion* created in 1993 by the association of 4 Member territories (Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and, as of 2000, Romania) plus Ukraine;

- 1 Euroregion with 4 States: *The International Lake Constance Conference* created in 1972 has members belonging to old Member States (Austria and Germany) and 2 non-Member States (Liechtenstein and Switzerland).

Graph 3 – Number of Member States (MS) per selected Euroregions



Source: compiled by the authors

3. The Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion also initially relied on the presence and participation of Slovenia, but this country apparently left the cross-border structure after the first years of joint activities.

Finally, it is interesting to note that **there is no direct correlation between the number of countries involved and the number of public actors involved in the cross-border governance system of the Euroregions**. This means that increased number of borders, i.e. two or more, does not necessarily imply an increased number of public actors involved in CBC. This is probably due to Euroregions comprising three or more nation states that are usually led by a limited number of subnational entities of larger size. Under these circumstances, there is clearly a reduced presence of local entities.

3. The geographical characterisation of Euroregions. A typology

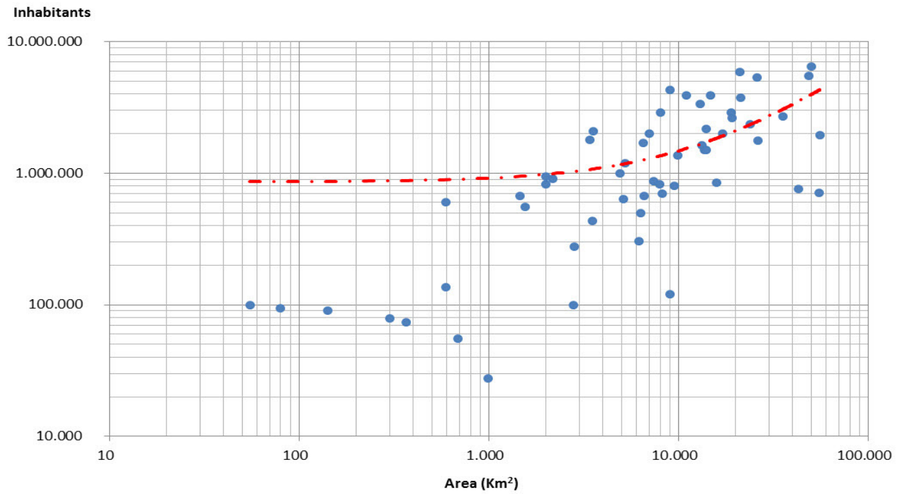
The diversity observed among different Euroregions apparently stems from the heterogeneity of their geographical features. This seems to be true in terms of size (territorial extension and number of inhabitants) as in the predominant territorial profiles that define them (mountain or coastal areas, rural or urban, presence of dominant rivers or lakes, etc.); larger Euroregions may even account for multiple combined realities. This also explains why a Euroregion could either reflect a political agreement on a few sectorial policies among small local entities sharing a rural territory (i.e. *Pyrenees-Cerdanya*) or a formal governance structure led by the responsible local and supralocal administrations in a densely populated urban agglomeration (i.e. *Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, Freiburg Region - Centre and South Alsace Eurodistrict*). At the same time, it is quite possible to find Euroregions barely hosting 100 000 inhabitants, or others accounting for several million citizens in some of the main European cities. Naturally, such territorial traits tend to shape the typology of cross-border governance accordingly in terms of the administrative units and the specific competences as well as the cooperation activities to be developed. For this purpose, **the identification of general profiles can be particularly useful, among other means of acknowledging similar behavioural patterns in terms of governance, such as in concrete cross-border actions**. Furthermore, such process can concretely help a Euroregion identify other Euroregional structures with similar geographical features, and thus allow a sharing of experiences that can be instrumental in increasing their own potential.

3.1 Euroregional sizes: Population and surface area

Although it is possible to observe a certain connection between the parameters of territory, population density and the geographical character of cross-border areas, the relationship is however not a linear one. Indeed, there are cases of densely populated Euroregions in a relatively small area around a border and others that deal with more complex territories hosting several urban agglomerations with a relevant population density. Nevertheless, it is still possible to identify some general patterns concerning population and surface. Firstly, Graph 4 shows some dominant patterns observed from the Euroregional sample. **The majority of Euroregions observed is situated in a grouping combining a surface gap between 5 000 km² and 40 000 km² and a population gap located between 150 000 and 5 million inhabitants**. On the other hand, when observing both the maximum and minimum extremes of the graph, it is also possible to find very different realities. The *Kerkrade-Herzogenrath 'Eurode'* is the recorded Euroregion covering the smallest territory (55 km²). But due to its level of urbanisation, it hosts around 100 000 inhabitants. On the other hand, the *Pyrenees-Cerdanya*, being a mountainous cross-border local area, hosts the smallest population distributed over 988 km². On the opposite side, The *Country of Lakes Euroregion* accounts for the biggest territorial extension (ca. 359 000 km²), but its population is less than 1 million inhabitants. In contrast, the

Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion hosts a massive population of 22 million inhabitants over a surface area of 229 000 km²; however this represents quite an exceptional case in the sample, as it exhibits features that rather resemble those of a transnational cooperation area. In this sense, Graph 4 is capable of clearly showing the disparities in population densities, which are expressed as deviations from the average grouping.

Graph 4 – Surface area and population of Euroregions from the sample



Source: compiled by the authors

According to the population and the territorial dimension, **it is possible to establish a first-level typology (Table 8) which groups Euroregions under 4 main categories**. The main population groups are then divided into 11 subgroups based on their urban, rural or mountainous features, whereby such features can partially affect population densities. Thus, the first category is composed of Euroregions having less than 150 000 inhabitants and a surface area of 10 000 km², split across three subgroups with very contrasting realities (from medium/small urban areas to mountainous areas administered at supralocal level); the second category (between 150 000 and 1 million inhabitants, showing a wide disparity in surface areas) enlists a variety of cases ranging from medium urban agglomerations to large and scarcely populated rural areas, also including a few mixed realities; the third category consists of Euroregions hosting between 1 and 5 million inhabitants also spread around very different surface areas, which are divided into subgroups ranging from metropolitan features to mixed territories with a stronger rural character; finally, the fourth category includes Euroregions with populations over 5 million inhabitants and surface areas greater than 5 000 km², where the presence of metropolitan agglomerations, either cross-border or not, is highly significant.

3.2. Territorial Profiles of Euroregions

A deeper analysis of the territorial profiles of Euroregions (Table 9) also facilitates a complementary categorisation of the previously developed one. Considering that most Euroregions exhibit different territorial features, with this analysis, we sought to identify the most relevant profiles for each individual case, and applied a further methodological step that has been advanced with the aim to determine a dominant geographical profile.

Among the six established categories, **the largest presence in the sample is given by two generally broad categories included under rural spaces** (43 cases, 15 of which exhibit a dominant profile) **and the urban/metropolitan spaces** (41 cases, 27 exhibiting a dominant urban profile). In contrast, the other three profiles underline the presence of realities with more specific features, both in terms of potentialities and challenges, i.e. mountain (12/7); fluvial/lake (22 cases, yet none of which is entirely dedicated to this geographical profile[4]) and maritime/coastal/island (11/2). One final category was created for extremely heterogeneous spaces, which represents a circumstance resulting from a much wider surface extension (10 cases).

Therefore, the proposed typology can effectively show a bird's eye view of the territorial diversity of Euroregions. This can be highly useful for comparative studies as well as the exchange of practices and cooperation among related cross-border territories with specific needs derived from their territorial background. Most importantly, the categorisation can also influence the production of supporting strategies coming from both state and European institutions.

Table 8 – Typology of Euroregions according to population, surface area and territorial profile

1. Euroregions with less than 150.000 inhabitants	
Typology	**Examples** *(population density in brackets:inhabitants per km²)*
1.1 Urban Area: < 150 km² Desnity: > 500 inhab./ km² *Description:* Small-sized and predominantly urban Euroregions.	Alzette-Belval (638)
	Bidasoa-Txingudi Cross-Border Consortium (1.179)
	Kerkrade-Herzogenrath "Eurode" (1.818)
1.2 Mixed Area: < 1.000 km² Density: 50 – 300 inhab./km² *Description*: Small Urban concentrations within a rural environment with different population density.	Chaves-Verín Eurocity (81)
	Frankfurt (Oder) & Slubice Coop. Center (263)
	Gorizia-Nova Gorica (202)
	"Vis-à-vis" (232)

4. Quite often, Euroregions initiate their CBC activities by building a cross-border region along a shared lake or river. However, in reality, their activities would go beyond simple water management policies. Also outside of the Euroregional sample used for this study, one of the TB Parks identified in the Catalogue indeed focuses all its CBC activities on the management of a trinational lake area (See *Prespa Transboundary Park*).

Euroregions with less than 150.000 inhabitants (continuation)	
Typology	**Examples** *(population density in brackets:inhabitants per km²)*
1.3 Rural – Mountain Area: 900 - 10.000 km² Density: < 50 inhab./km² *Description*:Smallormediumgeographicalareaswhicharescarcely populated, preferably in mountainous areas.	Pyrenees-Cerdanya (28)
	MontBLanc Space (36)
2. Euroregions between 150.000 and 1.000.000 inhabitants	
2.1 Urban Area: 500 – 5.000 km² Density: > 300 inhab./km² *Description*: Medium urban agglomerations.	Bayonne-S. Sebastián Basque Eurocity (1.015)
	Basel Trinational District (417)
	Greater Geneva (473)
	Saarmoselle Eurodistrict (459)
	Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict (422)
	Svinesund Committee (360)
2.2 Mixed Area: 1.000 – 40.000 km² Density: 49 – 300 inhab./km² *Description*: Medium-sized territories also presenting medium-sized cities which are separated by rural or scarcely populated areas	Banat Triplex Confinium (124)
	East Border Region (104)
	Inn-Salzach-Euregio (98)
	Inntal Euregio (125)
	North West Region Cross Border Group (49)
	Praded Euroregion (118)
	Ruse-Giurgiu Danubius Euroregion (79)
	Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land- Traunstein (85)
	Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion (85)
	Via Salina Euregio (102)
2.3 Rural Area: > 40.000 km Density: < 50 kinhab./km² *Description*: Large territories with a major rural and scarcely populated character	Botnhian Arc (13)
	Country of Lakes Euroregion (2)
	Kvarken Council (18)
3. Euroregions between 1 and 5 million inhabitants	
3.1 Urban (metropolitan) Area: 1.000 – 40.000 km² Density: > 300 inhab./km² *Description*: Medium-sized territories with a dominant presence of big urban agglomerations	Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis (592)
	Meuse–Rhine Euroregion (355)
	Rhine-Meuse-North Euregio (529)
	Rhein-Waal Euregio (478)
	Scheldemond Euregio (358)

Euroregions between 1 and 5 million inhabitants (continuation)	
Typology	**Examples** *(population density in brackets:inhabitants per km²)*
3.2 Mixed (urban) Area: 1.000 – 40.000 km² Density: 50 – 300 inhab./km² *Description*: Middle-sized territories with a significative presence of urban areas, although separated by rural or scarcely populated areas	Carpathian Euroregion (107)
	CAWT Region (99)
	Dunkirk-Flandre-Côte d'Opale-W. Flanders (286)
	Ems Dollart Region (139)
	EUREGIO (Gronau Euroregion) (259)
	Euregio Egrensis (118)
	Europaregion (Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino) (68)
	Fehmarnbelt Committee (139)
	FinEst Link (Helsinki-Tallinn) (157)
	Freiburg Reg. & S. Alsace Eurodistrict (231)
	Glacensis Euroregion (204)
	Greater Copenhagen & Skåne Committee (176)
	International Lake Constance Conference (264)
	Irish Central Border Area Network (53)
	Leman Council (154)
	Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion (124)
	Pomerania Euroregio (76)
	Regio PAMINA Eurodistrict (62)
	Tatry Euroregion (109)
3.3 Mixed (predominantly rural) Area: > 40.000 km² Density: < 50 inhab./km² *Description*: Very large territories with some important cities amongst a dominant rural and scarcely populated environment.	Pourtalet Space (35)
4. Euroregions with more than 5.000.000 inhabitants	
4.1 Mixed (urban- metropolitan) Area: 5.000 – 40.000 km² Density: 50 – 300 inhab./km² *Description*: Medium-sized territories with either metropolitan areas or medium-sized cities, yet separated by rural or scarcely populated areas	Sicily-Malta Cross-Border Region (208)
	Tri-national Metr. Region Upper Rhine (281)
4.2 Mixed (urban and significative metropolitan areas) Area: > 40.000 km² Density: 50 – 300 inhab./km² *Description*: Very large territories possessing metropolitan areas and medium-sized cities yet separated by wide rural or scarcely populated areas.	Baltic Euroregion (63)
	Galicia–Northern Portugal Euroregion (130)
	Ionian Adriatic Euroregion (96)
	Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre (85)
	Pyrenees-Mditerranean Euroregion (129)

Source: compiled by the authors

Table 9 – Territorial profiles of Euroregions from the sample (✔: Main Feature – X: Other features)

Euroregions	Urban; Metropolitan	Rural	Mountain	Fluvial; Lake	Maritime; Coastal; Island	Heteroge-neous
Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion						✔
Alzette-Belval	✔					
New Aquitaine-Euskadi- Navarre Euroregion						✔
Baltic Euroregion						✔
Banat Triplex Confinium	X	✔		X		
Bidasoa-Txingudi Cross-Border Consortium	✔				X	
Bothnian Arc						✔
Carpathian Euroregion						✔
Leman Council	X	X	X	X		
Country of Lakes Euroregion						✔
Duero-Douro		✔		X		
East Border Region Ltd.		✔			X	
Euregio Egrensis	X	✔				
Ems Dollart Region (EDR)		✔			X	
MontBlanc Space		X	✔	X		
Pourtalet Space		X	✔			
EUREGIO (Gronau Euroregion)	X	✔				
Chaves-Verín Eurocity	✔	X				
Bayonne-San Sebastián Basque Eurocity	✔				X	
Regio PAMINA Eurodistrict	X	✔		X		
Freiburg Region and South Alsace Eurodistrict	X	✔		X		
Strasbourg Ortenau Eurodistrict	✔	X				
Basel Trinational District	✔	X	X	X		
Saarmoselle Eurodistrict	✔					
Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis	✔	X		X		
Frankfurt (Oder) & Slubice Cooperative Center	✔			X		
Galicia-Northern Portugal Eurorgion						✔
Glacensis Euroregion		✔	X			
Gorizia-Nova Gorica	✔	X				
Greater Geneva	✔	X		X		
Greater Copenhagen & Skåne Committee	✔	X			X	
Inn-Salzach-Euregio	X	✔				
Inntal Euregio	✔	X				
International Lake Constance Conference (IBK)		✔	X	X		
Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	✔	X				
Kvarken Council						✔
Meuse-Rhine Euroregion	✔	✔		X		
Rhine-Meuse-North Euregio	✔	X		X		

Euroregions (continuation)	Urban; Metropolitan	Rural	Mountain	Fluvial; Lake	Maritime; Coastal; Island	Heteroge-neous
North-West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG)	✔	X			X	
Tri-national Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine	✔	X		X		
Pyrenees–Mediterranean Euroregion						✔
Rhine-Waal Euregio	✔	X		X		
Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein EuRegio	✔	X		X		
Scheldemond Euregio	✔			X		
Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion	X	✔			X	
Svinesund Committee	✔	X		X		
Tatry Euroregion	✔	X	X			
EUROPAREGION (Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino Euroregion)	X	X	✔			
Sicily-Malta Cross-Border Region	X	X			✔	
Dunkirk-Flandre-Côte d'Opale region and West Flanders	X	✔		X	X	
Ruse-Giurgiu Danubius Euroregion	✔			X		
Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion		X	✔	X		
Pomerania Euroregio						✔
Via Salina Euregio	X	X	✔			
Praded Euroregion		X	✔			
Fehmarnbelt Committee	X	X			✔	
Kerkrade-Herzogenrath Eurode	✔	X				
Pyrenees-Cerdanya		X	✔			
"Vis-à-Vis"	✔	X		X		
FinEst Link (Helsinki-Tallinn)	✔				X	
CAWT Region (Co-Operation and Working Together)	X	✔				
TOTAL	41 (✔:27)	43 (✔:15)	12 (✔:7)	22 (✔:0)	11 (✔:2)	**10**

Source: compiled by the authors

4. Euroregions as engines for cross-border governance. Participating actors and legal instruments for CBC

A Euroregion can be considered a process of institutional consolidation, in which - after the initial political sparkle expressed by public actors - it is possible to trigger complex policies, such as the definition of common cross-border objectives, which are to be realised by means of mobilising human, economic and institutional resources already present in the territory. This is a concept that focuses on the mechanism of cross-border governance, which, in this case, is understood as a network of actors, who are willing to develop collective actions with beneficial impacts for participants of both sides despite the challenges of border separation. From a theoretical perspective, the whole process refers to a network whose dynamics look similar to the multilevel governance principles that the EU espouses. Altogether, this means that cross-border governance benefits from a set of common horizontal, participative, consensual and generally low-level hierarchical practices between public and private actors, and whose degree of involvement is usually negotiable.

Therefore, all the above arguments show the vital role played by Euroregions in constructing an effective cross-border governance system. In their establishment, Euroregional structures represent (more or less) formalised fora for negotiating the preferences of the territorial actors involved. Aside from the principle that effective cross-border governance systems are not always based on the constitution of new administrative structures, Euroregions can still define a stable space that guarantees coordination among public and private actors across the border. Naturally, the real success or failure of such institutional consolidation processes will depend on several factors, among which, the typology and the number of territorial entities (hence, the institutional density) involved in the CBC processes are essential parameters.

Furthermore, the typology of territorial entities, coupled with their geographical scale, enables us to observe the close relations of administrative and territorial units towards its citizens, as well as the legal competences that national legal systems conferred to each of them. This idea is crucial to understanding possible asymmetries occurring on both sides of the border. Furthermore, it guarantees the viability of cooperation between public territorial administrations belonging to different legal and institutional systems.

As already mentioned, it is easy to observe how Euroregions possess different degrees of institutional density, which means that the number of territorial units of government involved in the cross-border agreement can vary greatly according to each individual case. The main operational hypothesis proposed here suggests that by increasing the number of involved actors, the difficulties and obstacles affecting the cooperation (for instance, coordination costs) will also increase accordingly. Two factors may help us explain such an assumption. As a first consequence possibly resulting from the different administrative traditions of the involved states, it is likely foreseeable that a larger number of public actors and a wider gap among the given competences will be associated with higher coordination costs for shared initiatives. Secondly, as it is most applicable to the context of different self-governing units, each administration will be subject to different electoral cycles and specific backgrounds marked by individual political cultures. All the previous factors may therefore contribute to an escalation of coordination costs fuelled by possible changes in the political majorities of self-governing units on both sides of the border. Furthermore, cross-border issues are indeed sensitive to shifts in political colour, especially considering that they fall under a precise political will for sub-

national entities dealing with limited foreign affairs capabilities.

In other parts of this research, it was postulated that an effective implementation of Euroregional CBC also depends on: a) the right choice of legal and institutional frameworks capable of overcoming legal obstacles, and b) the capacity to properly address responsibility, legitimacy and management tasks for cross-border action. To cooperate beyond national borders, territorial entities can employ legal frameworks from national, European and international law providing them the juridical tools for cooperation. However, due to the lack of a clearly defined instrument that could be universally valid for all, the model chosen by each individual Euroregion will always vary according to the typology of interested partners, the chosen sectors for cooperation (i.e. environment, transport, culture, etc.), the kind of expected actions proposed (i.e. creation of networks, joint investments, etc.) and finally the culture and administrative traditions of each country. On a final note, since its creation in 2006, the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) has increasingly been used as one possible formula for institutional consolidation. On the other hand, it has also been observed that other modalities still maintain certain relevance as preferred ways of association. We will further refer to these legal instruments in section 4.3.1.

4.1. Euroregional actors

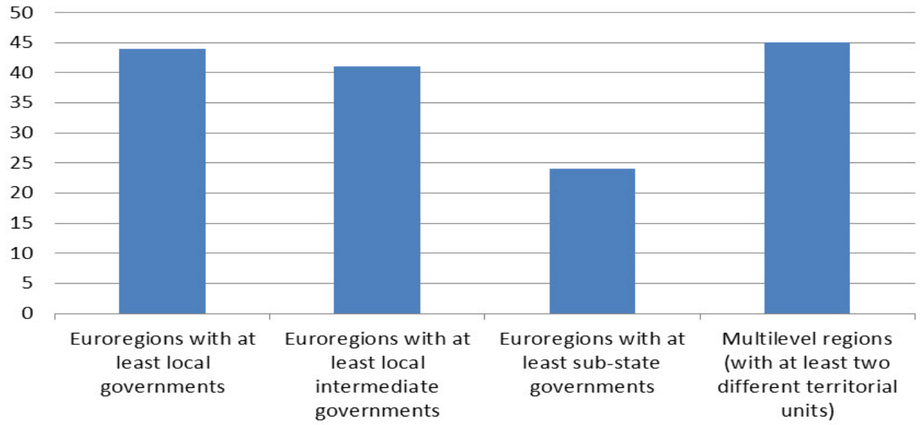
4.1.1. Public actors

The general analysis of participating actors is based on an observation of the involved public authorities (by far the most predominant presence), the multilevel character of Euroregions as well as an outlook for the role played by private actors in the Euroregional structures of the sample. As already suggested in the academic literature, **the leading authorities of Euroregions and European CBCs altogether are considered to be public actors, who are either provincial, regional or sub-state entities** (Graph 5). They essentially come from the traditional levels of government, which are present in the administrative geography of EU Member States: local, supralocal and sub-state actors. The data from the Euroregional sample largely accounts for the previous conclusions considering that:

- local entities seem to dominate Euroregional CBC, being present (although normally in combination with other territorial levels) in 44 of 61 Euroregions;
- supralocal entities are also relevant with a total of 41 cases; and
- a smaller role is usually played by sub-state entities of larger sizes, which are only present in a Euroregional structure in 24 of 61 cases.

A further sign of the relevance of public authorities can be perceived in **the participation of other organisations or public institutions connected to their direct action**. In over 50% of the sample, the analysed cases also rely on the participation of public entities, which are clearly not part of the territorial government. We refer to associations that represent municipal interests (i.e. *Ems-Dollart Region; Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion*), local or regional development agencies (i.e. *Galicia-North Portugal Euroregion; Regio Pamina*) and, to a lesser degree, some universities and public enterprises or sectorial agencies, such as health-related ones.

Graph 5 – Political and administrative scales of Euroregional actors involved in CBC



Source: compiled by the authors

4.1.2. Multilevel character of Euroregions

Another interesting result comes from the realisation that **45 of 61 Euroregions in the sample have a multilevel character,** which means that they reflect cooperation agreements, wherein participation in each case is given by actors at different territorial level. The result is quite positive because it shows the presence of complex models of governance in Euroregional structures. This generally means that in the presence of different political and administrative units, it is possible to guarantee a complementary role of competencies that affect each other in the pursuit of common cross-border action. For example, in the case of constructing a cross-border urban area aiming for strategic territorial planning, such a scenario would be convenient for involving as much local councils as provincial and regional administrations sharing the territory.

Furthermore, among the multilevel experiences, there are **nine cases (Table 10, section a) that are 'entirely multilevel'** due to their organisational structure including the three main administrative units (local, supralocal and sub-state). Five more cases achieve one further level by also adding the presence of central state authorities, hence reaching four levels of government involved (Table 10, section b). However, it should be noted in this case that the presence of state actors in Euroregions is, as one may expect, a limited phenomenon, and national actors are always inserted into a complex governance framework in which they are merely one more player, and not the leader of cross-border governance. In any case, their extraordinary presence can also be justified according to each individual case. In some Euroregions, they are formal actors of EGTCs or other formulas of cooperation (LGTC or Public Law Agreements) responsible for supervising cross-border urban agglomeration projects (such as *Alzette-Belval EGTC, Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, FinEst Link (Helsinki-Tallinn*), *Grand Geneva*,

West Vlaanderen/Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale). In other circumstances, state participation is given in territories with an already large trajectory of CBC, such as in the cases of the *Tri-national Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine,* the *International Lake Constance Conference* and the *MontBlanc Space*.

Apart from multilevel Euroregions, a certain number of cross-border experiences exist among equivalent levels of government (exclusively between local entities or between supralocal and supralocal, etc.; cf. Table 10, section c). However, except in the case of local CBC experiences, it can be assumed that this could otherwise be a less employed model for cooperation. Only 14 of the total selected Euroregions are entirely made up of local entities, but the variety of cases can present very different backgrounds. To cite some meaningful examples, the same sub-group hosts entities such as the *Chaves-Verín Eurocity* (with 56 000 inhabitants and a surface area of slightly more than 600 km^2) or the older *Rhine-Waal Euregio* (4.3 million inhabitants and a total size of 9 000 km^2). In the case of Euroregions exclusively based on supralocal entities, these comprise a reduced number of experiences with a long tradition of cooperation (three out of four cases were created between the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s). Furthermore, in all the cases, it is possible to observe the presence of large populations, such as in the case of the *Meuse-Rhine Euroregion* (3.9 million inhabitants) and the *Leman Council* (2.9 million). Be that as it may, the probabilities for success of all models (mono-level vs. multilevel) depend a great deal on the specific targets of the CBC agreement.

4.1.3. Private actors

The participation of private actors in Euroregional activities is also worth noting here. In reality, the development of necessary institutional capacities for a CBC with a stronger impact on citizens should count with a stronger participation of private actors in cross-border initiatives. However, the Euroregional sample confirms a large tradition regarding the scarce presence of such actors in CBC dynamics. In most of the cases analysed, the Euroregional governance is dominated by a strong, and sometimes even exclusive leadership of public actors, who are also the main promoters of cross-border interventions. **Barely 10 out of 61 cases (Table 10, section d) record the presence of private entities that are almost always represented by chambers of commerce or other agencies for business promotion and local development**. The direct involvement of economic agents, such as enterprises, is still scarce and usually limited to the construction of physical infrastructure having an impact on both sides of the border.

Table 10 – Euroregions according to the type of public/private actor participation

A. Multilevel Euroregion with 3 levels (local, supralocal and sub-state)	
Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion	Regio Pamina
Basel Trinational District	Saarmoselle Eurodistrict
Carpathian Euroregion	Scheldemond Euroregion
Fehmarnbelt Committee	Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion
Greater Copenhagen & Skåne Committee	
B. Multilevel Euroregions with 4 levels (local, supralocal, sub-state and state)	
FinEst Link (Helsinki-Tallinn)	Tri-national Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine
Greater Geneva	MontBlanc Space
International Lake Constance Conference	
C. Euroregions with same levels of government involved (local-local, etc.) (Examples)	
Local Level: Chaves-Verín Eurocity, Rhine-Waal Euregio	*Supralocal Level:* Leman Council, Meuse-Rhine Euroregion
D. Euroregions with the presence of private actors	
Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion	MontBlanc Space
Ems-Dollart Region	Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion
Fehmarnbelt Committee	Praded Euroregion
Inntal Euregio	Rhine-Waal Euregio
Kvarken Council	Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein EuRegio
Meuse Rhine-North Euroregion	Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion

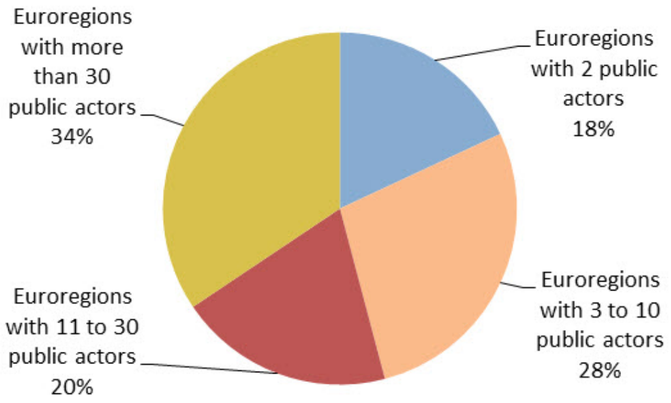
Source: compiled by the authors

4.2. Institutional density and complexity of Euroregions

4.2.1 Institutional Density

In the institutional analysis, an observation of the density (i.e. the number of actors per Euroregion) and the complexity (i.e. the levels of territorial actors overlapping in the administration of the same territory) leads to a clearer framework of the Euroregional structures employed by the participating actors. When observing the institutional density, the sample presents four groupings of Euroregions listed according to the number of actors involved (Graph 6). In the first grouping, 10 Euroregions only rely on two public actors from both sides of the border. In contrast, the second grouping is composed of Euroregions with total numbers ranging between 3 and 10 actors; such is the case of those Euroregions led by a few sub-state actors enjoying considerable political autonomy, such as the *Baltic Euroregion,* the *Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion* and the *Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino Europaregion*.

Graph 6 – Institutional Density (number of public territorial actors involved)



Source: compiled by the authors

Once the total number of 10 participating entities are exceeded and therefore enters the third grouping, the diversification increases significantly by including a much higher total number of actors, in which a general predominance of local and supra-local entities in CBC dynamics is apparent. In contrast, the last grouping classifies those Euroregions with a strong presence of local entities often represented by communities or municipal associations and whose total number of actors exceeds the 100 participating self-government units, as evident in the following 10 cases: *Duero-Douro, EUREGIO (Gronau Euroregion), Glacensis Euroregion, Inn-Salzach Euregio, Pomerania Euroregio, Praded Euroregion, Salzburg - Berchtesgadener Land - Traunstein Euregio, Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict, Tatry Euroregion, Via Salina Euregio*.

4.2.2. Institutional Complexity

The following table proposed below (Table 11) jointly exposes the two dimensions previously analysed, i.e. the institutional density and territorial scale of the administrative units. Both dimensions are indeed required to measure the institutional complexity of a Euroregion. The general correlation tells us that for a major number of actors (and specifically a greater diversity among them), a corresponding institutional complexity in the CBC agreement is involved. Thus, a major complexity can lead to a series of different consequences. To better explain the matter, a larger number of members can effectively make the general coordination more difficult, while a wider diversity could probably lead to increased asymmetries in the respective competences of each actor involved.

In conclusion, **the great variability of combinations among participating actors does not reveal consistent statistic correlations between the two factors**. Nevertheless, it is possible to claim the presence of a certain **tendency showing a decreasing number of public actors when increasing the territorial scale of the cross-border territory**. Likewise, it is possible to state that when institutional density is either high or very high, the corresponding group of Euroregions will be dominated by local entities or other representing authorities of such territorial scale, i.e. municipal associations.

Table 11 – Institutional complexity of Euroregions

Institutional Density (Number of Self-Governing Units) / Level of Self-Government (predominant)	Very low (2 actors)	Low (Between 3 and 10)	High (Between 11 y 30)	Very high (more than 30 actors)
Sub-state (or regional)	Galicia–Northern Portugal Euroregion	Pyrenees–Mediterranean Euroregion		
	New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre Euroregion	International Lake Constance Conference (IBK)		
		Baltic Euroregion		
		Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion		
Supralocal (provincial or intermediate)	Ruse-Giurgiu Danubius Euroregion	East Border Region Ltd	Euroregio Egrensis	
	Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino Euroregion	Regio PAMINA Eurodistrict	Tri-national Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine	
	Alzette-Belval			
Local	Kerkrade-Herzogenrath Eurode	Freiburg Region and South Alsace Eurodistrict	Rhine-Meuse-North Euregio	Duero-Douro
	FinEst Link Helsinki-Tallinn	Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Kvarken Council	Inn-Salzach-Euregio
	Chaves-Verín Eurocity	Scheldemond Euregio	Country of Lakes Euroregion	Praded Euroregion
	North-West Region Cross Border Group			Banat Triplex Confinium

Source: compiled by the authors

4.3. Legal frameworks of Euroregions

4.3.1. Variety of legal instruments for Euroregional administration

The process of observing the legal instruments adopted by Euroregions in the analysis is firstly defined by the quantitative calculation of the number of organisations adopting different legal formulas. As described in the first chapter of this Catalogue, Euroregions generally rely on a variety of legal models for their institutionalisation (Chapter 1, Section 1.2). A possible classification can comprise of four categories of legal instruments:

- *Public Law Agreements*: contractual commitments by the territorial authorities to develop joint CBC initiatives. Flexible and informal cooperation structures without any legal personality. The levels of institutionalisation usually depend on the bilateral cooperation treaties signed by respective Member States.

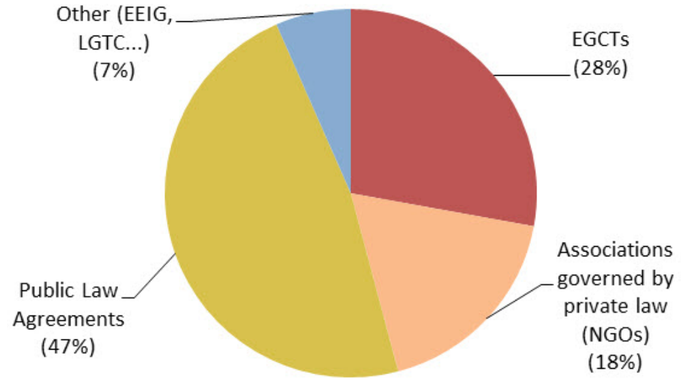
- *EGTCs*: Established by the European Commission in 2006, the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation is a permanent and autonomous cooperation structure with legal personality and subject to public/private law according to the national jurisdiction governing the place where the headquarters are located. Naturally, the analysis only deals with EGTCs employed in the sample selected due to their CBC nature[5].

- *NGOs*: private law associations acting as simplified structures with a legal personality but only governed by the private law applicable to the place where the headquarters (or registered office) of the organisation are located.

- *Other*: the final grouping incorporates other modalities such as the European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG), the Local Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (LGTC) and other formulas employed in lesser measure by Euroregions in the sample[6].

According to the classification, the analysis shows the distribution among the different legal modalities in the graph, highlighting the co-existence of various solutions among the Euroregions from the sample (Graph 7).

Graph 7 – Legal frameworks of Euroregions: Variety of juridical instruments employed by selected Euroregions.



Source: compiled by the authors

5. The official list of the Committee of the Regions includes other EGTCs also employed in transnational and interregional forms of cooperation. However, all of these were not considered while developing the Catalogue.

6. It is worth noting that while the analysis groups all minor realities under the 'Other' category for the sake of simplification in calculating statistics, the Euroregional Info Sheets in the second part of the research will explain in detail each formula selected by the respective Euroregions in the sample.

When calculating the total numbers, Public Law Agreements represent most of the cases with 29 Euroregions over 61. They are then followed by EGTCs (17), NGOs (11) and Other formulas (4). A comprehensive list of all Euroregions classified according to their specific formula can be found in the table below (Table 12).

Table 12 – Listing of selected Euroregions according to their legal framework

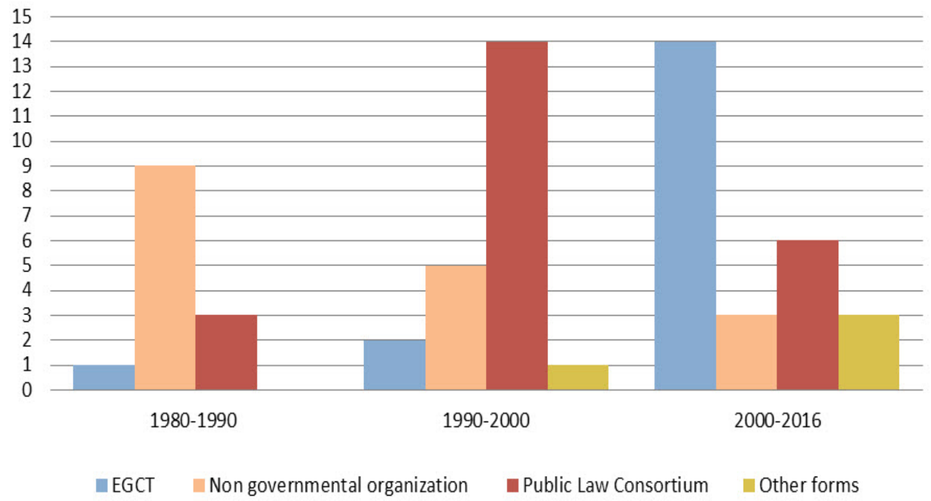
A) Public Law Agreements (29 Euroregions)	
Baltic Euroregion	Kerkrade-Herzogenrath Eurode
Basel Trinational District	Kvarken Council
Bidasoa-Txingudi Cross-Border Consortium	Leman Council
Carpathian Euroregion	MontBlanc Space
CAWT Region (Co-Operation and Working Together)	Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion
Country of Lakes Euroregion	North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG)
East Border Region	Pomerania Euroregion
Ems Dollart Region	Praded Euroregion
EUREGIO (Gronau Euroregion)	Rhine-Waal Euregio
Fehmarnbelt Committee	Scheldemond Euregio
Frankfurt (Oder) & Slubice Cooperative Center	Sicily-Malta Cross-Border Region
Freiburg Region and South Alsace Eurodistrict	Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion
Greater Copenhagen & Skåne Committee	Tri-national Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine
International Lake Constance Conference (IBK)	Via Salina Euregio
Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	
B) EGTCs (17 Euroregions)	
Alzette-Belval	New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre Euroregion
Banat Triplex Confinium	Pourtalet Space
Chaves-Verín Eurocity	Pyrenees-Cerdanya
Duero-Douro	Pyrenees–Mediterranean Euroregion
Dunkirk- Flandre-Côte d'Opale region and West Flanders	Regio PAMINA Eurodistrict
EUROPAREGION (Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino Euroregion)	Saarmoselle Eurodistrict
Galicia-Northern Portugal Euroregion	Strasbourg Ortenau Eurodistrict
Gorizia-Nova Gorica	Tatry Euroregion
Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis	
C) NGOs (11 Euroregions)	
Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion	Meuse-Rhine Euroregion
Bothnian Arc	Rhine-Meuse-North Euregio
Egrensis Euregio	Ruse-Giurgiu Danubius Euroregion
Glacensis Euroregion	Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land – Traunstein EuRegio
Inn-Salzach-Euregio	Svinesund Committee
Inntal Euregio	
D) Other (EEIG, LGTC, etc.) (4 Euroregions)	
Bayonne-San Sebastián Basque Eurocity	Greater Geneva
FinEst Link (Helsinki-Tallinn)	Vis-à-Vis LGTC

Source: compiled by the authors

4.3.2. Trends regarding the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs)

Figures from our database do not allow inferring the key-reasons why a Euroregion selects a specific legal formula. Nevertheless, **it is possible to observe that most of the Public Law Agreements in the sample were all established before 2006, which is when the EGTC was created as an EU instrument. This clearly means that before EGTCs were established, the main formulas available for CBC came in the form of associations governed by private law (NGOs) and different models of Public Law Agreements**. NGOs seem to have been the initial trend for creating Euroregions, probably due to their facility in the establishment process and the straightforwardness associated with their administrative dynamics. However, the trend changed firstly in the 1990s, such that the most frequent formula came in the form of the Public Law Agreement, and then again from 2007 onwards through the creation and consolidation of EGTCs. **Thus, the data below (Graph 8) seems to prove that recently established Euroregions tend to prefer EGTCs as their chosen legal formula**. Of the 15 Euroregions identified as being created after 2007, 10 chose to apply for an EGTC status. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the availability of the EGTC formula does not appear as a concrete solution for Euroregions with a longer trajectory. This is especially true when considering that, of the 13 Euroregions created before the 1990s, only 1 (*New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre Euroregion*) decided to adopt the EGTC legal instrument. This can be seen below (Graph 8) by understanding EGTCs signalled in the graph before 2007 as being Euroregions with other institutional formulas that later converted their structure into this legal modality.

Graph 8 – Chronological evolution of the employment of legal instruments for CBC in the selected Euroregions



Source: compiled by the authors

When considering institutional complexity, **there does not seem to be a direct correlation between the chosen legal formula and the number and typology of territorial entities involved in the cooperation agreement**. Initially, a preliminary hypothesis may consider that the presence of many actors could provide incentives for formalising cooperation through legal instruments with a stronger institutionalising effect (EGTCs or advanced formulas of Public Consortia). Regardless, among the grouping of Euroregions with the highest number of participating actors (i.e. more than 50), it is possible to observe not only the presence of EGTCs, but also Public Law Agreements and even NGOs. On a further note, **no relation was also found between EGTCs and the territorial scale of cooperation**. Both small-scale cross-border experiences (between 25 000 and 70 000 inhabitants) and much larger border regions having millions of inhabitants (i.e. the *New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre Euroregion* and its 6 million citizens) can be seen as employing the EGTC instrument. Indeed, all previous arguments reject the hypothesis that institutional complexity could have an impact on the legal formula employed by Euroregions.

Nevertheless, it is still possible to claim that **since their creation, EGTCs have been of primary interest for most of the Euroregions consolidating in more recent times**. Of course, such consideration must be put into perspective when considering the specific circumstances and the will of the actors involved in selecting this juridical formula. Regardless, the data confirms that only five among the Euroregions from the sample which were created after 2007 decided not to adopt an EGTC: *Basel Trinational Eurodistrict* (2007), *Frankfurt-Slubice Cooperation Centre* (2011), *Trinational Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine Valley* (2008), *Fehmarnbelt Committee* (2009) and *FinEst Link (Helsinki-Tallinn)* (2015).

Among other explanatory variables, **the preferences expressed by nation-states in cross-border governance matters** are also a crucial factor worth mentioning. EGTCs have been proliferating along many kilometres of borders separating Belgium, France and Germany. On the contrary, countries belonging to Northern Europe seem to have embraced the new juridical tool in varying degrees. The EGTCs in the sample would tend to indicate a certain recurrence in partnerships including French departments and regions, German districts and Belgian or Dutch provinces. At the same time, thanks to the treaty guidelines established between France and Spain as well as Spain and Portugal, EGTCs have been growing notably over the last few years in the Iberian Peninsula. Lastly, it is interesting to point out that three EGTCs included in the sample originated in border areas of Member States entering the EU during the 2004 Eastern Enlargement: *Banat Triplex Confinium* (Hungary-Romania), *Gorizia-Nova Gorica* (Italy-Slovenia), *Tatry Euroregion* (Poland-Slovakia).

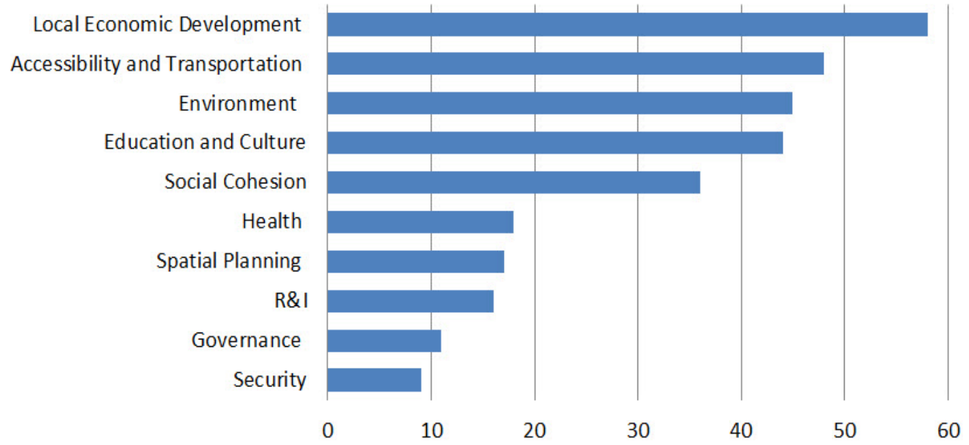
5. The objectives of Euroregional cooperation. Sectors of activity

5.1. Main sectors of the cooperation

The objectives of Euroregional cooperation can be observed through the policy fields in which CBC projects are developed and closely follow EU guideline priorities. There are multiple reasons for motivating involved actors towards CBC practices, and these are often connected to the question of borders perceived either as obstacles or sources of opportunities. Furthermore, different contexts also lead towards different motivations for CBC. Some border issues may deal with overcoming

obstacles coming from mountainous areas or coastal territories separated by a sea strait. However, in other situations, borders can be softer and present purely legal and administrative difficulties; this is often the case of urban cross-border areas that are usually densely populated and where workers, goods and services flow constantly across the frontier. Also historical factors are crucial elements in the cooperation. When looking at the origins of European CBC, for example, it is easy to see that behind the objectives of the first Euroregions a will to reconcile and heal the scars of war that had ravaged the European continent. Cooperation also played a similar unifying role during the enlargement processes towards the East and the Balkans, while at the same time the creation of a common market was instrumental in processing and fighting against border effects within the whole union. When considering all the previous arguments, it is therefore easier to observe how CBC can be shaped by a large variety of objectives that are generally grouped around wider sectorial fields.

Graph 9 – Sectorial fields in CBC practices of selected Euroregions



Source: compiled by the authors

Graph 9 shows a recount of the number of policy fields that Euroregions officially consider as their declared aims. From the data, it is possible to observe that **there is a first core of policy issues common to most Euroregions consisting of five policy areas: local economic development, transport and accessibility, environment, culture and education**. Practical reasons may help explain such preferences. Firstly, despite important variations in competences according to each state, there are sectorial areas, in which territorial entities still possess some degree of autonomy, i.e. economic development or educational and cultural policies on a local or regional scale. Secondly, the cross-border nature of the difficulties relative to these fields usually requires interventions from the administrative units that are closest to citizens, especially when considering issues such as environmental sustainability or accessibility issues on a metropolitan scale.

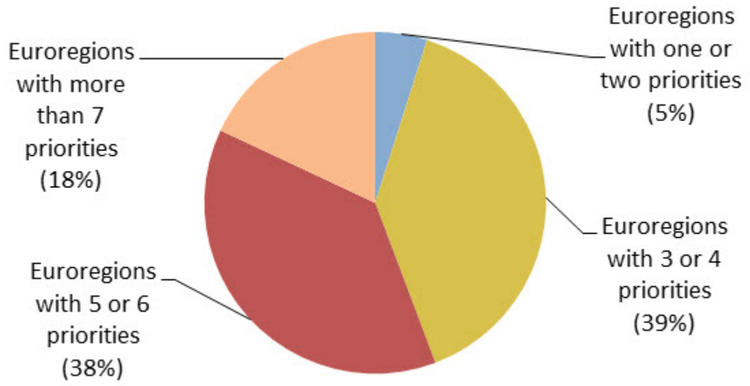
The second group of fields involves social cohesion, health, territorial planning and Research and Innovation (R&I). These issues are also actively pursued by Euroregions, but in these areas, the scope of cooperation is even more dependent on the competences entrusted to territorial authorities by each national juridical system. Actually, these policy areas often correspond to fields in which there can be a higher number of obstacles resulting from asymmetries between cooperation actors across the border. To cite an important example, health regulations very often gravitate towards national systems where local entities can benefit from small autonomy. Therefore, a reduced presence of this type of agreement should not be surprising. Similarly, territorial managing and strategic planning tend to be competences entrusted to different actors according to the different administrative cultures in Europe. Central and Northern Europe almost always rely on supralocal entities but in other countries like Spain, Italy and France, such competences are rather entrusted to sub-state entities, i.e. regions or autonomous communities. Hence, the fundamental relevance of multilevel agreements including actors from different administrative levels is clearly shown in the pursuit of these strategic policies on a cross-border scale.

The conditions cited above can therefore justify the lack of the second group in the hard core of Euroregional policy issues. However, it is also important to consider that broader action in these fields could grant Euroregional structures further legitimacy as well as providing added value to more innovative solutions than those offered by a traditional state-centric model. Several cross-border experiences can corroborate the statement, as in the case of the Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict and its CBC project for creating a ‘Cross-Border Medical Cabinet for the Treatment of Addiction’. In the context of this initiative, a joint medical institution was created for drug addiction treatments for both French and German citizens on the Euroregional territory. Clearly, the project represented a clear example of social innovation promoted by public administrations on both sides of the border.

5.2. Total number of sectorial fields per Euroregion

It is hard to establish *a priori* an optimal or minimal number of fields that a CBC agreement should incorporate. However, it is certain that beyond any reasonable criteria of efficacy, in which public administrations indeed have limited resources but multiple objectives, a smart approach should be based on the typology of actors and the legal territorial competences entrusted to those involved in the cross-border agreement. This also means that sectorial fields should be chosen according to an adequate territorial scale. Considering the multiple cases of existing multilevel Euroregions, it is also normal to expect that these could rather address more than one field at the same time. Eventually, the will to realise different economies of scale and a more integrated vision of the interventions supports the argument in favour of multiple sectorial areas co-existing in the same time. Eventually, the will to realise different economies of scale and a more integrated vision of the interventions supports the argument in favour of multiple sectorial areas co-existing in the same CBC agreement.

Graph 10 – Number of sectorial priorities per Euroregion



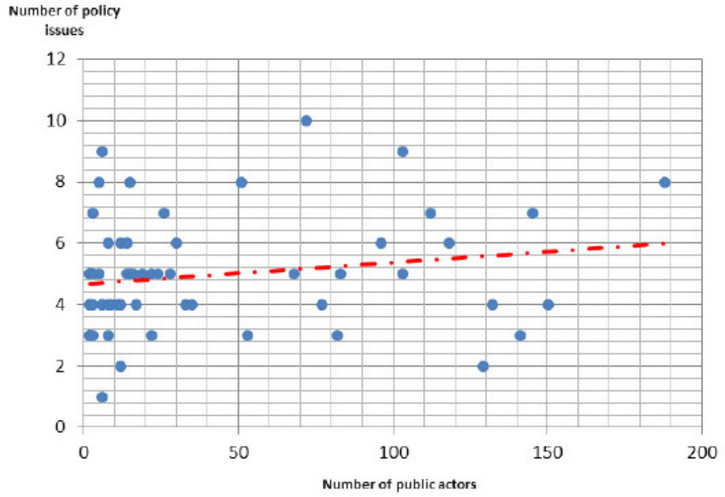
Source: compiled by the authors

As shown in the graph, a Euroregion usually deals with an average of four sectorial areas for their projects, although a closer examination reveals a variety of situations, in which almost 80% of selected Euroregions focuses on three to six sectorial objectives while up to ten Euroregions reach the higher total of seven or more policy issues (Graph 10).

Monothematic or bi-thematic cooperation agreements (the monothematic Euroregions described in the previous chapter) are indeed exceptions to the previous statement, but the sample does include two relevant examples: the *CAWT Region (Co-Operation and Working Together)* of cross-border health cooperation between the two Irelands and the *FinEst Link Helsinki-Tallinn* (former Helsinki-Tallinn Euroregion). The last case is even more interesting due to the operational choice of shifting from a multi-sectorial Euroregion to an organisation entirely focused on cross-border transports and the construction of road infrastructure (hence a large-scale project) easing mobility between the two cities. Finally, we also developed the next graph to show **the weak positive correlation (0.2) between the number of sectorial areas chosen and the institutional density involved in the cooperation agreement** (Graph 11).

Generally, a growing number of public actors involved corresponds to an increased number of sectorial fields. However, we must remind once again of the presence of a considerable diversity of situations. Thus, the classification group hosting Euroregions dealing with more than seven priorities will contain both local council associations of several dozens of municipalities (*Alzette-Belval*) and almost macro-regional experiences (*Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion*). Nevertheless, it is possible to underline **the presence of a core number of Euroregions in the sample, which recurrently share the same two features, i.e. middle-sized groupings of local or supralocal public administrations (ranging from little less than a dozen actors to two or three dozen maximum) divided by the border and which work jointly around four to five sectorial areas**. Next to this ranking, the second and smaller relevant group includes cases with a higher number of actors (50 up to 150 on average) dealing with four to eight policy issues.

Graph 11 – Relationship between the number of policy areas and institutional density of Euroregions from the sample



Source: compiled by the authors

6. Euroregional projects

6.1. Project Funding

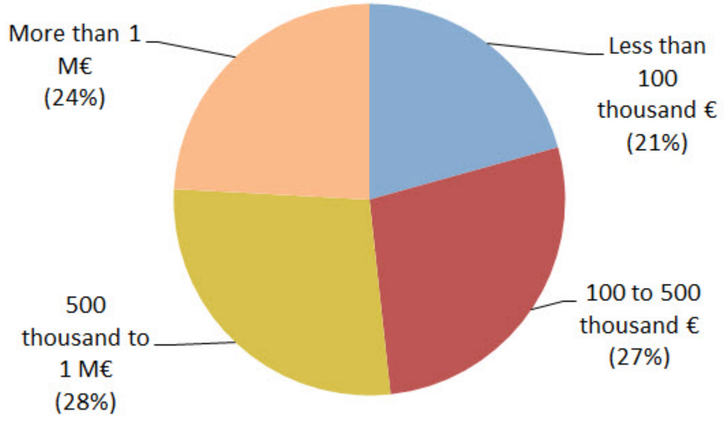
The Euroregional sample also features a selection of 61 CBC projects, one per corresponding Euroregion. In our view, further knowledge of the features of CBC initiatives can also help improve the understanding of the mechanisms of these entities. The analysis based on the collected data highlights several fundamental aspects of the interventions: their source of funding, the sectorial area to which they are dedicated, the total duration of the project and the levels of institutional participation. The process of evaluating the funding sources for the execution of projects is another crucial element in understanding Euroregional features. The analysis begins with a sub-section on the annual budgets of Euroregions and then focuses on the total money attributed to CBC projects, their economic size and the degree of co-funding among different origins of income, i.e. levels of co-funding between EU and the Euroregion's own sources. Institutional participation proves useful for understanding the leadership role of Euroregions in relation to other actors involved in the activities.

6.1.1. Annual Budgets of Euroregions

The inclusion of economic variables in the study of Euroregions is often complex due mainly to the hardships of obtaining homogeneous data that enable comparability studies. The constant diversity in the organisational structures, the different accounting systems, the uneven levels of transparency in presenting data along with the generally low interest of citizens in these lesser known institutions are all factors that help explain the hard task at hand in obtaining budget data Nevertheless, it has been possible to include financial figures of 30 Euroregions out of the total 61 from the sample into the Euroregional database. Thanks to these raw data, it was also possible to estimate the annual budgets analysed below.

From Graph 12, we could evaluate the diversity of annual budgets estimated among Euroregional entities. An initial average calculation would show a total of €773 000. However, this would immediately go down to €578 000 if we remove the bias from the exceptionally high Euregio budget of €6 million. Instead of this approximation, it would appear more useful to distinguish among four evenly distributed groups of Euroregions based on their budgets.

Graph 12 – Annual Budgets of Euroregions (% of the sample; u = 30)



Source: compiled by the authors

The first group represents very limited budgets reaching a total below €100 000 per year. Interestingly, it includes three Euroregions with very high institutional density (between 70 and 100 public actors): *Banat Triplex Confinium*, *Praded Euroregion*, *Tatry Euroregion*. The two central groups in the classification account for almost half of the cases considered, thus opening a large series of budgets distributing yearly funding of above €100 000 but below €1 Million. Finally, the classification includes one final grouping with notably elevated budgets above the €1 Million barrier. This specific condition is mainly present under two sets of circumstances. On the one hand, there are cross-border experiences with a longer shared history in CBC activities; on the other, the group enlists cross-border realities led by sub-state or strongly urban-featured areas: *Chaves-Verín Eurocity, EUREGIO, Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, Meuse Rhin-Nord Euroregion, New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre, Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion, Saarmoselle Eurodistrict*. Once again, the huge variety of contexts does not help in determining a direct correlation between increased annual budgets and the institutional complexity of a cross-border region. The data seem to suggest **a trend, according to which a smaller number of actors with more autonomy, which means a main presence of sub-state entities, would be granted for a higher available budget**. The feasibility of the trend seems even more comprehensible when referring to the cases of the large French-German Eurodistricts.

6.1.2. Project Funding

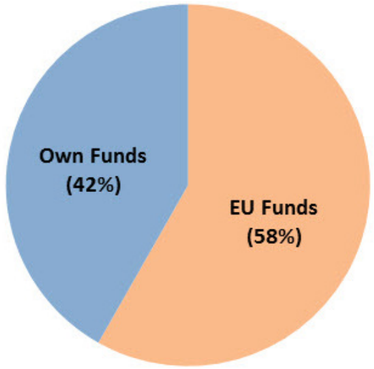
One important consideration for the analysis of Euroregional activities is that these organisations do not constitute new administrative units and do not possess a system of direct representation. Under such circumstances, Euroregional structures therefore need to look for legitimacy in realising effective and alternative solutions to problems that are generally not solved by the existing public administrations. This situation thus justifies the extra attention reserved in the analysis for the typology, total amount and sectorial priorities of the projects involved. In order to obtain a global perspective on these kinds of interventions, the analysis was based on 60 of the CBC projects. For the sake of the analysis, the project from Alzette-Belval was excluded due to the exceptionality of its budget and its duration in dealing with multiple objectives (*Ecocity project*: €360 million in multiple stages lasting up to 20 years).

a) Project income sources

The large majority of projects in the sample, which constitutes 90% of the total cases, were granted co-funding by one of the 60 CBC programmes included in the EU-sponsored INTERREG IV A strand (2007-2013). The total sum of European financial resources allocated to the projects in the analysis corresponds to €76 million. In this respect, when we consider that the total resources distributed by INTERREG IV A amounted to €5 600 million, it is apparent that **the projects selected for the analysis barely cover 1% of the total European funding**. Although the work of selecting the cataloguing task only allows us to analyse a very small percentage of total Euroregional projects, it must also be acknowledged that the largest part of INTERREG funding is often directly entrusted to the hands of public administrations autonomously performing CBC projects on both sides of the border.

On the other hand, it is also important to point out **the capability of Euroregional actors to mobilise their own funding for the development of CBC projects**. In fact, when considering a total investment of €131 million, we notice an appreciable total amount of (42%) when compared with the aforementioned European contribution of €76 million (58%) (Graph 13).

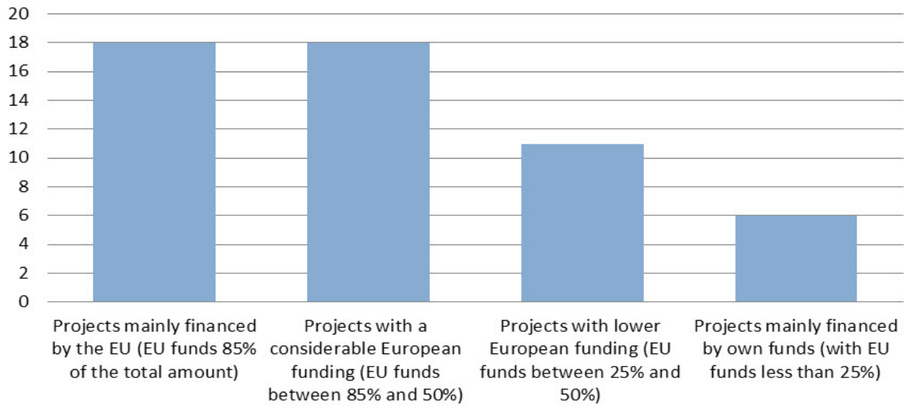
Graph 13 – Sources of income of CBC projects from the sample



Source: compiled by the authors

By studying the project co-funding rates in detail, we can observe an important leverage effect of European funds in the total investment amounts of territorial entities on the border. Nevertheless, even in this case, it is important to remark that different backgrounds surround the projects and the final co-funding rates can vary considerably (Graph 14).

Graph 14 – Level of EU co-funding in CBC projects from the sample



Source: compiled by the authors

From this perspective, it is therefore possible to calculate that 68% of the analysed projects that obtain European funding amount to more than 50% of the total project budget, and in half of the cases, the EU can contribute up to 85% of the total cost. Furthermore, in some cases, the projects with more elevated rates of co-funding are quantitatively significant in their total budgets, as shown in Table 13.

Table 13 – Examples of Projects with different levels of co-funding

Euroregion	Project	Budget (M€) (EU: %, M€)
Pomerania Euroregio	Telemedicine within the Euroregion POMERANIA-POMERANIA network	13 M€ (EU: 85%, 11 M€)
Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Border Uplands	3.2 M€ (EU: 74%, 2,3 M€)
Bidasoa-Txingudi Cross-Border Consortium	RESOT	1.5 M€ (EU: 60%, 0,9 M€)

Source: compiled by the authors

At the other end of the co-funding spectrum, there are 17 projects in which territorial actors sustain project activities with their own resources at a minimum rate of 51% of total project costs (an estimated total among all projects of more than €50 million). This is precisely where the leverage effect of EU funding is activated to stimulate joint public investment at both sides of the border (for relevant examples, cf. Table 14).

Table 14 – Main projects with higher self-funding amounts

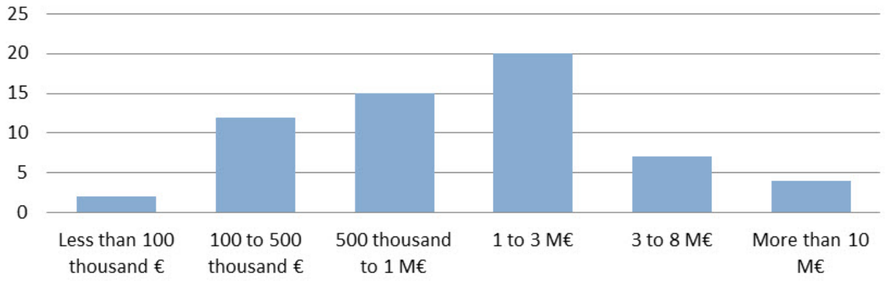
Euroregion	Project	Budget (M€) (Own Funds: %, M€)
Scheldemond Euregio	Hydrogen Region Flandres-Southern Netherlands	14 M€ (O.F.: 79%, 11 M€)
Ems-Dollart Region	DIAMANT	7,9 M€ (O.F.: 62%, 4,9 M€)
EUREGIO (Gronau Euroregion)	Mechatronics R&D for SMEs	18,3 M€ (O.F: 60%, 11 M€)

Source: compiled by the authors

b) Economic size of the projects

When considering the total funding that comprises European resources plus own funds, the estimated average value can be around €2.2 million. However, the graph clearly shows a large degree of variation among allotted budgets (Graph 15). As shown in the statistics, total amounts can vary from as little as €40 000 (*Pyrenees-Cerdanya*) up to a maximum of €27.6 million (*CAWT Region*), thus indicating the large spectrum of financial possibilities that can be triggered in CBC processes.

Graph 15 – Total budget amounts of selected projects from the sample



Source: compiled by the authors

There are 14 projects in the sample, whose total budget is less than €500 000, whereas only two projects are funded below €100 000. Regardless, more than half of the projects in the analysis (35 cases) reach a minimum budget of €500 000 and above, whereas 11 cases obtain a minimum of €3 million and above. Table 15 allows for a few significant examples.

Table 15 – Examples of CBC projects according to their total budgets

Euroregion	Project	Budget (M€)
Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land - Traunstein EuRegio	3 EuRegio Summit: Natural spaces and soft mobility	0.3
Kerkrade-Herzogenrath Eurode	Border Infopoint Aachen-Eurode	0.4
Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion	Emergency response without borders	0.5
Dunkirk-Flandre-Côte d'Opale region and West Flanders	TransSport	0.6
Freiburg Region and South Alsace Eurodistrict	Platform for cross-border employment - Petra	0.8
Ruse-Giurgiu Danubius Euroregion	ERGO Masterplan	0.9
Svinesund Committee	Freedom of Movement for business	1.0
Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis	Border Place Jacques Delors	1.4
Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine	Lupus BioBank Upper Rhin	2.6
Rhine-Waal Euregio	Smart Inspectors	3.2
Saarmoselle Eurodistrict	The Blue Band of Saar 2: Saar Life: The implementation of Space Vision, Phase 2	5.7
Ems-Dollart Region	DIAMANT	7.9
North-West Region Cross Border Group	North-West Regional Science Park	13.8
Scheldemond Euregio	Hydrogen Region Flandres-Southern Neatherlands	14.1

Source: compiled by the authors

6.2. Duration and sectorial fields of the projects

6.2.1. Project Duration

Additional data included in the Euroregional database provide an even more comprehensive picture of the CBC projects. Regarding the total length of the projects, there is a correlation between the general timing of the activities and the corresponding framework periods allocated for the INTERREG funding establishing an **average project duration of between three to five years**. Indeed, the calculation of the average among projects from the sample indicates **a project lifespan of approximately 3.5 years, whereby 32 cases reach at least four years in total duration**. At the same time, the number of projects tends to diminish in relation to longer periods of time for execution (Table 16). As such, only five projects were planned over a period of five years and three further projects reached a seven-year duration. Lastly, two interesting anomalies seem to corroborate the previously mentioned leverage effect given by European resources. In both cases, the funding was able to generate longer termed projects, i.e. up to 20 years, in two Euroregions, namely Alzette-Belval and Greater Geneva. Thus, the two initiatives suggest CBC projects that aim towards long-term strategic planning for targeted investments broken down into multiple project stages.

Table 16 – Total duration of selected projects lasting ≥ 5 years

Euroregion	Project
5 years	
Bayonne-San Sebastián Basque Eurocity	REDVERT
Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion	Adrigov
Gorizia-Nova Gorica	Transborder Integrated Platform
Chaves-Verín Eurocity	Termal and Water Euroregion
Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine	Lupus BioBank Upper Rhin
7 years	
Vis-à-Vis	Bus-Vis-à-Vis to the Rhine
North-West Region Cross Border Group	North West Regional Science Park
EUREGIO (Gronau Euroregion)	Mechatronics R&D for SMEs (major Project)
More than 10 years (strategic projects)	
Greater Geneva	The Innovation's Circle - The International City of Knowledge - Ferney-Voltaire (19 years)
Alzette-Belval	Ecocity ALZETTE-BELVAL (20 years)

Source: compiled by the authors

6.2.2. Sectorial Fields of the Projects

Analysing the policy areas of the projects reveals the presence of a diversity comparable to that of the thematic priorities declared by Euroregions and discussed in section 5 of this analysis (Graph 16). Economic development at local and regional level dominates the ranking with the largest concentration of projects (15). It is then followed by transport issues (9) and environment (7). There are also seven projects related to cross-border governance, which clearly underlines the necessity for consolidating CBC decision-making beyond state-centric logics. Also worth noting are projects dealing with territorial planning, R&I activities and social cohesion (5 for each field). The sample is then completed by a discrete presence of health and energy issues (3 in each sector) and finally education and culture (2 total projects). Lastly, it should be noted that no projects were identified in the field of security. However, this is not particularly surprising given the scarce role that Euroregions tend to play in this kind of issues.

Graph 16 – Sectorial fields of selected projects from the sample

Source: compiled by the authors

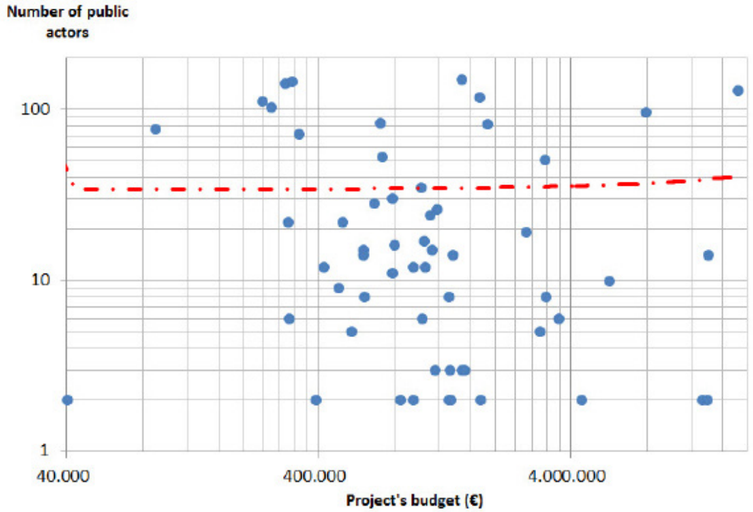
6.3. Governance of the CBC projects: Institutional complexity and project leadership

The last section of the analysis focuses on the governance implemented by the projects, which completes the study framework for these cross-border entities from a perspective that interlinks Euroregional governance structures and their pursued objectives. The data gathered in the sample enables us to examine two further aspects, namely institutional complexity (calculated by using the number of actors and the amount of funding as variables) and the leadership of Euroregional actors in project management.

6.3.1. Institutional complexity

The first task of this section required us to visualise the effect of institutional complexity over CBC projects by relating it to the total quantity of their budgets (Graph 17). From this perspective, it is now possible to claim that the joint analysis of the institutional density (understood as the total number of public actors belonging to the Euroregion) and the total financial amount of the CBC projects does confirm **the absence of a relation between the two variables**.

Graph 17 – Relation between institutional density and total project amounts



Source: compiled by the authors

Nevertheless, it is still possible to define a **dominant typology**, which represents almost half of the projects and is shaped around **a gap of 5 to 50 participating actors managing financial amounts ranging between €400 000 and €3 Million**. Outside of this range, a variety of less frequent situations indicate very different behaviours in the proposed relation:

- Euroregions led by a large number of local or supralocal entities that manage projects with relatively small budgets (i.e. *Salzburg Berchtesgadener Land - Traunstein EuRegio*; *Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict*; *Tatry Euroregion*). Projects in this category usually do not reach a total budget exceeding €300 000. However, one exceptional anomaly in this group is represented by EUREGIO (*Gronau Euroregion*), which despite the 100+ public actors involved, managed to achieve

one of the most budgeted CBC projects in Europe, with a remarkable amount of €18 million. The Euroregion has been excluded from the Graph 17 above for this very reason.

- Euroregions with low institutional density (between 2 and 8 public actors) capable of mobilising CBC projects with larger budgets. It is possible to distinguish two sub-groups: one located in a gap of 2-3 participating actors with budgets around €300 000 and €1 million; the second one maintaining the same number of actors but with budgets capable of exceeding the €1 million threshold. Among the second sub-group, it is worth noting that the Pomerania Euroregion (Telemedicine within the Euroregion *POMERANIA – POMERANIA network*) has a total budget of €13 million and the *North West Region Cross-Border Group* (*North West Regional Science Park*) is aiming for more than €14 million. Both the projects were also excluded from Graph 17 above due to their outstanding budgets.

- Euroregions with few public actors and projects of reduced total amounts. The project with the smallest budget available (€40 000) was executed by the Pyrenees-Cerdanya EGTC and whose main protagonists are two associations of local entities (*Cross-Border Landscape Plan of Cerdanya*). At the same time, two other Euroregions (K*erkrade-Herzogenrath Eurode and New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre*) possess low institutional density but their projects barely reach amounts exceeding €250 000.

6.3.2. Project leadership

The data extracted from the sample allow us to identify which actors lead the CBC projects. The ability to coordinate a cross-border project represents a significant trait in understanding the institutional and administrative capacities of a given Euroregional actor.

a) Participation of Euroregional actors as project leaders

Firstly, with this analysis, we try to assess how frequently each typology of actor will take leadership in the coordination of CBC projects. The results indicated below (Graph 18) show **a consistent presence of Euroregions as leaders and promoters of the initiative (18 cases over 60)**. More specifically, the typology of actors has been classified according to the different legal formulas employed by Euroregional entities. Interestingly, it is clearly evidenced here that **EGTCs are not the main formula chosen for leading initiatives**, especially when comparing the four encountered projects (Table 17) with the 18 projects led by Euroregions and the total of 17 EGTCs in the sample. This clearly emphasises the fact that **other legal frameworks, i.e. public law agreements, NGOs, etc., can be equally capable of leading CBC interventions**.

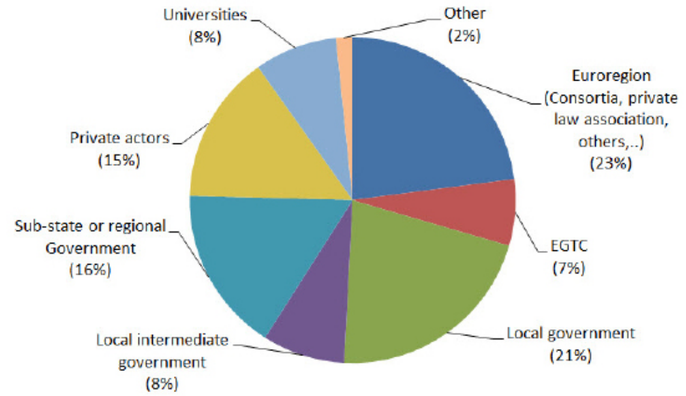
Table 17 – Projects led directly by EGTCs from the sample

Euroregion	Project	Budget
Pyrenees-Cerdanya	Cross-Border Landscape Plan of Cerdanya	€40 000
Alzette-Belval	Alzette-Belval Ecocity	€360 M
Duero-Douro	Natural Border	€0.8 M
Pourtalet Space	Pourtalet Space Cooperation Centre and border integration	€1.3 M

Source: compiled by the authors

When leadership is granted to any levels of public administration, it is possible to observe that **territorial entities (local, supralocal, regional) assume a leading role in 45% of total cases analysed**. Among them, supralocal governments are the ones less likely to lead a project (only 5 cases out of 60) while local and sub-state entities are respectively matched in 13 and 10 projects from the sample. As already discussed in the previous section, there is a much more limited presence of private actors, who only lead 9 out of the 60 analysed projects (15%). This result should still be viewed from a positive perspective, especially when considering the even scarcer presence of the private sector in the constitution of CBC agreements. In fact, the participation of private actors is also associated in most cases to project leadership of the initiative. On a final note, universities are also present as possible leaders of CBC projects (5 cases), showing a potential role in the coordination of CBC dynamics.

Graph 18 – Classification of leading actors in CBC projects from the sample



Source: compiled by the authors

b) Relationship between EU funding and leadership of private actors

Considering the interest in the participation of private actors as a sign of better inclusion of society in cooperation initiatives, the analysis stresses the importance of determining whether leadership by private actors would lead to higher or lesser co-funding rates of European resources. Thus, the comparative selection grouped in Table 18 indicates that CBC projects led by private actors can, in some cases, achieve important budgets that are generally above average funding. However, in a few other contexts, the correlation does not seem as relevant.

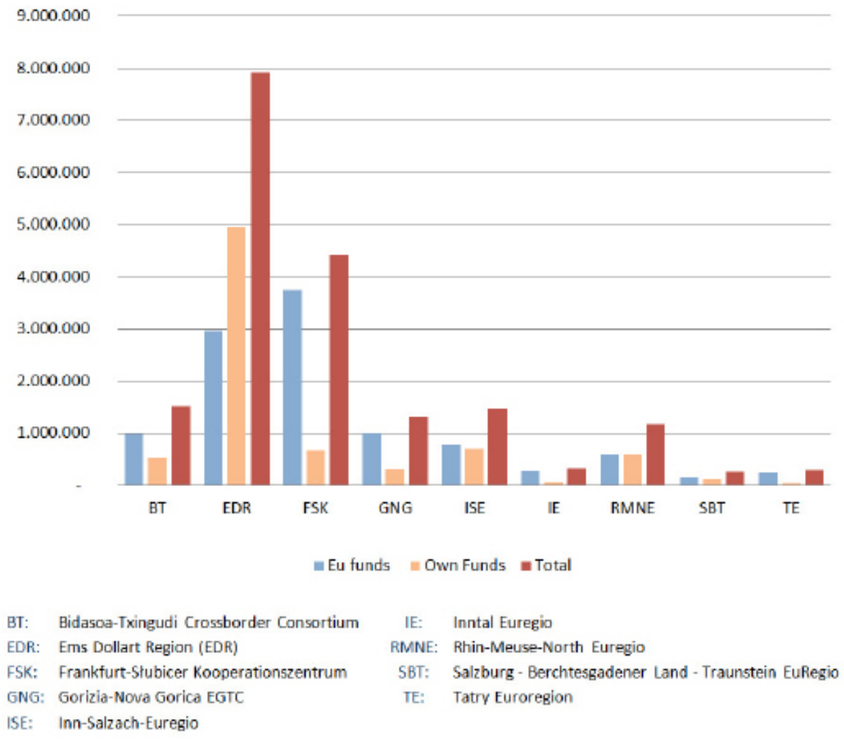
Table 18 – CBC projects from the sample led by private actors

Euroregion	Project	Budget (M€)
Bidasoa-Txingudi Cross-Border Consortium	RESOT	1.5
Ems-Dollart Region	DIAMANT	7.9
Frankfurt (Oder) & Slubice Cooperative Center	German-Polish Center Bolfrashaus in Frankfurt (Oder) and Kleistturm in Słubice	4.4
Gorizia-Nova Gorica	Transborder Integrated Platform	1.3
Inn-Salzach-Euregio	CARE: A labor market of the FUTURE	1.5
Inntal Euregio	Caves cultural experience Inntal	0.3
Rhine-Meuse-North Euregio	HARRM	1.2
Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein EuRegio	3 EuRegio Summit: Natural spaces and soft mobility	0.3
Tatry Euroregion	Tatry together	0.3

Source: compiled by the authors

When closely examining co-funding rates, Graph 19 compares the different economic sizes of the projects (of which the ones from the Ems-Dollart Region and the Frankfurt-Slubice Cooperation Centre are worth mentioning for their increased rates) as well as **the variations in European co-funding amounts**.

Graph 19 – EU co-funding rates of CBC projects from the sample led by private actors



Source: compiled by the authors

Approaching the same target by applying the reverse perspective, when filtering the different percentages of co-funding in an orderly manner (cf. Table 19), it is possible to observe, in terms of the **Euroregion's members territorial funds employed**, a wide gap raging between 15% and 62% of the total CBC initiative. The classification therefore helps to identify cases in which the participating members' own funding is only a small part of the project (*Frankfurt-Slubice Cooperation Centre, Inntal Euregio, Tatry Euroregion*), whereas others can even reach amounts slightly above half of the entire project (*Ems-Dollart Region*).

Table 19 – Co-funding rates of projects led by private actors (% own funding)

Own funds (%)	Euroregion
62%	Ems-Dollart Region
50%	Rhine-Meuse-North Euregio
48%	Inn-Salzach Euregio
42%	Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein EuRegio
35%	Bidasoa-Txingudi Cross-Border Consortium
24%	Gorizia-Nova Gorica
17%	Inntal Euregio
17%	Tatry Euroregion
15%	Frankfurt (Oder) & Slubice Cooperative Centre

Source: compiled by the authors

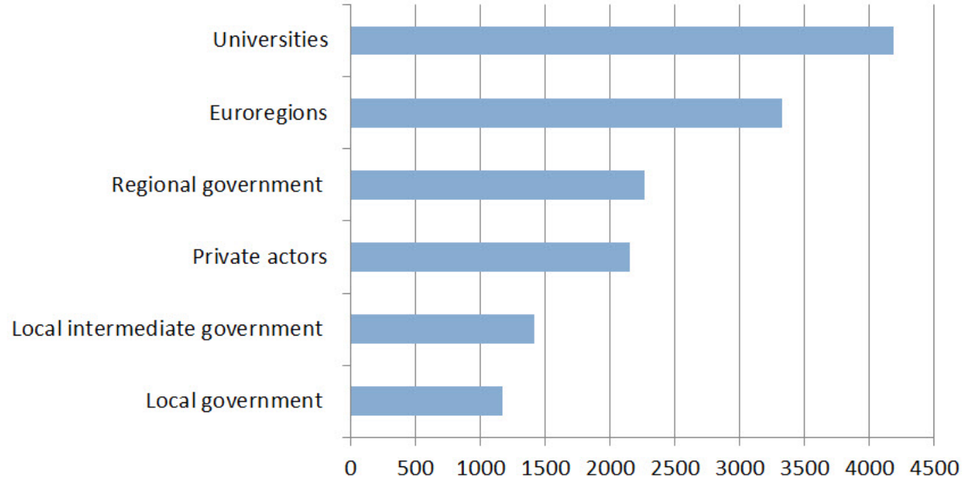
Based on all the previous data, it is therefore possible to claim that the **leadership of private actors is not necessarily a prerequisite that determines major or minor amounts of EU structural funding** in the initiatives.

c) Relationship between leadership and economic size of CBC projects

As a final element, it may be worth verifying another correlation that indicates which projects can be granted higher amounts of funding, and which ones are generally backed by the institutional actors in charge of such interventions. One first approximation (Graph 20) seems to confirm that **private actors and universities join sub-state governments in a core group that usually receives the largest amounts of funding**.

In analysing the leadership of different actors in cooperation projects, **it is finally possible to remark on the absolute predominance of public actors**, i.e. by means of Euroregions employing different legal frameworks as well as relying on local, supralocal and sub-state entities. Apart from this, it is also possible to observe a certain degree of influence from private actors when contemplating total budget amounts for their CBC interventions. However, this must be put into perspective with the lack of significant increases in European co-funding in the case of the participation of private actors. As a final element, it is worth pointing out the presence of universities as leaders of a significant number of projects.

Graph 20 – Average value of CBC projects from the sample in relation to the typology of leading actor (thousand €)



Source: compiled by the authors

7. Conclusions

Throughout the whole chapter, we provided an analysis of Euroregions and their CBC projects derived from our own Catalogue sample and filtered through criteria based on their excellence (in terms of solid governance structure and institutional continuity) and innovation (in terms of employment of technological progress, innovation policies or even social innovation measures). In our view, basing the foundations of the analysis on these qualified case studies is another important element that strengthens the solidity of the observations encountered. While they are certainly not the only existing Euroregional entities, we nevertheless consider them to be among the most relevant.

Therefore, the research revealed some distinctive features of Euroregional organisations and the CBC projects they execute, which show advanced levels of cooperation:

- A constant development marked by three stages of expansion associated to different moments of European integration and ETC policies, which contributed to a general distribution of Euroregions all along EU internal borders, increasing levels of integration among Member States of recent accession and a significant participation of EU neighbouring territories;

- a geographical typology which enables identification and comparison of groups of Euroregions, based on their size and territorial profile, as well as an identification of different associated goals and objectives pursued by different strategies;

- the identification of a variety of cross-border governance structures filtered through observations on the institutional density and complexity of the (mainly public) actors involved; at the same time, governance frameworks have been classified and identified according to several legal formulas allowed for establishing Euroregions;

- the recognition of several strategic objectives associated to both the competences and capacities of the participating administrations, on the one hand, and to the specific interests which propel the establishment of a Euroregion, on the other; and

- lastly, in the field of CBC projects, the observation of multiple interventions which vary not only in terms of content but also in relation to economic size and leadership of the same projects.

The multiple aspects analysed significantly contribute to acquiring a better global perspective and insight on the Euroregional phenomena thanks to the data processed during this research. Without a doubt, there is an imperative need for future lines of research to obtain an even larger set of information relying on expanded, more systematic, accountable and continuously updated data that could possibly be provided by the very same organisations that participated in this study. A further line of action could also include increased effort from European authorities to classify Euroregional structures, so that they can be eventually distinguished from other ETC formulas. All these processes could tremendously strengthen general analysis capabilities and ultimately aid in improving European and state-based policymaking.

The conclusion of the global analysis is also connected to the second part of this Catalogue, wherein the reader will find individual references to each of the selected Euroregions and their associated CBC project. These will be presented by large geographical areas grouped for classification purposes in the Euroregional Info Sheets, which also contain information about CB Equipment and TB Parks. Thus, the second part of this document completes our global perspective on these peculiar processes of CBC institutionalisation. As we are aware of the importance of their fundamental goals, we expect a continually increasing number of Euroregional entities in the coming years, especially those arising from the need to recover or reorient previous experiences that are currently inactive. Most importantly, we hope to see an even steadier consolidation process of already existing initiatives through the reinforcement of governance structures as well as an increasing number of projects and general activities.

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PART II

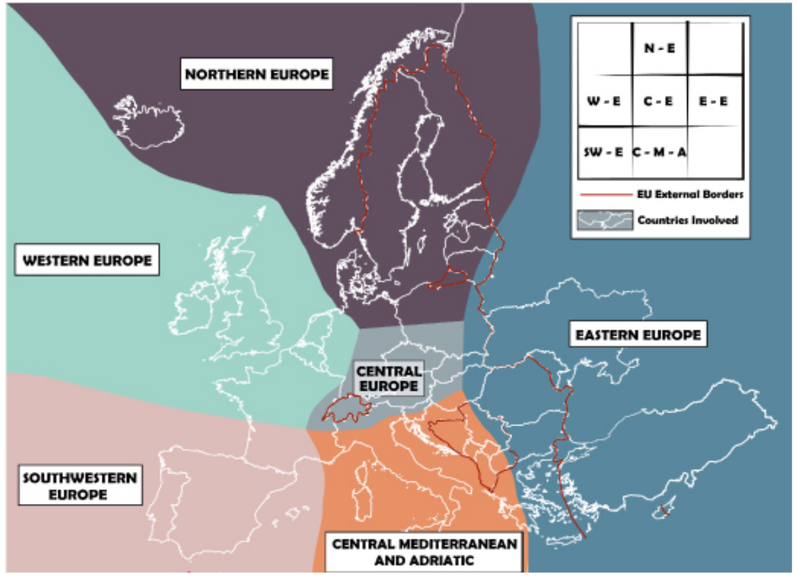
Catalogue of Euroregional Good Practices

Reading Guide

In the second part of the research, we present the official **Catalogue of Euroregional Good Practices** compiled by the RECOT team. In the following pages, we provide 80 Euroregional Info Sheets showing our selected sample of excellent CBC experiences. Before this, we provide some insights on the tools employed in compiling this Catalogue as well as its order of presentation.

Distribution of Euroregions among Six European Geographic Areas

As shown in our research methodology, during our final selection for the Catalogue, we applied, among others, a geographical criterion in order to ensure a degree of equal representation across all EU borders. At the same time, when considering the acquisition of data for comparative purposes, we understood the research value of establishing a classification based on different geographical areas of Europe. Finally, as we envisioned the presentation of our research in the form of a catalogue, we also estimated that the classification could bring added perspective when presenting the Euroregional Info Sheets as separated sections according to their geographical area. Thus, all the above reasons gave us the impetus to conceive our own RECOT Operational Map for geographical classification. In this second part of the research, we employed the RECOT Operational Map to identify the distribution of Euroregions along six main geographical areas, which were mostly designated along the cardinal directions (see RECOT Operational Map below).



Source: compiled by the authors

When trying to draw the precise boundaries of each geographical area, we conducted research on pre-existing mappings and geographical classifications of cross-border regions. Notably, we included some interesting attempts made by AEBR and MOT in our references. Furthermore, our previous expertise also helped in discerning which of the different European areas hosted more distinct attitudes or tendencies towards Territorial Cooperation. It should also be noted that the cartography underwent its own evolving process, whereby, after the initial conceptual theorisation, we had to perform relevant modifications to reflect our findings on the actual data acquired. For example, the need to generate a much wider *Eastern European* area coincided with our discovery of multiple Inactive Euroregions in the Balkans and the Hellenic peninsula, thus contributing to the disappearance of an originally planned 7th geographical area, i.e. *Southeastern Europe*. Another example of necessary modifications occurred when dealing with the Mediterranean space, where the presence of the large-scale Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion created conditions for a *Central Mediterranean and Adriatic* zone extending further east towards the Balkans than what was originally envisioned.

Nevertheless, we had to balance our efforts of being more geographically inclusive with our intention to search for best practices across EU territory. Thus, combining these two factors did not prevent us from identifying a distinctive core of Euroregional activities in the areas of *Central Europe* (22 Euroregions) and *Western Europe* (21 Euroregions). Geographical and historical features can help us explain such outcomes. In the first case, morphological factors in the conformation of European territory for these areas clearly show a planar territory generally marked by land borders that are much easier to access than mountainous or maritime border areas. Thus, such geographical instances were conducive in CBC activities by facilitating more direct contacts among the involved actors. At the same time, knowledge of history and politics would also aid us in interpreting areas exhibiting a dense presence of culturally different EU member states (including the historically neutral yet cooperation-oriented Switzerland), some of which were among the very first initiators of the European integration project. Indeed, if we also introduced an economic variable into the equation, the relatively higher levels of productivity and prosperity would add a final incentive towards the presence of more active instances for cooperation. Furthermore, in the case of *Western Europe*, an additional mention must be made about Euroregional structures across the UK-IE border. Due to the undefined consequences that the Brexit process may induce to the local and regional CBC dynamics, the Euroregional stakeholders are currently lobbying for maintaining their CBC activities.

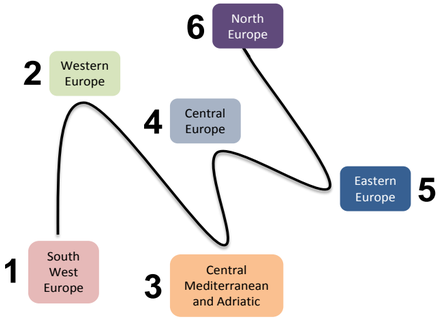
Ranking next in our selection, despite their very different historical backgrounds, *Northern Europe* (11) and *Southwestern Europe* (11) exhibited an equal amount of Euroregions in our classification. In the first case it must be mentioned that, since the early 1950s, the Northern area has a longer and more durable tradition of macro-regional cooperation. Soon after the end of the Second World War, the creation of the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers managed to produce integrating measures into the area similar to those of the modern EU, i.e. free movement of citizens, common trade agreements, etc. At the same time, some of their initiatives already included Territorial Cooperation as an objective for cooperation. Thus, although we consider the resulting 11 Euroregions to be well-balanced for our own selection, nevertheless, we would like to remind the reader of the presence of many other cooperation processes in the area that were left out of the Euroregional operational criteria applied to this research.

Here the geographical area of *Southwestern Europe* (11) is positively acknowledged in our selection due to its later inclusion in the European integration project. As many aware of their respective historical backgrounds may already know, the incorporation of Spain and Portugal into the European Community in the 1980s would only occur after the full eradication of the totalitarian regimes that prevented previous Europeanising efforts. Nevertheless, both countries did not wait long to incorporate Territorial Cooperation logics into their own planning, as the Iberian Peninsula hosted a significant increase in its ETC and more specifically CBC structures over the following decades.

In our research, we also encountered that the classification space of *Eastern Europe* (10) equally hosts a satisfactory number of Euroregions, even though, as anticipated above, we acknowledged the much wider territorial expansion of the geographical area proposed. As far as speculations concerning the inactive Euroregions found in the Balkan region, it is possible to assume that after an increasing momentum of European initiatives at the start of the new millennium, the instability resulting from the second decade of economic recession further discouraged the already sterile climate from initiating cross-border cooperation due to previous national disputes. Even when considering more northern areas of *Eastern Europe,* most of the countries belonging to the notorious Eastern Enlargement of 2004 clearly had to go through a radical Europeanisation process which would shift them outside of former Soviet Union logic. Such circumstances rightly point towards a double perspective: in terms of relative numbers, we identified a strong surge in generally active initiatives in the northern part of the area. However, the much more recent establishment of ETC and CBC structures as well as the lack of previous Territorial Cooperation traditions also justify the need for a wider search for excellent practices.

Lastly, the result identified in the *Central Mediterranean and Adriatic* area (5) may initially stand out in terms of the lower number of experiences identified. Nonetheless, we remark the presence of influencing factors that help to explain such outcome. In terms of geographical instances, the very same arguments that favoured major instances for cooperation in *Central* and *Western Europe* reflect the opposite in a predominantly maritime border environment. However, this does not mean that the Mediterranean space is devoid of ETC dynamics. On the contrary, what the geographical area lacks in CBC initiatives and Euroregional structures is compensated by the strong presence of other forms of cooperation in transnational and interregional modalities, as in the case of the especially dedicated INTERREG Med.

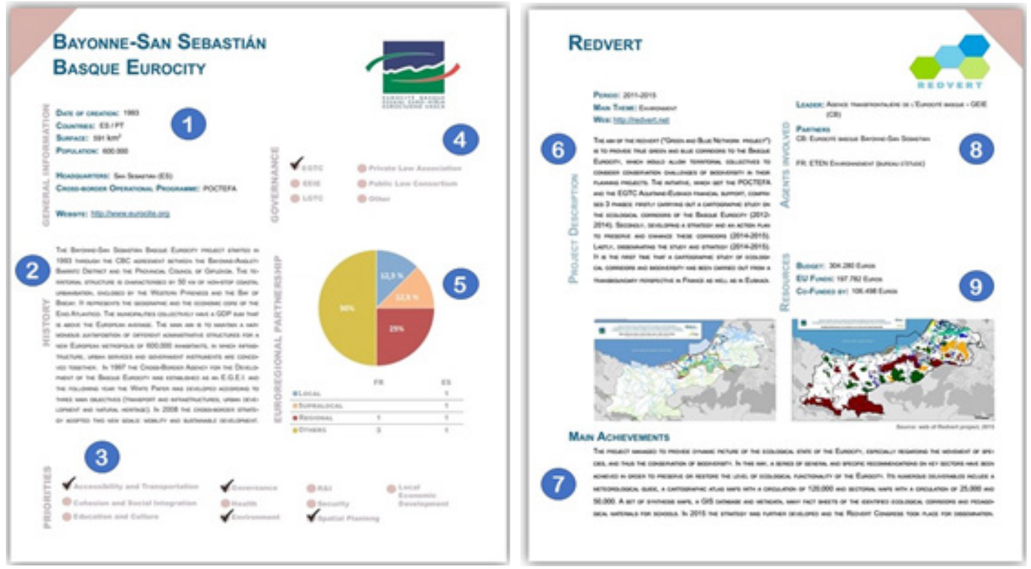
Finally, the order of presentation has been chosen following the trajectory shown in the picture on the right. Likewise, the Euroregional structures inside each area have been ordered by geographical location (from west to east).



Source: compiled by the authors

Legend of the Euroregional Info Sheets

Standard Euroregions



Source: compiled by the autors/RECOT Team

1. **General Information**. The Euroregional Info Sheets refer to a pre-determined set of general information concerning the specific Euroregion. More specifically, details are provided about the foundation date of the Euroregional structure; member countries of the participating actors; total surface of the territory involved; corresponding population; headquarter location; the CBC operational programme that the Euroregion mainly applies to obtain funding; and finally, the Euroregion's accessible website.

2. **History**. This section consists of a short descriptive text providing information on several features of a specific Euroregion. Each text generically provides further details on the circumstances surrounding the formation of the Euroregional structure and/or its trajectory and key objectives; the existence of any pre-existing CBC structures in the same area (where available); the geographical typology of the territories and the borders involved; the institutional composition of the Euroregion (plus a remark on any private actors potentially involved beyond public administrations); finally, a mention of either an implemented Euroregional strategy or any special sectoral activities that the Euroregion tends to favour in its line of work.

3. **Priorities**. After analysing each statement of intents and/or cooperation objectives, which were publicly provided on the respective Euroregion's website, we coded the most frequent sectoral priorities in the Euroregional CBC under 10 classifying entries. Accordingly, in the Info Sheet, we provide a summary table in which all the fields selected by the Euroregion are ticked, so as to provide immediate graphical feedback to the reader. The 10 sectoral priorities include: Accessibility and Transportation; Cohesion and Social Integration; Education and Culture; Governance; Health; Environment; R&I; Security; Spatial Planning; and Local Economic Development.

4. **Governance**. As shown in our previous study, most of the Euroregions acknowledged by our research employ one out of five possible types of juridical forms for the operationalisation of their governance structure (although some ex-ceptions may exist). Again, we favoured generating a summary table with a tick on the specific modality employed, so as to provide immediate graphical feedback to the reader. The corresponding options selectable on the Info Sheet are:

   - EGTC: European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
   - EEIG: European Economic Interest Grouping
   - LGTC: Local Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
   - Private Law Association (Example: NGOs)
   - Public Law Agreement
   - Other (Example: Private Enterprise Management Boards)

5. **Euroregional Partnership**. The complementary data on the administrative level and nationality of the participating actors in the governance structure were shaped in the form of a pie chart and a summary table below. In the first case, the typology of the subnational authorities (and/or private actors) is shown in terms of corresponding percentage. In the second part, the numbers are instead arranged to show the provenience of actors from each side of the border.

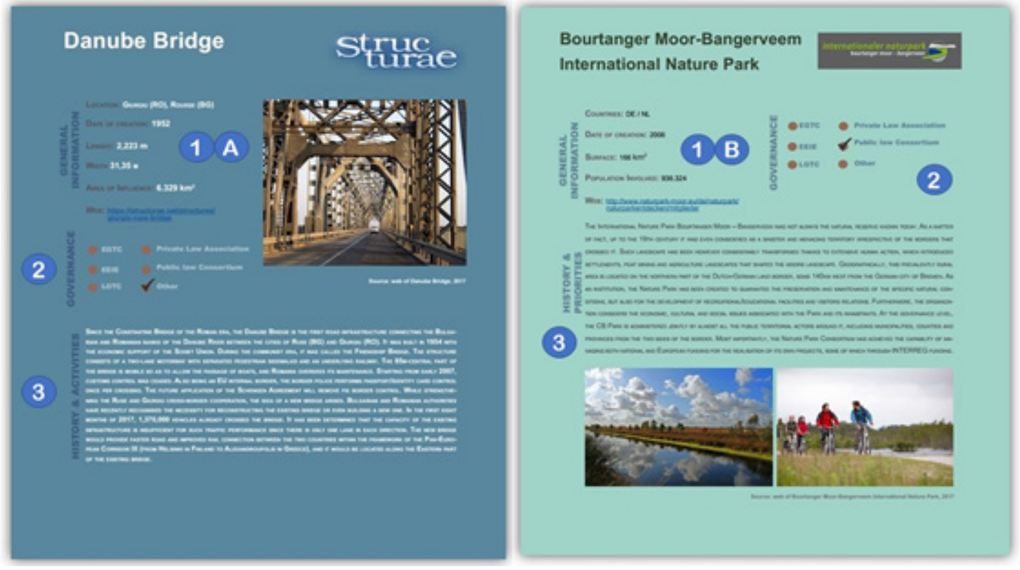
6. **Project Description**. This section is intended to introduce the proposed CBC project. Alongside the generic information (i.e. Period; Main Theme of the project according to the sectoral priorities classification; Website for further reference), the short text is meant to describe the general target of the project and the expected actions taken to reach the set goal. At the same time, it underlines those specific features that mark their innovative or excellent character, which altogether made it selectable for this Catalogue.

7. **Main Achievements**. Beyond a mere description of activities, the purpose of this short evaluative text is to analyse all major achievements obtained by the project at the end of its cycle. Both quantitative and qualitative indicators were reported once they were available for consultation, providing solid evidence for the favourable outcomes of the CBC project.

8. **Agents Involved**. The following list incorporates all participants into the selected CBC project. The Project Leader is always mentioned first, followed by all the partners, distinguished according to their country's provenience. In the case of a CBC structure being either Leader or Partner, the corresponding CB classification code is introduced along with the respective country coding.

9. **Resources**. The last element in the CBC project Info Sheet provides a summary of the budget employed for realising the activities. In most cases, proper calculations were made in order to show the total budget in terms of the sum of EU funding and the participants' co-funding amount. This information may not always be available; thus, such cases are marked with the abbreviation "N/A".

CB Equipment and TB Parks



Source: compiled by the autors/RECOT Team

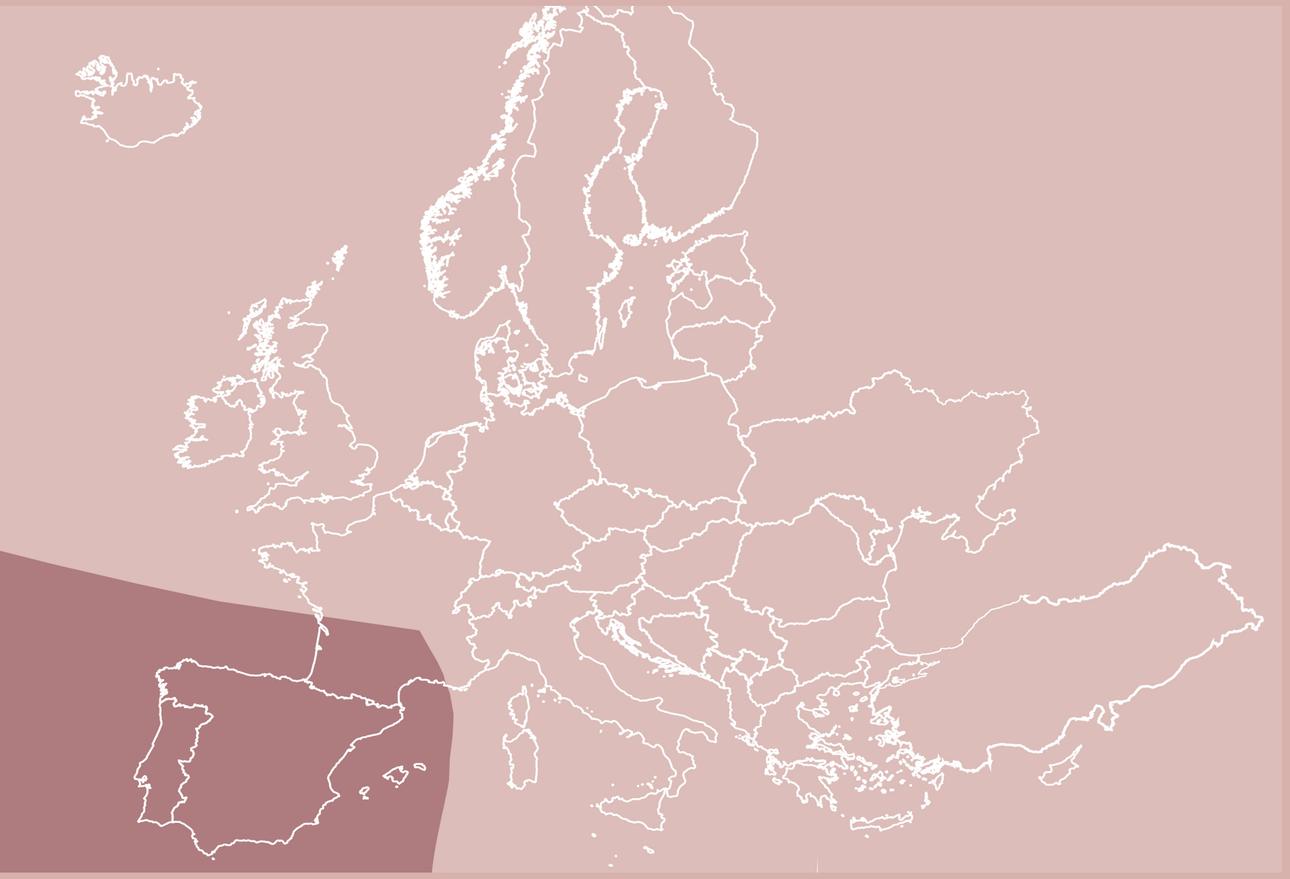
1A. **General Information (CB Equipment)**. The first section of the CB Equipment Info Sheet provides specific information about the nature of the infrastructure. Together with its location and date of creation, technical information is provided for 'measuring' the equipment according to their typology (bridges may present length and width, hospitals may be described according to the capacity of patient beds, etc.). Furthermore, approximate calculations were realised to define the areas virtually influenced by their proximity to the infrastructure. Finally, this Info Sheet also indicates the specific website dedicated to the CB Equipment for further information.

1B. **General Information (TB Parks)**. The first section of the TB Park Info Sheet provides specific information about the cross-border natural area involved. Alongside its constituting member countries at each side of the border and its date of creation, geographical information is provided about the total surface extension in km² and the population residing either inside or in the immediate proximity of the TB Park. Finally, the Info Sheet also indicates the specific website to the TB Park for further information.

2. **Governance**. Both CB Equipment and TB Parks follow the same classification of the structured governance indicated for Standard Euroregions. In the specific Info Sheets, the reader will be able to find the summary table with a tick on the specific modality employed for the juridical form. However, it is also possible to find a higher amount of 'Other' governance forms marked for Equipment and Parks. At times, this is due to the specific nature of the infrastructure / park being managed by private entities with more business-oriented types of boards (i.e. The French-British Channel Tunnel run by a private board).

3. **History & Activities**. This short descriptive text is meant to provide more details about the specific Equipment or Park described. Apart from an explanation of the circumstances leading to their constitution, it is possible to find a more accurate description of the main functions performed (CB Equipment) or the geographical area involved (TB Park). Further information on the specific governance structure in place for the management of the organisation is provided, and whenever possible, other related activities are mentioned, such as the development of CBC projects, as in the case of the EGTC Hospital of Cerdanya or the Bourtanger Moor-Bangerveem International Nature Park.

SOUTHWESTERN EUROPE



EUROREGIONS

- Galicia-Northern Portugal Euroregion
- Chaves-Verín Eurocity
- Duero-Douro EGTC
- New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euroregion
- Bayonne-San Sebastián Basque Eurocity
- Bidasoa-Txingudi Crossborder Consortium
- Portalet Space EGTC
- Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion
- Pyrenees-Cerdanya EGTC

TRANSBOUNDARY PARKS

- International Tagus Natural Park

CROSS-BORDER EQUIPMENTS

- Hospital of Cerdanya EGTC

Galicia-Northern Portugal Euroregion

General information

Date of creation: 2008
Countries: ES / PT
Area: 50 000 km²
Population: 6 500 000

Headquarters: Vigo (ES)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
CBC Programme Spain-Portugal (POCTEP)
Website: http://galicia-nortept.xunta.es/es/eurorregi%C3%B3n

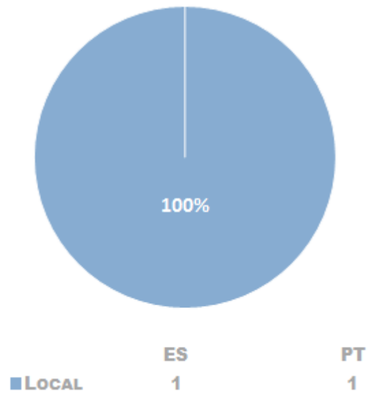
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The border area between Galicia and Northern Portugal has been marked by a relatively recent but solid tradition of Cross-Border Cooperation. Even before the birth of the Euroregion, a dedicated Working Community was set up in 1991 and a cross-border city network (Eixo Atlántico) followed in 1992. The Euroregion was therefore considered as a form of consolidation of the border area on a regional scale. Its wide territory occupies the entire space of the northwestern Iberian Peninsula, which despite being far from the main European axis, it is characterized by the presence of numerous urban areas. Furthermore, rural and coastal environments also form part of the territorial composition of this geographical area. At the institutional level, the EGTC (one of the first employed in the EU) allows a faster approach to the development of projects, hence making the Euroregion the executive branch of the Working Community and thus sharing with them the management board. Its general strategy is oriented towards supporting public/private actors' partnerships reinforcing cross-border action in different thematical sectors and at different territorial levels.

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [x] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [ ] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [ ] Environment
- [x] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

IACOBUS PROGRAM

Period: 2014-2020
Main Theme: Education
Web: http://iacobus.gnpaect.eu/es/programa-iacobus

Project Description

The rationale for this CBC program can be found in the Protocol of Cultural, Scientific and Pedagogical Cooperation between Universities and Higher Education Centers of the Galicia-North ern Portugal Euroregion (which was signed in 2014 by 12 educational entities, the Xunta de Galicia and the CCDR-N). Its main objective is the promotion and development of higher education and scientific and technological research at the Euroregional level. It is an action planned among the priorities of the Joint Investment Plan of the Euroregion (2014-2020) and financed thanks to the funds of the Operational Program of Cross-Border Cooperation Spain-Portugal (POCTEP). Specifically, the Program promotes cooperation activities and exchange between human resources (teachers and researchers, administration staff and services) of the aforementioned educational entities for the sharing of training, research and dissemination activities.

Agents involved

Leader: Galicia Northern-Portugal Euroregion (CB)

Partners
ES: Xunta de Galicia, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Universidade da Coruña, Universidade de Vigo, Fundación Centro de Estudos Eurorrexionais

PT: Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte (CCDR-N), Universidade do Minho, Universidade do Porto, Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Universidade Católica Portuguesa - Centro Regional do Porto, Instituto Politécnico do Porto, Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo, Instituto Politécnico de Bragança, Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave

Resources

Budget: 393 200 Euros
EU Funds: 393 200 Euros
Own Funds: N/A

Source: Faro de Vigo Journal, 5 May 2015
https://www.farodevigo.es/gran-vigo/2015/05/05/programa-iacobus-seguira-dinamizando-economia/1233439.html

Source: Mundiario Journal, 14 Sept. 2018 / @XuntaVice
https://www.mundiario.com/articulo/eurorregion/programa-iacobus-apuesta-desarrollo-eurorregion/20180914170819132593.html

Main Achievements

In the first three calls corresponding to the years 2014 and 2015, the program provided funding to a total of 367 candidates with an economic endowment of 393 200 Euros. In 2015, the Galicia-Northern-Portugal Euroregion promoted, as a pilot experience, the IACOBUS-FP Program aimed at Vocational Training teachers. The first call of the Program launched in 2014. At the time of writing, it has already reached the number of 5 calls. The 6th call will be launched at the end of 2018.

Chaves-Verín Eurocity

General information

Date of creation: 2010
Countries: ES / PT
Area: 685 km²
Population: 55 710

Headquarters: Verín (ES)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
CBC Programme Spain-Portugal (POCTEP)
Website: http://es.eurocidadechavesverin.eu

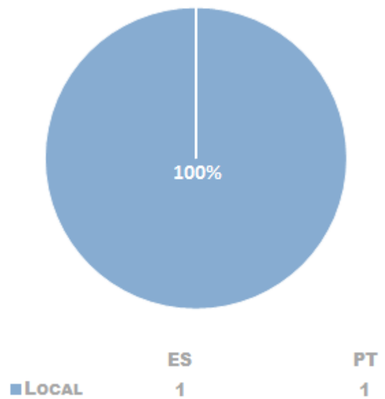
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The Chaves-Verín Eurocity EGTC is located in the Upper Támega Valley, between the Spanish Province of Ourense and Northern Portugal. The two municipalities are characterised by a low-density population and the territory is in a rural and inland area that is distant from the main cities of the Iberian peninsula. In addition to this border having low population densities, its territory is undergoing a phenomenon of depopulation and rural exodus, low birth rates and a rapid population aging. The institutional cooperation started in 2010 between the municipalities of Chaves and Verín through the EGTC proposal, and it was adopted in 2013. The initiative was boosted by the Eixo Atlántico cross-border network. The local CBC includes successful initiatives such as the Eurocitizen Card project, which was awarded the 2015 Eurocity prize by the EC for its innovative character in fostering social and economic local cross-border integration.

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [ ] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [x] Environment
- [x] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Termal and Water Euroregion

Period: 2011-2015
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.euroregiontermal.eu/

Project Description

The project's main goal is to consolidate a shared cross-border strategy for the coordinated development of training and research in spa tourism and aquatic sector in the Chaves-Verín Eurocity (and broadly in the Galicia-Northern Portugal Euroregion) as a reference for Europe's high-quality thermal supply. It relies on the presence of the Támega river, which crosses the Eurocity as an axis of union between the two sides of the border. The Chaves-Verín territory, which has one of the largest concentrations of thermal and hydro-mineral springs of the Iberian peninsula, represents a fundamental endogenous resource and an opportunity for developing a destination for joint high-quality spa tourism. The project is expected to transform the involved area into a South European reference for thermalism, supporting highly qualified professionals and pioneering aquatic research.

Agents involved

Leader: Diputación Provincial de Ourense (ES)

Partners

ES: Secretaría Xeral para o Turismo. Consellería de Cultura e Turismo. Xunta de Galicia; Concello de Verín

PT: Câmara Municipal de Chaves; Turismo do Porto e Norte de Portugal, ER; Sociedade Portuguesa de Hidrologia Médica; Associação de Termas de Portugal

Resources

Budget: 1 752 011 Euros
EU Funds: 1 314 008 Euros
Own Funds: 438 003 Euros

Source: Termal and Water Euroregion Project

Main Achievements

The "Thermal and Water Route of the Chaves - Verín Eurocity" is currently being implemented and aims to articulate a route connecting the heritage of Verín's spa with that of the Chaves and Vidago thermals. The route combines the circular urban routes of both municipalities with a linear cyclotouristic route that runs 50 km along the whole course of the Tamega River, from Verín to Vidago. The circular routes of the municipalities, Verín, Chaves and Vidago connect the main water sources, spas and thermal baths of the Chaves-Verín Eurocity. At present, the main output still needs to be achieved, i.e. the construction of the *Centre for Thermal Tourism and Water Research*, which aims to develop high quality training, research and touristic promotion.

Duero-Douro EGTC

General information

Date of creation: 2009
Countries: ES / PT
Area: 9 000 km²
Population: 120 000

Headquarters: Trabanca (ES)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
CBC Programme Spain-Portugal (POCTEP)
Website: http://www.duero-douro.com

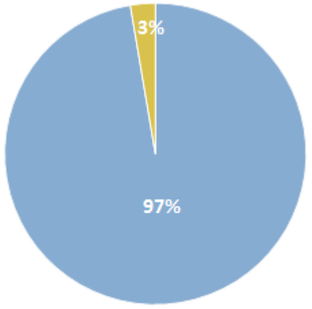
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The Duero-Douro EGTC, which is located in the northeastern side of the Spanish-Portuguese border (*La Raya seca*), it involves 188 public entities, all located in districts of Bragança, Guarda (PT) and in the Provinces of Salamanca and Zamora (ES): 107 Spanish municipalities and 69 Portuguese civil parishes (*freguesias*) constitute a belt around the Duero/Douro river, which becomes the backbone uniting the implementation of ETC policies. The partnership also receives support from the University of Salamanca and the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança. The current CBC aims to support the socioeconomic development of these rural borderland areas by means of traditional economic activities, the environmental management of uplands as well as contrasting depopulation and unemployment in remote borderlands, focusing especially on the young generation (18-30). Practical joint interventions also focus on energy efficiency and restoring local infrastructures in order to reduce geographical isolation and improve environmental sustainability.

Euroregional partnership



	ES	PT
Local	107	76
Others	3	2

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [x] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [x] Governance
- [x] Health
- [x] Environment
- [x] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Natural Border

Period: 2011-2014
Main Theme: Environment
Web: http://www.fronteiranatural.eu

Project Description

The project Natural Border ("Frontera Natural") aims in recovering, preserving and enhancing the shared natural heritage through the implementation of a common public policy, which favours the joint management of the territory. This initiative adopts the three pillars of sustainable development approach for the management of the Duero-Douro area. The first pillar involves the restoration and conservation of deteriorated areas by employing methods for preventing natural risks as well as the improvement of the environmental quality of these territories. Secondly, it promotes employment in rural areas and economic dynamism of the borderland. Thirdly, it reinforces the social aspect by reconsidering the *local environmental identity* (based on the richness of biodiversity), and thus improving the quality of life.

Agents involved

Leader: Duero-Douro EGTC (CB)

Partners

ES: 107 Municipalities (*)

PT: 7 Municipal Chambers; 69 Civil Parishes (*)

(*): All partners are members of the Duero-Douro EGTC Euroregion

Resources

Budget: 800 000 Euros
EU Funds: 600 000 Euros
Own Funds: 200 000 Euros

Source: web of Natural Border Project

Main Achievements

The main project outputs included the restoration of 89 deteriorated areas in the Duero-Douro municipalities, according to the strategic lines of the Integrated Municipal Environmental Action Plan. The interventions regarded cultural and historical heritage (e.g. ancient walls, water sources, and traditional laundromats), public spaces, footpaths and natural areas. The project followed a bottom-up approach by actively engaging the local population in many ways: cooperative volunteering recovery restoration initiatives, the cross-border "Contest of Exceptional Rural Environmental Conservation Areas (CARE)", as well as creating several tables of participation. Useful tools for the territorial management have been developed, such as the *Journal of Recommendations, Guide to Indigenous Biodiversity* and other publications.

New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euroregion

General information

Date of creation: 1982
Countries: FR / ES
Area: 101 661 km²
Population: 8 679 597

Headquarters: Hendaye (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
CBC Programme Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA)
Website: http://www.naen.eu

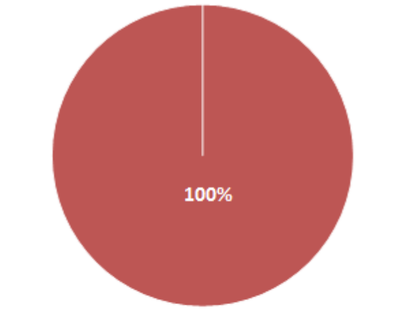
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euroregion is located in the Western Pyrenees, is the result of a longstanding CBC between the Basque Government and the former French Region of Aquitaine, which presented the AE Common Fund (1992) to stimulate local and regional cooperation as well as the EEIG Aquitaine-Euskadi Logistic Platform (2004-2012) to promote intermodal transport (especially railways). In 2017 the Chartered Community of Navarre became the third official partner. The Euroregion participates in the POCTEFA Programme and supports local and regional CBC projects, according to the current 2014-2020 Strategy, which addressed several actions toward the joint R&D improvement, territorial sustainability, integration of mobility, environmental sustainability and improving the Euroregional governance system.

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- [ ] Accessibility and Transportation
- [x] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [ ] Education and Culture
- [x] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [x] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

TransferMuga!

Period: 2012-2013
Main Theme: Accessibility and Transportation
Web: http://www.transfermuga.eu

Project Description

Starting from the premise that mobility is a key issue for the Euroregional territory and that the citizens are not fully aware of the numerous possibilities of cross-border commuting, the projects aims to study the integration of different means of transport, providing a shared multimodal web platform (railway, highway, cycleway, ports, airports, etc.). The project started with a pilot area in 2015 (the coastal Bayonne-San Sebastián axis), and will progressively include the remaining Euroregional cross-border services. The web portal provides comprehensive and updated information on the possible cross-border commuting opportunities including car sharing and bike sharing.

Agents involved

Leader: New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euroregion (CB)

Partners

ES: Euskotren Participación; Instituto Vasco de Logística y Mobilidad Sostenible

FR: Agence d'Urbanisme Atlantique et Pyrénées (AUDAP)

Resources

Budget:	390 775 Euros
EU Funds:	254 004 Euros
Own Funds:	136 771 Euros

Source: Vimeo video frames from TransfeMuga Project https://vimeo.com/204392000

Main Achievements

The projects had two phases: the first phase focused on studying the habits of cross-border mobility in the Euroregional territory, contacting the majority of the public and private transport stakeholders. The second phase included many actions, among which the new multilingual web platform was created, providing a calculator of cross-border itineraries in the Eurore-gion Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra, with updated timetable of public transports (bus and trains). An important achievement was also the PassEusk, a combined ticketed transport system between the French bus company Transports64 and Basque train company Euskotren. In 2015 the existing bus line was extended to cover the route of Bayonne-Hendaya to Irun.

Bayonne-San Sebastián Basque Eurocity

General information

Date of creation: 1993
Countries: ES / FR
Area: 591 km²
Population: 600 000

Headquarters: San Sebastián (ES)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
CBC Programme Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA)
Website: http://www.eurocite.org

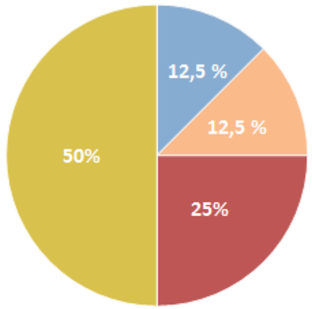
Governance

- EGTC
- [x] EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Bayonne-San Sebastián Basque Eurocity project started in 1993 through the CBC agreement between the Bayonne-Anglet-Biarritz District and the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa. The territorial structure is characterised by 50 km of non-stop coastal urbanisation, enclosed by the Western Pyrenees and the Bay of Biscay. It represents the geographic and the economic core of the Eixo Atlantico. The municipalities collectively have a GDP sum that is above the European average. The main aim is to maintain a harmonious juxtaposition of different administrative structures for a new European metropolis of 600 000 inhabitants, in which infrastructure, urban services and government instruments are conceived together. In 1997 the Cross-Border Agency for the Development of the Basque Eurocity was established as an EEIG and the following year the White Paper was developed according to three main objectives (transport and infrastructures, urban development and natural heritage). In 2008 the cross-border strategy adopted two new goals: mobility and sustainable development.

Euroregional partnership



	FR	ES
Local		1
Supralocal		1
Regional	1	1
Others	3	1

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- [x] Environment
- R&I
- Security
- [x] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Redvert

Period: 2011-2015
Main Theme: Environment
Web: http://redvert.net

Project Description

The aim of the redvert ("Green and Blue Network project") is to provide true green and blue corridors to the Basque Eurocity, which would allow territorial collectives to consider conservation challenges of biodiversity in their planning projects. The initiative, which got the POCTEFA and the EGTC Aquitaine-Euskadi financial support, comprises 3 phases: firstly carrying out a cartographic study on the ecological corridors of the Basque Eurocity (2012-2014). Secondly, developing a strategy and an action plan to preserve and enhance these corridors (2014-2015). Lastly, disseminating the study and strategy (2014-2015). It is the first time that a cartographic study of ecological corridors and biodiversity has been carried out from a transboundary perspective in France as well as in Euskadi.

Agents involved

Leader: Agence transfrontalière de l'Eurocité basque - GEIE (CB)

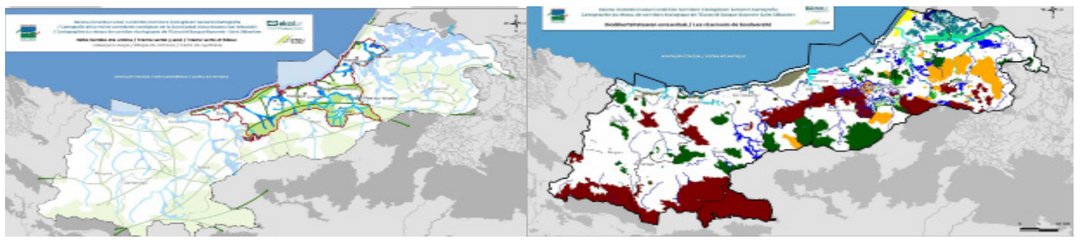
Partners

CB: Eurocité basque Bayonne-San Sebastian

FR: ETEN Environnement (bureau d'étude)

Resources

Budget: 304 280 Euros
EU Funds: 197 782 Euros
Own Funds: 106 498 Euros



Source: Redvert Project

Main Achievements

The project managed to provide dynamic picture of the ecological state of the Eurocity, especially regarding the movement of species, and thus the conservation of biodiversity. In this way, a series of general and specific recommendations on key sectors have been achieved in order to preserve or restore the level of ecological functionality of the Eurocity. Its numerous deliverables include a meteorological guide, a cartographic atlas maps with a circulation of 120 000 and sectorial maps with a circulation of 25 000 and 50 000. A set of synthesis maps, a GIS database and metadata, many fact sheets of the identified ecological corridors and pedagogical materials for schools. In 2015 the strategy was further developed and the Redvert Congress took place for dissemination.

Bidasoa-Txingudi Cross-border Consortium

Bidasoa-Txingudi Crossborder Consortium

General information

Date of creation: 1998
Countries: ES / FR
Area: 80 km²
Population: 93 869

Headquarters: Irún (ES)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
CBC Programme Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA)
Website: http://www.bidasoa-txingudi.com

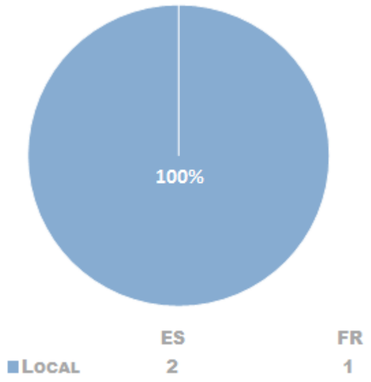
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Bidasoa Txingudi Cross-border Consortium, located within the AEN Euroregion, takes its name from these two geographical features: the Bidasoa River, which starts in the neighbouring Navarrese mountains and flows into the Bay of Txingudi, was considered the natural border between France and Spain for centuries. The location on the Bay of Biscay, gives the territory a clear maritime vocation. The consortium is composed of the municipalities of Hondarribia, Irun (in the Spanish AC of Basque Country) and Hendaye (French Department of Atlantic Pyrenees). The economy is characterised by a prominent commercial and industrial sector (Irun) as well as the fishing and the services sector (Hondarribia). Tourism is a strategic sector for the whole area (especially Hendaye) and seasonal population increases considerably during the summertime. CBC particularly addresses the strengthening of economic and cultural relations among the three municipalities, which is tangible in various cross-border festivals and in the joint promotion of tourism sector and transports. Regarding governance, the financial contribution to the consortium considers the population proportion of the different municipalities (50% for Irun and 25% for Hondarribia and Hendaya, respectively) and the right to vote in decisions becomes equal.

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

RESOT

Period: 2012-2014
Main Theme: Governance
Web: http://resot.eu/

Leader: MIK S.COOP (ES)

Project Description

RESOT ("Cross-Border territorial Social Responsibility") is an ambitious project dedicated to transforming the Bidasoa – Txingudi region into a space of territorial, economic, social and environmental responsibility. It fosters the creation of a stakeholder's network based on jointly defined values, on the construction of the Territorial Social Responsibility (TRS). One of its main goals is to adopt and integrate ethical criteria within business management and thus eventually generating a common culture of cooperative social responsibility addressing such issues as competitiveness, sustainable development, responsible citizenship, democracy of proximity, polycentrism, multilateralism and governance. It includes the implementation of several parallel projects. The diverse themes requiring development range from entrepreneurship among disabled persons to promoting artistic creativity.

Agents involved

Partners

ES: Mondragon Unibertsitatea; Mondragon Ikerketa Kudeaketan; Bidasoa activa; Ayuntamiento de Irún; Ayuntamiento de Hondarribia

FR: ESTIA. Ecole d'Ingenieurs Bayonne Pays Basque; Agglomération Sud Pays Basque

Resources

Budget: 1 508 908 Euros
EU Funds: 980 790 Euros
Own Funds: 528 118 Euros

Source: RESOT Project

Main Achievements

The project was developed in five consequential phases. Firstly the stakeholder's network was designed and implemented involving a high number of partners from enterprises, educational stakeholders, associations, public administrations and local communities. Then the common TSR values were identified during several working sessions and many target actions were designed. Thirdly, some selected actions are therefore implemented according to the three important TRS dimensions: economic, social and environmental. Altogether they are coherently linked with the EU Strategy 2020. TRS competences and skills have been identified and developed in several participants in order to assume the TRS valued inside the networks based on the triple helix model (governments, enterprises and universities).

Portalet Space EGTC

General information

Date of creation: 2011
Countries: FR / ES
Area: 55 364 km²
Population: 1 949 485

Headquarters: Sabiñánigo (ES)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
CBC Programme Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA)
Website: http://www.espalet.eu

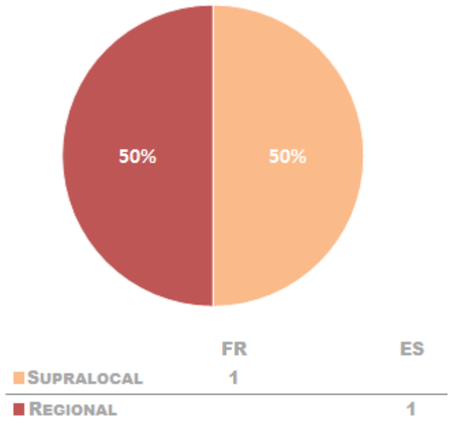
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The "Portalet Space" EGTC is a cross-border institution promoting the development of CBC initiatives and providing coordinated, coherent and effective management of the two border areas around the Pourtalet border pass (1795 m above the sea level). The two partners (the AC of Aragon and the Department of the Altantic Pyrenees) set two main priorities: firstly, the maintenance of the 56km Portalet cross-border route, especially during the winter season, which is respectively 27 km on the Spanish side (towards the municipality of Biescas) and 29 km on the French side (towards the municipality of Laruns); secondly, the identification, promotion and implementation of CBC initiatives particularly in tourism, accessibility, heritage and culture as well as the development of economic activities of common interest. This EGTC can also expand its mission all over the territory covered by the two institutional partners provided that it is relevant for realising the projects of territorial cooperation and requires the competence of each member.

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [ ] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [ ] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

ESPALET. Portalet's Space Cooperation Centre and Border Integration

Period: 2011-2013
Main Theme: Education and Culture
Web: http://www.espalet.eu/fra/projets/projet-espalet/

Project Description

The Espalet project's objective is to realise a joint building that works as a cross-border centre for social, cultural and economic dynamisation as well as a service provision, restoring the obsolete former French-Spanish custom (Portalet). The aim of the project is therefore to reinforce and strengthen cooperation among public administration, service operators and socio-economic actors on both sides of the border, promoting collaborative and participatory networking and cross-border exchanges. It also reinforces cooperation between regional and local institutions, enterprises and social stakeholders. These synergies foster a new conceptualisation of the "Portalet Space", promoting the socioeconomic development of the borderland thanks to the support of recently established EGTC Portalet Space.

Agents involved

Leader: GECT Espace Portalet (CB)

Partners

FR: Conseil Départemental des Pyrénées Atlantiques

ES: Gobierno de Aragón

Resources

Budget: 1 312 376 Euros
EU Funds: 853 044 Euros
Own Funds: 459 332 Euros

Source: ESPALET Project

Main Achievements

Among the results achieved by the Espalet project, the cross-border centre called "Portalet Space" has been built. It host temporary artistic expositions, institutional meeting as well as events for the economic promotion of the region. The cross-border Unit for Socioeconomic Dynamization "Dynamic Portalet" has been also established within the EGTC. The cross-border dynamization strategy will be based on the territorial diagnosis of the cross-border area. The joint website provide update and real time information concerning the state of the cross-border route (i.e. live webcams) and all the information regarding cross-border initiative synergic initiatives with the socioeconomic actors or the territory. Finally, the good practices database of CBC represent a source of innovative projects and new initiative that could be implemented in the Portalet Space.

Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion

Euroregió Pirineus Mediterrània
Eurorégion Pyrénées-Méditerranée
Eurorregión Pirineos Mediterráneo

General information

Date of creation: 2004
Countries: FR / ES
Area: 109 830 km²
Population: 14 200 000

Headquarters: Perpignan (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
CBC Programme Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA)
Website: http://www.euroregio.eu

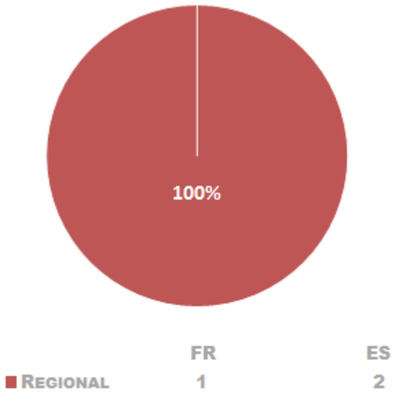
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion was founded in 2004 between the Spanish AC of Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and the formers French regions of Languedoc-Roussillon and Midi-Pyrénées (the AC of Aragon is no longer part of the Euroregion since 2006). One of the priorities is to create a sustainable development cluster in the northwestern Mediterranean region based on innovations and the social and economic integration of the territory, fostering links between technological, scientific and cultural centres. The long-term vision is to become a hub of innovation and sustainable growth. Since 2009 the EPM adopted the EGTC status enabling the Euroregion to fulfil its objectives in terms of economic, social and territorial cohesion. It finances cross-border initiatives in culture and education and is particularly active in the SUDOE Programme. In October 2017 the headquarter moved from Barcelona to the city of Perpignan (French Department of the Eastern Pyrenees).

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [ ] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [x] Environment
- [x] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

CREAMED

creamed

Period: 2010-2013
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.eurocreamed.eu/creamed/fr/index

Project Description

The CREAMED project ("Network of business incubators in the Pyrenees Mediterranean Euroregion") aims to boost economic development by creating innovative, enduring and stable business companies. The initiative brought together the business incubators of the four regions (now three) within the Euroregion to stimulate innovation, exchanges between SMEs, as well as fostering complementarity as an approach to supporting business incubation and the development of firms in an international environment. CREAMED is based on three working strategies: firstly, facilitating the creation and accommodation of firms through a coherent and complementary structural development of business environment and the related infrastructures; secondly, the development of tools and actions for the development of the companies' market and competitiveness; and thirdly, improving the visibility and attractiveness of the EPM's entrepreneurship.

Agents involved

Leader: Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion (CB)

Partners

FR: Réseau de Pépinières d'Entreprises de Midi-Pyrénées; Synersud, Midi-Pyrénées Expansion Service Développement des Territoires

ES: Generalitat de Catalunya; ParcBIT Desenvolupament S.A.

Resources

Budget: 1 477 249 Euros
EU Funds: 1 107 937 Euros
Own Funds: 369 312 Euros

Source: CREAMED Project

Main Achievements

Through the CREAMED project, the EPM was able to create a network for the main business incubators in the partner regions, thus promoting the creation of new businesses within the Euroregional territory. Only in the Perpignan area, the creation of a network of about 100 enterprises were supported and more than 1,400 young companies were formed. Internship programs for university students were also activated. A "Business Passport" was introduced as a tool for guiding the companies involved in the project towards greater competitiveness and internationalisation. The CREAMED incubators also adopted quality standards and the label certification for supporting new Euroregional businesses and networks. The current project "Links-up" took over the legacy of CREAMED by stimulating the growth and competitiveness of new high-tech companies.

Pirineus-Cerdanya EGTC

General information

Date of creation: 2011
Countries: FR / ES
Area: 988 km²
Population: 27 657

Headquarters: Saillagouse (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
CBC Programme Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA)
Website: http://www.pyrenees-cerdagne.com

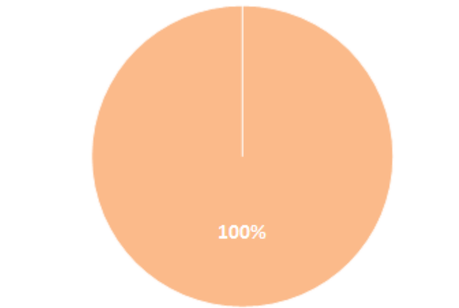
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

Cerdanya represents a historical and geographical micro-region located in the Eastern Pyrenees. Since the Treaty of the Pyrenees (1659), the French-Spanish border divides the valley between the Upper Cerdanya (Occitanie Region) and the Lower Cerdanya (AC of Catalonia). The absence of the physical element of discontinuity in the territory and the historical social and cultural cohesion helped forge local cross-border interactions. This EGTC is the result of a long-term process of local institutional CBC, which started in the mid-1980s among the municipal and county's administrations on both sides, which largely resulted from EU integration processes. It involves the Catalan County Council of Cerdanya and the French CC Pyrénées-Cerdagne. Currently, the Pirineus-Cerdanya EGTC promotes joint territorial actions to support local economic activities (e.g. the new joint abattoir, the recent SME cross-border cluster and the touristic enhancement of the territory) as well as social cohesion through many cultural and educational initiatives for engaging local communities. Recently, the CBC has extended to spatial planning for the joint enhancement of the specific local landscape, i.e. the Cerdanya Enclosure.

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [ ] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [x] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Cross-Border Landscape Plan of Cerdanya

Period: 2013-2014 (ongoing)
Main Theme: Environment
Web: http://paisatgecerdanya.parc-pyrenees-catalanes.fr/

Project Description

In 2013 the Pirineus-Cerdanya EGTC supported the development of a Cross-Border Landscape Plan (CBLP), a pioneer experience in Europe. It was developed by the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia and the French Regional Park of the Catalan Pyrenees. It focuses on the economic, social and institutional local agents of Cerdanya and is supported by the local authorities. It aims to provide a strategic planning tool to promote an equitable local development based on the enhancement of the common landscape, i.e. the Cerdanya Enclosure. The CBLP also intends to increase social awareness of the economic, cultural, social and symbolic landscape values, as well as reframing it as a central element of Cerdanya's identity.

Agents involved

Leader: EGTC Pirineus-Cerdanya (CB)

Partners

ES: Observatori del Paisatge de Catalunya; Ajuntament de Llívia

FR: Parc Naturel Régional des Pyrénées Catalanes; Communauté des Communes Pyrénées Cerdagne

Resources

Budget: 40 000 Euros
EU Funds: N/A
Own Funds: N/A

Source: Cross-Border Landscape Plan of Cerdanya Project

Main Achievements

The CBLP has already achieved some important results. Starting with the analysis of Cerdanya's landscape evolution, seven common quality goals have been identified as well as a common landscape glossary, a shared cartography and a specific handbook of landscape conservation have been made available online. In 2014 a public consultation was launched to improve the participatory process and two formative seminars were conducted in 2015. The project enables local government to overcome the divergence of French and Catalan planning systems of integrating the common strategy in their respective planning tools, which altogether could lead to an effective cross-border territorial integration.

International Tagus Natural Park

General information

Countries: ES / PT

Date of creation: 2005

Area: 250 km²

Population involved: 119 353

Web: http://www.turismotajointernacional.com

Governance

- ○ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ✓ Public Law Agreement
- ○ Other

History & activities

The International Tagus Natural Park was created in 2013 through the cooperation between the Spanish and the Portuguese governments. For its formalization, it took as reference another park of the Spanish-Portuguese border, the Gerês-Xurés cross-border Park, constituted in 1997. The natural protected area unites the adjoining Spanish Parques Naturales de Tajo Internacional and Portuguese Parque Natural do Tejo Internacional, which were respectively established in 2006 and 2000. The Spanish side includes the southwestern part of the Cáceres Province (11 municipalities). On the Portuguese side, the park is part of the Castelo Branco district in the Centro region (2 municipalities). It is characterised by a sharp relief and low altitudes where the river Tagus and its tributaries intersect peniplains and ranges or meadows. It is particularly rich in biodiversity, in which the vegetation consists of largely of sclerophyllous and cork oak formations and abundant patches of scrub, as well as cultivated areas, extensive pastures and other formations. Among the most important animal species are the Iberian imperial eagle, Bonelli's eagle, the black stork, the black vulture and the otter. Livestock and forestry are the main sources of income for the reserve's small population. In 2016 UNESCO declared the International Tagus Park as a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. The partners based the cross-border governance system on the Tagus international working community. The cooperation has led to the implementation of a joint strategy for sustainable development and legally constituted management bodies. It is designed to ensure continuity in strategic planning and joint projects as well as facilitate the formation of a European territorial cooperation group for the joint management of activities.

Source: web of International Tagus Natural Park

Hospital of Cerdanya EGTC

General information

Location: Puigcerdà (ES)

Date of creation: 2010

Date of activity: 2014

Main Resources: 64 beds (Hospitalization); Outpatient unit; External consulting rooms; Neonatology; Surgery area with 4 operating theatres and 1 endoscopy room; Haemodialysis service; Imaging: Magnetic resonance, CAT, Doppler ultrasound, Mammography, Orthopantomograph, Conventional X-ray equipment.

Web: http://www.hcerdanya.eu

Source: Berzi M. (2012).

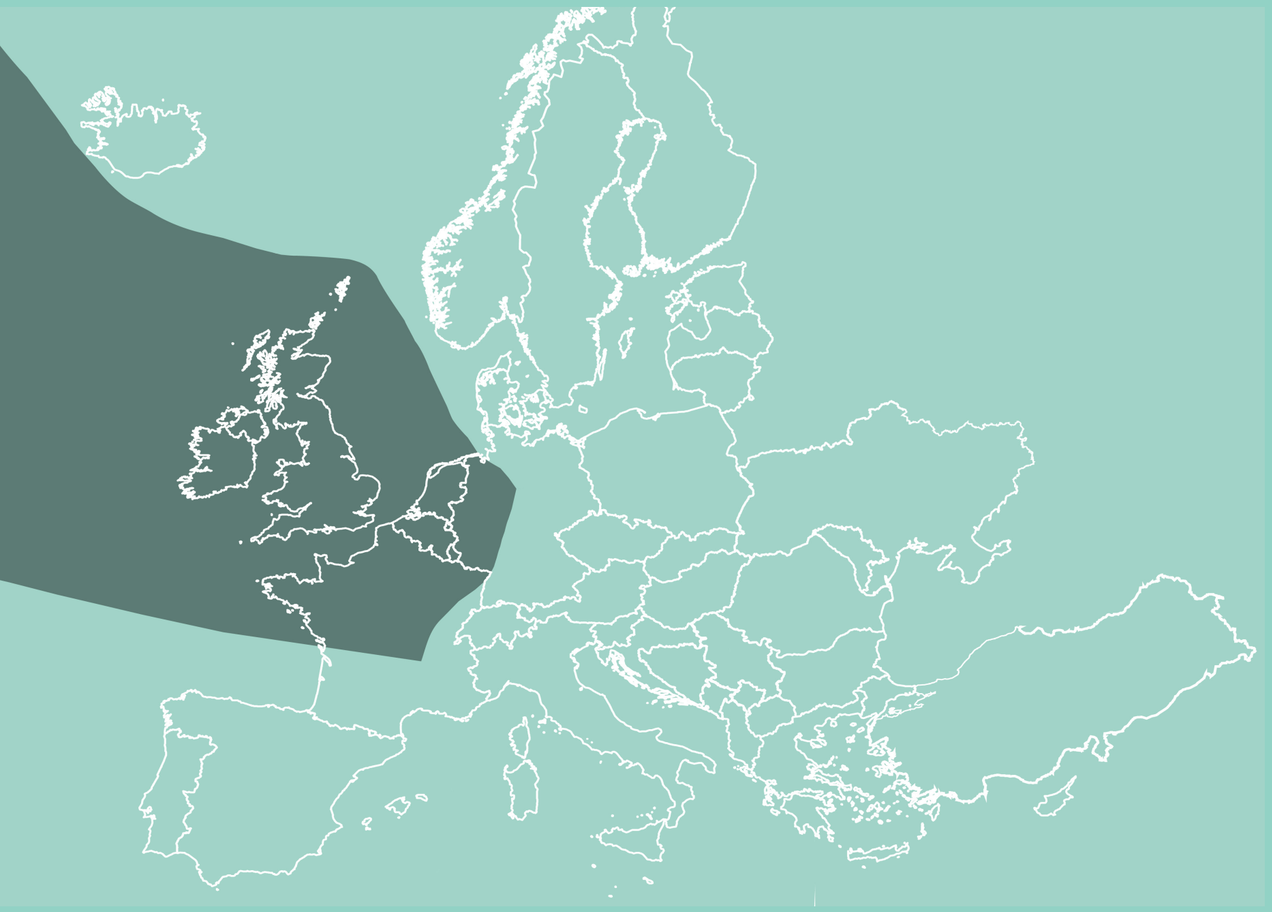
Governance

- ✓ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ○ Public Law Agreement
- ○ Other

History & activities

The Hospital of Cerdanya represents the first cross-border hospital in Europe. It is a very crucial health care facility for the local population. Historically, the main hospital of the valley was originally in Puigcerdà; it catered to the Upper Cerdanyan population and its facilities were either located in Prades (60 km far from the valley) or Perpignan (100 km away). Despite the geographical proximity, cross-border visit flows to the hospital in Puigcerdà were scarce, which could be attributed to the French-speaking population's "lack of trust" in the Spanish healthcare system. However, when the road connection between Upper Cerdanya and Prades was cut due to adverse weather conditions in 1996 and 2001, such events presented the opportunity for changing such prejudice or biased perception. In 2001 local and regional authorities considered the idea of a new joint hospital in Puigcerdà. In 2003 the regional administrations, together with the respective healthcare agencies, signed the first CBC agreement. The successful feasibility study funded in 2003 by the INTERREG IIIA led to the realisation of the executive project, co-funded by the POCTEFA 2007-2013 (€18 milions). The new joint managing authority adopted the EGTC status in order to simplify future bureaucratic and legal issues. After considerable years of delay, the hospital opened its doors in September 2014. The 2017 official statistics appear encouraging: around 30% of the admitted patients were from Upper Cerdanya. Beyond the project of a single infrastructure, the new hospital represents the core of the future health district of Cerdanya.

WESTERN EUROPE



EUROREGIONS

- North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG)
- Irish Central Border Area (ICBAN)
- East Border Region Ltd.
- CAWT Region
- Dunkirk- Flandre-Côte d’Opale region and West Flanders EGTC
- Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis
- Alzette-Belval EGTC
- Saarmoselle Eurodistrict
- Meuse-Rhein Euregion
- Scheldemond Euregio
- Kerkrade-Herzogenrath Eurode
- Rhine-Meuse-North Euregio
- Rhine-Waal Euregio
- EUREGIO (Gronau Euroregion)
- Ems Dollart Region (EDR)

TRANSBOUNDARY PARKS

- De Zoom - Kalmthoutse Heide Cross-Border Park
- Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park
- Bourtanger Moor-Bangerveem International Nature Park
- Wadden Sea World Heritage Site

CROSS-BORDER EQUIPMENTS

- Channel Tunnel

North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG)

NORTH WEST REGION
Cross Border Group

General information

Date of creation: 1976
Countries: UK / IE
Area: 6 164 km²
Population: 304 451

Headquarters: (London)derry (UK)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Cross-Border Territorial Co-operation Programme for Northern Ireland, The Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland

Website: http://www.nwrcbg.org

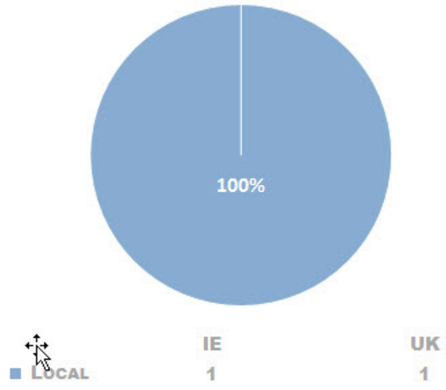
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The North-West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG) was born out of the acknowledgement that common issues on both sides of the border can only be tackled by joint action. For this reason, this Euroregional structure fulfils a leading role in facilitating partnerships and coordinating the local actors for a double purpose: on the one hand, improving the quality of life and well-being of its inhabitants; on the other, tackling all border obstacles to economic growth. Geographically, the NWRCBG stands on the northwesternmost border area of the two Irelands, which encompasses two large rural and urban counties around their multi-faceted border (mostly land-based, but also fluvial and maritime). At the governance level, the two counties work together in a simple Executive Board with 11 elected representatives plus two advisory directors (a Chief Executive and a County Manager). While the organisation does not possess an official strategic document, the group hosts a common agenda for the alignment of public policies between the two regions to be integrated into future INTERREG strategies.

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

North West Regional Science Park

NORTHWEST REGIONAL SCIENCEPARK

Period: 2007 - 2013
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.nwrcbg.org/launch-of-nw-regional-science-park/

Project Description

The "North West Regional Science Park" establishment project developed a cross-border third generation science park that utilises the triple helix model intertwining university-industry-government relationships, i.e. by working in partnership with the private and public sectors to develop an ecosystem for business dedicated to research, innovation and entrepreneurship as regional drivers for development. Its activities included the construction of a 4 645 m² science park facility at Fort George in Londonderry and a 1 858 m² extension of the Co-Lab facility at the Letterkenny Institute of Technology. In 2015 the project also won the prestigious "Sail of Papenburg" Cross-Border Regions Award 2015, conferred annually by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) since 2002.

Agents involved

Leader: North West Region Cross Border Group - NWRCBG

Partners

UK: Derry City Council; Limavady Borough Council; Strabane District Council; Magherafelt Borough Council

IE: Donegal County Council

Resources

Budget: 13 859 599 Euros
EU Funds: N/A
Own Funds: N/A

Source: youtube video frames of North West Regional Science Park Project https://youtu.be/xW8C4AcNKKA

Main Achievements

Since its construction, the North West Regional Science Park had been evaluated as a successful CBC project that established enduring knowledge and innovation structures for the competition levels of the cross-border area. It is already home to over 55 high potential startup enterprises employing over 400 knowledge experts. Both campuses are becoming the twin foci of the Knowledge Economy in the North-West Region. Furthermore, should both sites achieve maximum occupancy by 2019, the project would have the potential of creating up to 285 extra jobs on site and adding impetus to the creation of a knowledge-based economy in the cross-border territory.

Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)

General information

Date of creation: 1995
Countries: UK / IE
Area: 15 852 km²
Population: 844 804

Headquarters: Enniskillen (UK)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Cross-Border Territorial Co-operation Programme for Northern Ireland, The Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland

Website: http://www.icban.com

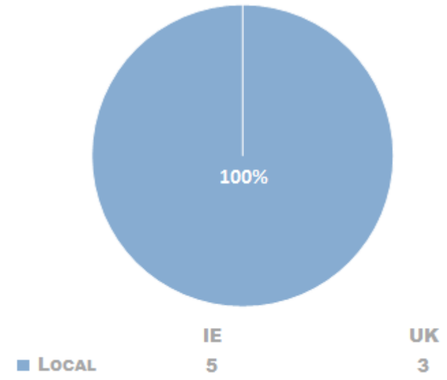
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Euroregional structure ICBAN originated in the 1990s as a response to common developmental concerns of the central border region of Ireland. Its main objective is to be a dynamic model of best practice and partnership in cross-border development. It is part of the sister organisations, the East Border Region Committee and the North-West Region Cross-Border Group, and it covers a major part of the central land border separating the island of Irelands. At the institutional level, the ten counties from both regions underwent a Corporate Governance Review of the organisation in 2008 in order to improve its operativity. Today the renewed organisational structure includes a network assembly consisting of all elected representatives in the region plus Social Actors members from the affected areas; a series of permanent Working Groups; a Risk, Audit and Finance Committee; an INTERREG Reference Group for dealing with responsible authorities for European funding; a Steering Committee on Spatial Planning; a Management Board and a small administrative office with a CEO and two assistants.

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

Border Uplands

Period: 2012 - 2015
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: https://www.keep.eu/keep/project-ext/9416/Border%20Uplands

Project Description

The Border Uplands project represented an ideal opportunity for cross-border cooperation in tourism development in remote cross-border areas. The initiative proposed the restoration, upgrading and enhancement of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, seeking to transform it into a world class tourism destination. Furthermore, the expected results included the set-up of joint marketing, education and management structures in the proposed area, with a general target of increasing tourist presence to ca. 15% over the following three years. The objectives of the project was sustaining tourism, in which Border Uplands aimed to increase the geotourism and recreational potential of the region, while also raising public awareness and stimulating pride in the heritage and culture of the border populations.

Agents involved

Leader: Fermanagh District Council (UK)

Partners

IE: Cavan County Council; Leitrim County Council; Sligo County Council

Resources

Budget:	3 183 804 Euros
EU Funds:	2 387 853 Euros
Own Funds:	795 951 Euros

Source: Border Uplands Project

Main Achievements

The project carried out a series of concrete interventions suitable for enhancing the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark and the historical sites and routes inside it. On an infrastructural level, new countryside recreation infrastructure was generated within the area of the project (new walking trails; upgrading existing facilities; new signage of paths, routes and directions; litter bins; picnic areas; car parking, etc.) and a special investment was dedicated to the construction of a 160 m² Interpretative Centre that serves as an Info Point in the Burren Forest. On a marketing level, the area was better advertised through site interpretation, exhibitions, publications, maps and new websites, which altogether increased public awareness.

East Border Region Ltd.

General Information

Date of creation: 1976
Countries: IE / UK
Area: 7 971 km²
Population: 826 000

Headquarters: Newry (IE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Cross-Border Territorial Co-operation Programme for Northern Ireland, The Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland

Website: http://www.eastborderregion.com

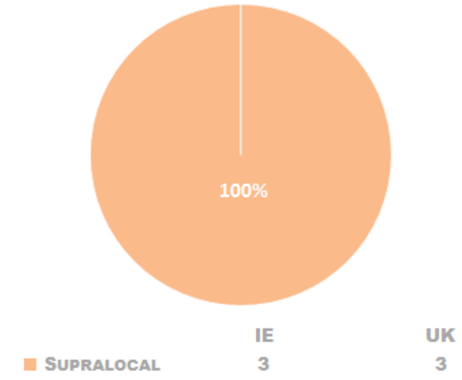
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

East Border Region Ltd. (EBRL), formerly known as "East Border Region Committee" until 2008, is based on a large cross-border cooperation tradition in the island of Ireland. Since its inception, the organisation has been working together on developing general economic prosperity and improving employment and altogether the life quality of its inhabitants. Their efforts are focused on the northeastern region of Ireland between Belfast and Dublin, on the eastern part of the two borderlands, which is shared among three different Euroregional structures. At the institutional level, it presents a clear Euroregional structure with the presence of multiple bodies: a large Members Forum including all the territorial administrations, a medium-sized board for management and funds administration, an Audit and Governance Committee and a series of Project Steering Committees. During the INTERREG III period, EBRL enjoyed its role as the "Implementing Body" for the Ireland/Northern Ireland programme. Today EBRL continues to fulfil a strongly active role in both cross-border and transnational cooperation processes.

Euroregional Partnership



Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

iOTA

Period: 2013 - 2015
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.eastborderregion.com/pages/index.asp?title=iOTA

Project Description

The final aim of the iOTA project ("Innovation, Opportunity, Training & Advice") was to implement a Regional Cross-Border Innovation strategy intended to fulfil the needs and develop the individual capacities of citizens and residents and SMEs in the region. Such professional evolution was conducted by incorporating important elements of innovation into the training and support of personnel. Furthermore, the project was divided into two separate strands for a more refined methodology of action. In Strand A, the process of raising awareness for innovation was aimed towards Pre-Incubation Support for new businesses. In Strand B, the innovation line was dedicated to already existing SMEs. The final goal of the project was to assess SMEs, micro-enterprises and individuals in order to help increase their innovative potential and contribute to the overall competitiveness of the cross-border region.

Agents Involved

Leader: East Border Region Ltd. (CB)

Partners

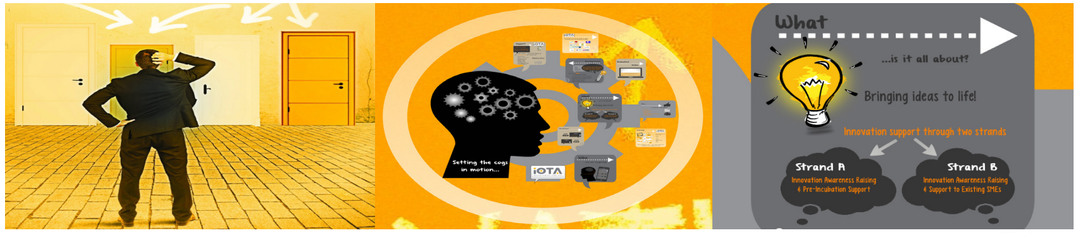
UK: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Ards and North Down Borough Council (*)

IE: Louth County Council; Monaghan County Council; Meath County Council (*)

(*): All partners are members of the East Border Region Ltd. Euroregion

Resources

Budget: 1 023 700 Euros
EU Funds: N/A
Own Funds: N/A



Source: prezi presentation slides from iOTA Project
https://prezi.com/bhteyec3xppc/iota-programme-steering-committee-29-may-2014

Main Achievements

The project's estimated outreach involved 360 innovative actors (including SMEs, micro-enterprises and individuals). A series of training courses and professional mentoring were addressed to all the actors involved. 286 cases were directly addressed under the iOTA project. 110 new businesses were supported in their birth by Strand A of the action, whereas 176 existing businesses benefited from Strand B. Another 74 businesses, albeit not directly eligible for support from the project, also attended for the purpose of relying on further investment programmes (e.g. Enterprise Ireland, Invest NI or InterTradeIreland). Altogether, the project effectively facilitated the processes of implementation and spreading awareness of the Regional Cross-Border Innovation Strategy among all the participating economic actors on the Euroregional territory.

CAWT Region

General information

Date of creation: 1992
Countries: IE / UK
Area: 23 905 km²
Population: 2 366 734

Headquarters: (London)Derry (UK), Manorhamilton (IE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Cross-Border Territorial Co-operation Programme for Northern Ireland, The Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland

Website: http://www.cawt.com

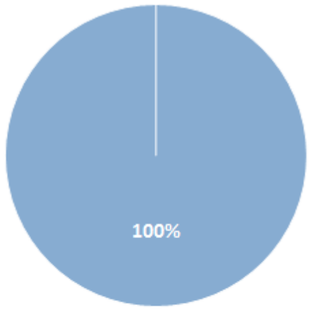
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Co-Operation and Working Together (CAWT) is a Euroregional structure that represents a interesting example of a monothematic organisation that applies cross-border cooperation to the health and social care sector. The vision of the organisation is to increase the value of health services by adding an extra cross-border dimension to ongoing cooperation between the two countries, thereby allowing a further access to EU funds in extra activities for research and added quality of health services. The CAWT region covers the whole border between Eire and Northern Irland, encompassing the other three Euroregions on the border that are mentioned in this catalogue, namely ICBAN, NWRCBG and the East Border Committee. It is essentially a partnership between the state departments of health and social services and the regional public agencies for health services of the regions located at the border. At the governance level, it is structured by a Development Centre that is responsible for facilitating CBC processes and managing allocated EU funding, a management board, an administrative secretariat, a series of thematic strategy groups, official project boards and corporate support groups.

Euroregional partnership



Local	IE	UK
	6	6

Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

Putting Patients First

Period: 2008-2014
Main Theme: Health
Web: http://www.keep.eu/keep/project-ext/9418

Project Description

In the case of the "Putting Patients First" project, the Euro-regional structure jointly negotiated with the INTERREG authority for funding an encompassing strategic initiative meant to support 12 R&D and service projects related to the health and social care sector. With the funding, the Development Centre and its specialised personnel could ensure a proper follow-up of the projects. Altogether, the overarching project was meant to improve the health and social wellbeing of residents living within the whole cross-border area by offering a range of specialists, targeted, accessible and sustainable cross-border health and social care services. Multiple fields were accounted for, such as improved access to information, modernisation of health services, health inequalities, and research and services geared towards obesity, autism and eating disorders.

Agents involved

Leader: DHSSPS/DoHC (Health Agencies) (UK/IE)

Partners

(*): The partners are members of CAWT Region

Resources

Budget: 27 600 000 Euros
EU Funds: 20 700 000 Euros
Own Funds: 6 900 000 Euros

Source: CAWT Region

Main Achievements

The multi-package of projects produced by the "Putting Patients First" initiative achieved a high number of results that certainly produced beneficial effects in all the affected areas. According to official statistics, beyond the successful execution of the 12 projects, ca. 53 000 people benefited from the CB dimension of the health and social care services. A further 43 628 people benefitted from the training initiatives stemming from projects. 166 specialized staff members were provided direct support and guidance. 121 new services were implemented. 50 community and voluntary organisations were partners in the project delivery. Most importantly, an additional €30 million were invested in health and social care, with a solid 80% of services that proved to be sustainable after the EU funding period.

Dunkirk-Flandre-Côte d'Opale region and West Flanders EGTC

General information

Date of creation: 2006
Countries: FR / BE
Area: 7 000 km²
Population: 2 000 000

Headquarters: Dunkirk (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg France - Wallonia - Flanders

Website: http://www.egts-gect.eu

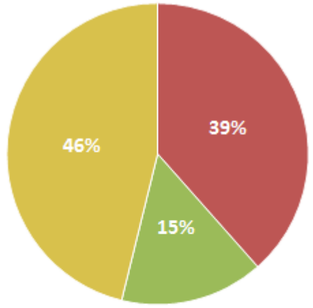
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The Dunkirk-Flandre-Côte d'Opale region and West Flanders EGTC acknowledges the presence of wide similarities in terms of territory, geography and cultural identity, often followed by large traits of common history between the regions. For this reason, the relatively recently generated EGTC believes in reconnecting the border area by following European integration ideals. This Euroregional territory is in the northwesternmost side of continental Europe on the Franco-Belgian land border, 100 km from Brussels and west of the Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai. Regarding membership, this EGTC is quite multilevel in that it comprises public agencies and territorial administrations at provincial, regional and state levels. The EGTC began taking form after four years of initial relations that developed form the experimental and informal cross-border platform of the Dunkirk- Flandre-Côte d'Opale region and West Flanders. Furthermore, at the governance level, the organisation now comprises a political assembly with the corresponding thematic workgroups, a presidency and a vice presidency and an administrative office led by an appointed director.

Euroregional partnership



	FR	BE
Regional	3	2
National	1	1
Others	4	2

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [x] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [x] Health
- [x] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

TransSport

Period: 2012-2014
Main Theme: Cohesion and Social Integration
Web: http://www.transsport.fr

Project Description

The TransSport project, also known as "Sports people without borders" was a project concerned with consolidating cross-border practices and exchanges through sports events for the inhabitants of the respective regions. The project intended to consolidate in its activities the potential networks among teams on both sides of the border as well as institutionalise the official organisation of CB events. It also focused on the production of internet platforms and methodological guides for protocols in realising such activities. Some of the competitions realised during the timeline of the project included volleyball and beach volley, cycling, marathon running and sailing. A special focus was also given to Paralympics athletes and activities.

Agents involved

Leader: Syndicat Mixte de la Côte d'Opale - SMCO (FR)

Partners

CB: EGTC West-Vlaanderen/Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale

BE: Province de Flandre occidentale - PFO; Bloso

FR: Conseil Général du Nord; Conseil d'Architecture d'Urbanisme et de l'Environnement du Nord - CAUE; Direction Régionale de la Jeunesse, des Sports et de la Cohésion Sociale du Nord-Pas de Calais

Resources

Budget: 600 558 Euros
EU Funds: 308 880 Euros
Own Funds: 291 678 Euros

Source: TransSport Project

Main Achievements

The partners developed a series of outputs ensuring the sustainability of cross-border sports in the EGTC beyond the life of the project. The TransSport web platform incorporated an interactive and mainstream database for searching equipment and sports associations in the entire cross-border territory. Furthermore, the partnership also sponsored the creation of networks between clubs and sports officials on both sides of the border. In 2014 the project also organised a wide sporting event and a cross-border marathon for the general public (Shrevepromenade-border walk). Finally, at the institutional level, the partners inaugurated a support programme for all those organisations wishing to give a cross-border dimension to their events and a methodological guide for the organisation of such activities.

Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis

EUROMÉTROPOLE
EUROMETROPOOL
LILLE • KORTRIJK • TOURNAI

General information

Date of creation: 2008
Countries: FR / BE
Area: 3 550 km²
Population: 2 100 000

Headquarters: Lille (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg France - Wallonia - Flanders

Website: http://www.eurometropolis.eu

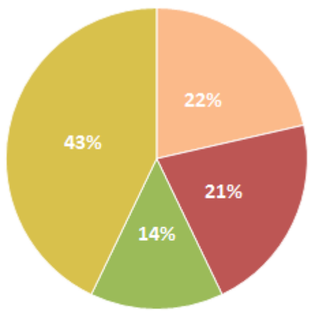
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai holds the record as the first ever EGTC established in Europe. Its main objective is to be a hub for all cross-border information, activities and services in the whole border region, improving the quality of life of inhabitants as well as socioeconomic qualities. It is located near the northernmost part of the French-Belgian land border, and it encloses the urban districts and towns surrounding the three main cities, for which the organisation is named. Before establishing this Eurometropolis EGTC, this territory already had a long CBC trajectory, having set up a "Standing Inter-Communal Cross-Border Conference (COPIT)" in 1991. Today its institutional structure is highly multilevel-focused and relies on a political deliberative assembly, a smaller executive management board led by a president and three vice presidents, an agency office for administrative purposes and two innovative forums, i.e. the civil society forum (for consultative purpose of NGO actors) and the Mayor's Conference. This Eurometropolis is also ambitious in pursuing integrated territorial development through its own 2020 Eurometropolis Strategy.

Euroregional partnership



	FR	BE
Supralocal	1	2
Regional	1	2
National	1	1
Others	1	5

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [ ] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [x] Health
- [ ] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [x] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Border Place Jacques Delors

Period: 2011 - 2014
Main Theme: Spatial Planning
Web: http://www.interreg4-fwvl.eu/fr/projet-detail detail.php?projectId=212

Project Description

The "Border Place Jacques Delors" project represented a highly original experiment for cross-border management of public space between two bordering municipalities. The main idea behind the activities arose from the construction and realisation of a public square between the French municipality of Halluin and the Belgian town of Menen, which was named after the eighth President of the European Commission, Jacque Delors. The square, which is located on two-thirds of the French territory and a third on the Belgian territory, was once the subject of two pilot studies (one on mobility and parking spaces, the other on judicial challenges on management stemming from its cross-border nature). To this day, the results of these studies still prove to be very helpful for the local administrations. The whole idea behind the project was highly innovative in stimulating new research and practice in cross-border managing of public structures.

Agents involved

Leader: Métropole Européenne de Lille (FR)

Partners

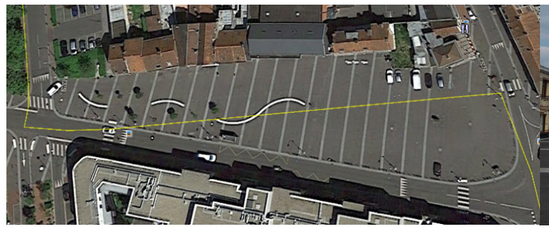
CB: Eurométropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai

BE: Ville de Menin

FR: Ville d'Halluin

Resources

Budget: 1 361 085 Euros
EU Funds: 430 262 Euros
Own Funds: 930 823 Euros



Source: Google Maps https://goo.gl/maps/4xaHz68hD3v

Source: Belgeo Journal http://journals.openedition.org/belgeo/16527

Main Achievements

The CB project compelled the local actors of the two municipalities to look for innovative solutions in managing cross-border public spaces. The circulation mobility plan of the two municipalities was eventually modified and adapted to fit ideal results proposed by a cross-border study on the streets surrounding the square. At the same time, with regard to national differences, the construction of the square pushed the local administration to come up with common construction conditions regarding the various features of the public space (regulations, sizes, urban equipment, etc.). Most importantly, with the help of both French and Belgian law firms, a judicial study guide was published on how to deal with cross-border issues related to the management of urban equipment.

Alzette-Belval EGTC

General information

Date of creation: 2012
Countries: FR / LU
Area: 141 km²
Population: 90 000

Headquarters: Audun-le-Tiche (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Grande Region Programme

Website: http://gectalzettebelval.eu/

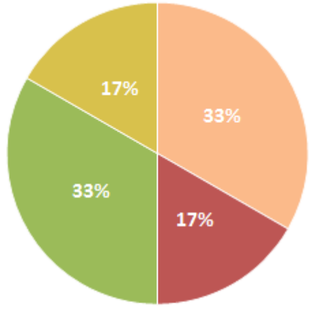
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

Unlike the general regionalist trend, the Alzette-Belval EGTC manages a cross-border region, in which both the French national state and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg have taken a key interest in the economic development of the area. With this cross-border strategy, this EGTC is striving for a joint restoration of the whole land border territory between the two countries. Specifically, it wants to introduce new urban synergies, revive industrial capacities and restore the old areas in a fully sustainable environment. On the institutional level, this EGTC emerges as a joint effort between the French "National Interest Operation" managed by its own institutional body (Public Management Establishment Alzette-Belval, EPA) and the Belval Project Funds. Even with distinctive national strategies and the presence of the bigger Grande Region cross-border organisation, the local actors clearly saw the advantages of achieving greater coordination by harmonising the projects and thus designed a joint local EGTC strategy. The EGTC is hosted by the French local council town association CCPHVA, which is an assembly comprising 32 voting members incorporating both EPA and Belval territorial actors.

Euroregional partnership



	FR	LU
Supralocal	2	
Regional	1	
National	1	1
Others	1	

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [x] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [x] Governance
- [x] Health
- [x] Environment
- [x] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [x] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Ecocity Alzette-Belval

Period: 2012-2032
Main Theme: Cohesion and Social Integration
Web: https://www.epa-alzette-belval.fr/FR/Alzette-Belval/Projet-Alzette-Belval/Ecocite.html

Project Description

The Ecocity project for the Alzette-Belval cross-border area is dedicated to the construction of positive energy clusters and the development of sustainable mobility. The activities are intended to produce original feasibility studies for realising higher energy efficient areas and alternative mobility models protecting the Ecocity from urban overcrowding. At the mobility level, the analysis focused on road traffic fluctuations, mixed HUB-parking zones and developing new interoperability models among already existing transport modes. The whole study is also aimed at developing potential Smart Grids and Smart Metering systems. Finally, each section of the study was expected to include success factors, costs and impacts plus potential partners to carry out the activities.

Agents involved

Leader: EGTC Alzette Belval (CB)

Partners

FR: Ministère de l'égalité des territoires et du logement; Ministère de l'économie et des finances; Commissariat Général à l'Egalité des Territoires (ex DATAR); Préfecture de la Région Lorraine; Conseil Régional de Lorraine; Conseil Général de la Moselle; Conseil Général de Meurthe et Moselle; Communauté de Communes Pays Haut Val d'Alzette; Etablissement Public Foncier de Lorraine

LU: Etat Luxembourgeois; Société Agora (Etat luxembourgeois et Arcelor-Mittal); Cabinet d'architecte Jo Coenen & Co.

Resources

Budget: 360 000 000 Euros
EU Funds: N/A
Own Funds: N/A

Source: Ecocity Alzette-Belval Project

Main Achievements

The project successfully implemented targets by carrying out proposed analysis activities. The study included a general neutral energy analysis for all the buildings included in the selected testing cross-border area. It also conducted a series of reports and studies detailing all the proposed factors for successful implementation (including costs and impacts and ideal partnerships for ventures) published on the ENGIE partner website. Most importantly, the project provided the basis for new INTERREG projects in the 2014-2020 period, pushing for further cross-border action in energy efficiency and joint transportation.

Saarmoselle Eurodistrict

General information

Date of creation: 2010
Countries: FR / DE
Area: 1460 km²
Population: 670 000

Headquarters: Sarreguimines (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Grande Region Programme

Website: http://www.saarmoselle.org

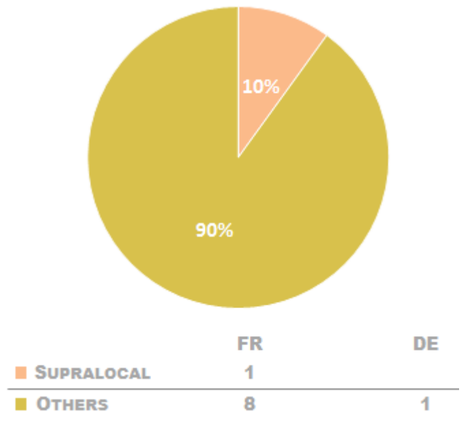
History

Despite the recent creation of a Eurodistrict EGTC for the cross-border territory, the true origin of the currently established cooperation processes effectively began in 1997 through the creation of the association Zukunft SaarMoselle Avenir. The geographical area corresponds to a cross-border urban agglomeration developed around the Saar river. The border region is also marked by a common historical tradition in mining and metallurgy activities, alongside important territorial border conflicts. Due to all this, the local communities belonging to the Euroregion (the supralocal associations of city councils in the Moselle Department and the urban community in Saarland) marked as common objective the joint economic development of the area through innovating activities oriented towards strengthening cultural and linguistic ties. In this sense, at the organizational level the presence of the EGTC has helped consolidating permanent management structures such as a joint assembly and an executive committee which rely on a stable common budget. As a result, the Euroregional structure has developed important projects in multiple sectors such as tourism, bilingual education, research and innovation, planning, transport, health and social welfare.

Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [x] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [x] Health
- [ ] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

The blue band of Saar 2: Saar life: The implementation of space vision, phase 2

Period: 2011-2014
Main Theme: Spatial Planning
Web: http://360.saarmoselle.org/

Project Description

The project has given rise to a cross-border process of planning and implementing the development of the urban river landscape. It covers the entire Saarland valley from Sarralbe to Völklingen including its undeveloped areas, urbanized areas and coal and conversion sites on both sides of the border. The project seeks therefore to rescue the common landscape by providing renovated accessibility to the fluvial area through introducing an innovative valorisation towards the life quality of the area's inhabitants. Furthermore, the cross-border spatial planning experience has allowed for the consolidation of a more accessible common space for citizens of both countries. In practical terms, the role of the Eurodistrict was functional to coordinating joint planning and implementation, while the realisation of activities was mainly conducted by the responsible local authorities.

Agents involved

Leader: Eurodistrikt SaarMoselle (CB)

Partners

FR: Ville de Sarralbe; Ville de Sarreguemines; Commune de Grosbliederstroff; Centre Communal d'Action Sociale de Sarreguemines CCAS

DE: Regionalverband Saarbrücken; Landeshauptstadt Saarbrücken, Amt für Grünanlagen, Forsten und Landwirtschaft; Stadt Völklingen; ZBB – Zentrum für Bildung und Beruf Saar gGmbH

Resources

Budget: 5 685 758 Euros
EU Funds: 2 618 759 Euros
Own Funds: 3 066 999 Euros

Source: The Blue Band Project

Main Achievements

The impact of the project over the territory is immediately visible. Both connections and common spaces located near the river have been improved by the experience of joint planning, hence improving general accessibility and a sense of common cultural valorisation of the historical heritage, the reconverted mining and industrial areas and natural spaces dedicated to leisure. The interventions, among other things, were based on activities such as the building of common walkways, picnic and playground areas, cycling paths and interactive tours. Such initiatives have also been accompanied by the creation of an internet website allowing a virtual tour of the area around the river, hence showing a 360º view of the site and practical information about each intervention realised around the area of the project.

Meuse–Rhein Euregion

General information

Date of creation: 1976
Countries: BE / DE / NL
Area: 11 000 km²
Population: 3 900 000

Headquarters: Eupen (BE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
CBC Programme EUREGIO Meuse-Rhine

Website: http://www.euregio-mr.eu

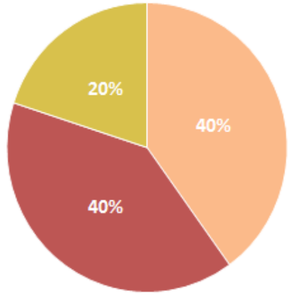
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- ✓ Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Meuse-Rhine Euroregion (EMR) pursues a strong role in benefiting from European integration so as to realise the integrated and developed cross-border area for the sake of its inhabitants. Geographically, the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion covers the urban and rural territories including and surrounding the historical province of Limburg, including further across its land borders, in cities such as Liege, Hasselt and Aachen on the German side. At the institutional level, the Euroregion first legally existed as an international working group, but it quickly evolved into a foundation under Dutch law in 1991. Eventually, its organisational restructuring led to a much more multilevel structure, which today includes a Euroregional Council and Social and Economic Council with consultative functions; a Board of directors; several thematic working groups and an administrative office with a secretariat and permanent representatives of the partner regions. Worth noting is the presence of an integrated EMR2020 strategy and the pursuit of several sectoral fields for cooperation.

Euroregional partnership



	DE	BE	NL
Supralocal	1		1
Regional		2	
Others		1	

Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- Governance
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ R&I
- ✓ Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

Habitat Euregio

Period: 2010 - 2013
Main Theme: Environment
Web: http://www.drielandenpark.eu/habitat

Project Description

In the Habitat Euregio project, 13 nature and landscape organizations from the 3-member countries collaborated for the protection of the green heart enclosed within the rural territories of the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion. The project included a selection of sub-activities dedicated to preserving the territory's scenic value and richness of species. Actions included: the improvement of living areas of plants and animals; enhancing green connections and establishing natural barriers for limiting the uncontrolled spread of flora and fauna; creating a common platform for sharing ideas and experiences; communicating the efforts and results to residents, local authorities and private nature organisations.

Agents involved

Leader: Dienst Landelijk Gebied, Roermond (NL)

Partners

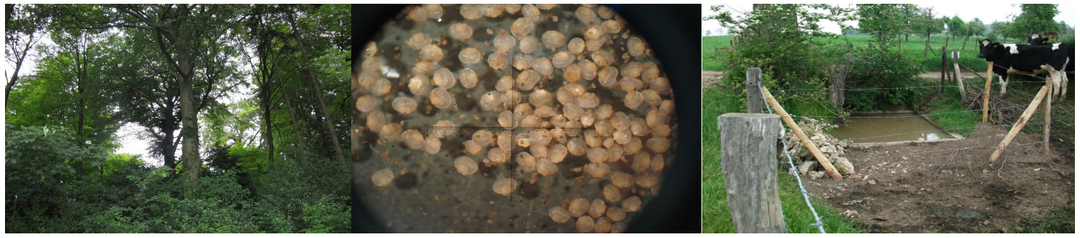
NL: Provincie Limburg; Stichting Ark, Voerendaal; Vereniging Natuurmonumenten, Heerlen; Stichting IKL, Roermond

BE: Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland vzw, Genk; Regionaal Landschap Haspengauw en Voeren vzw, Kortessem; Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos, Hasselt; Natuurpunt beheer vzw, Hasselt; Commune Oupeye; Parc naturel Hautes Fagnes – Eifel

DE: Naturschutzstation Aachen – NABU Aachen e.V.; Biologische Station im Kreis Aachen, Stolberg

Resources

Budget: 3 010 000 Euros
EU Funds: 1 505 000 Euros
Own Funds: 1 505 000 Euros



Source: Habitat Euroregio Project

Main Achievements

The project intervened in the field of cohesion and co-operation when dealing with landscape and nature management inside the different regions of the Euroregional territory. It achieved the creation of a common action plan and a strategic alignment among the administrative and political structures that implement the measures. The project also achieved the creation and consolidation of "Euroregional Nature Platform", intended as a roundtable for exchanging ideas and experiences on nature conservation and development. Furthermore, all the sub-projects and ideas were collected in a common catalogue of good practices for sharing common cooperation experiences on nature interventions and nature-related lines of research.

Scheldemond Euregio

General information

Date of creation: 1989
Countries: BE / NL
Area: 8 059 km²
Population: 2 887 800

Headquarters: Gent (BE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Flanders-Netherlands

Website: http://www.euregioscheldemond.be

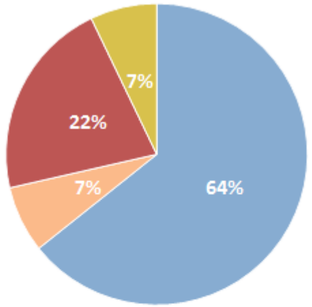
History

The Scheldemond Euregio (Conseil de l'Estuaire de l'Escaut) strongly believes in the idea of borders as an artificial and unnatural dividing line in the historical Scheldt area. Geographically, this Euroregional structure covers part of what was historically referred to as the "low lands" due to their low-lying coastal areas. Thus, the euroregional territory includes three Belgian and Dutch provinces divided by both a land and maritime border on the Atlantic Ocean. At the organisational level, the Scheldemond Euregio's governance is highly structured and the institutions are strongly considered in the decision-making processes. The so-called Scheldemondraad (or Scheldemond Council) is the political assembly for cross-border decisions and it has developed thematic "departments" (which represent more structured committees) for policies in 11 different fields. Apart from the usual Euregio secretariat providing administrative support, this Euregio also provides an umbrella structure associating the INTERREG authorities, a local EGTC (Linieland van Waas and Hulst), the Cluster Channel Zone for local border municipalities and even a EURES dedicated cross-border network for employment. Finally, the Euregio was also one of the first Euroregions in Europe to prepare a 2020 strategy. In 2020, it will be the future Grensregio Vlaanderen-Nederland.

Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- ☑ Public Law Agreement
- Other

Euroregional partnership



	BE	NL
Local	6	3
Supralocal		1
Regional	2	1
Others		1

Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- ☑ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ☑ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ☑ Environment
- R&I
- ☑ Security
- ☑ Spatial Planinng
- ☑ Local Economic Development

Hydrogen Region Flandres-Southern Neatherlands

Period: 2009 - 2012
Main Theme: Energy
Web: http://www.waterstofnet.eu/nl

Leader: Brabantse Ontwikkelings Maatschappij (NL)

Project Description

The Hydrogen Region Flanders-South Netherlands focused on the development of hydrogen-fuelled technologies to expand an alternative renewable energy market. Thanks to a partnership led by a leader company in the region (i.e. WaterstofNet), the activities substantially focused on sustainably produced hydrogen in the fields of education, production, infrastructure and its insertion in "early markets". Furthermore, in order to improve the visibility and results of the pioneer activities, the leader partner was also appointed as main mediator with the European organisation of hydrogen regions and cooperated actively with the European Hydrogen Association. The final tasks of the project later included several demonstrations of hydrogen-fuelled technologies in several civilian and commercial uses and education programmes for universities.

Agents involved

Partners

NL: Avans Hogeschool; ECN; Fontys Hogeschool; Hogeschool Zeeland; Stichting Hogeschool Zuyd; Solvay N.V.;

BE: WaterstofNet; Katholieke Hogeschool Kempen; Karel de Grote Hogeschool; Katholieke Hogeschool Limburg; Interuniversitair Micro-Electronica Centrum vzw; Vlaams Samenwerkingsverband Waterstof en Brandstofcellen vzw (VSWB vzw); SPK vzw; Universiteit Gent.

Resources

Budget: 14 100 000 Euros
EU Funds: 3 000 000 Euros
Own Funds: 11 100 000 Euros

Source: Hydrogen Region Flanders-South Netherlands Project

Main Achievements

The "Hydrogen Region" project is also listed as one of the top budget projects among the cross-border projects. Thanks to the multiple ramifications brought about by the development of hydrogen technologies, the project provided: the production of a fuel cell test facility on hydrogen; two relocatable hydrogen fuel stations; a demonstration of a system on photo-electrolyses; testing and demonstration of realised prototypes (including vessels, forklifts, luggage cars, small trucks and service cars); development of rollout scenarios of fuel infrastructure for public transport and the development of an educational programme on hydrogen and fuel cells for universities. All the successful results of the project now led to continuing the project as "Hydrogen Region 2.0" in the INTERREG V period.

Kerkrade-Herzogenrath Eurode

General information

Date of creation: 1998
Countries: DE / NL
Area: 55 km²
Population: 100 000

Headquarters: Herzogenrath (DE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Netherlands - Germany

Website: http://www.eurode.eu/

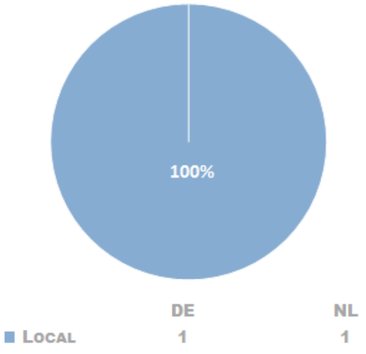
History

The Kerkrade-Herzogenrath Eurode is a very significant case of a local Euroregion between two municipalities located adjacent to both sides of the border. Historically, Kekrade was part of the German town of Herzogenrath until 1815, when the Congress of Vienna drew the Dutch-German border and separated the municipalities. The small Eurode Eurocity is located ca. 30 km east of Maastricht, in a predominantly rural and urban territory. At the governance level, it was likely one of the first local Euroregions to establish a co-administration for small cross-border area. Indeed the Eurode Council was set up at the end of the 1990s, with a presidency switching between the Dutch and German mayors every two years. As remarked by the local institutions, the Eurode Council cannot yet act as a legal institution with binding resolutions, but the two municipalities look forward to aligning their policies as much as possible on multiple fields.

Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- ✓ Public Law Agreement
- Other

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- ✓ Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

Border InfoPoint Aachen-Eurode

Period: 2011- 2013
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: https://grenzinfo.eu

Project Description

The idea behind the “Border InfoPoint Aachen-Eurode” establishment project was to create a transparent cross-border labour market that promotes an attractive business market with an international appeal. For this reason, the project partnership recognised the need for consolidating a suitable and permanent information structure for all European border citizens from this Euroregional territory, who are commuting or permanently transferring to the neighbouring country. Therefore, the project activities included acquiring office spaces, hiring relevant personnel and specialised training provided by the Euro Institute Strasbourg/Khel for facilitating setup operations in the Eurode Business Centre Kerkrade-Herzogenrath.

Agents involved

Leader: REGIO Aachen e.V. (DE)

Partners

NL: Provinz Limburg; Städteregion Parkstad-Limburg; Gemeinde Vaals; Handelskammer Limburg; Gemeinde Gulpen-Wittem

DE: Stadt Aachen; Städteregion Aachen; Industrie- und Handelskammer Aachen; Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft Belgiens sowie

CB: Zweckverband Eurode

Resources

Budget: 350 000 Euros
EU Funds: N/A
Own Funds: N/A

Source: Border InfoPoint Aachen-Eurode Project

Main Achievements

The Border InfoPoint revealed itself as a new useful service capable of embodying the support of 11 public and private actors (local and provincial actors plus chambers of commerce), who bear the yearly costs of the organisation. Apart from sustaining its initial goals, the InfoPoint provides itinerant workers practical solutions for specific problems relating to tax and insurance laws, housing and other services across the border. Furthermore, beyond this informative role, it has recently started a new series of autonomous initiatives in order to also dialogue with companies and generate its own business management plan to expand its operations. The InfoPoint is also connected to the “TaskForce Net” network from the Euregio Meuse-Rhin and the “GRENZNETZ” network for cross-border mobility.

Rhine-Meuse-North Euregio

euregio
-hein-maas-nord rijn-maas-noord

General Information

Date of creation: 1978
Countries: DE / NL
Area: 3 400 km²
Population: 1 800 000

Headquarters: Mönchengladbach (DE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Netherlands - Germany

Website: http://www.euregio-rmn.de

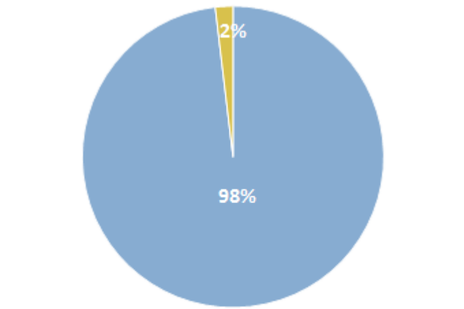
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Rhine-Meuse-North Euregio strongly emphasises its role as a facilitator of mutual understanding among its inhabitants, deepening contacts and stimulating cooperation on all fronts (with a particular focus on the business sector). Located north of its sister organisation, the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion, it specifically focuses on the Dutch-German urban, rural and fluvial areas surrounding the land border. At the membership level, this Euregio not only includes public administration actors, but also two main chambers of commerce from both sides. At the organisational level, this Euregio comprises of a General Meeting Committee for political decisions on common strategies and an Executive Committee for implementations and project decisions. Furthermore, the organisation relies on a director and a secretary. The administrative building also hosts a large space for staff dealing with project coordination as well as offices for the corresponding INTERREG authority. Finally, the levels of integration of this Euroregional structure led to the preparation of a Euregio-Vision 2014-2020 document for strategic orientation and daily action in the region, either with or without subsidy instruments.

Euroregional Partnership



	DE	NL
Local	23	29
Others	1	

Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

HARRM

Hafenregion Rhein-Maas HaRRM

Period: 2012 - 2015
Main Theme: Accessibility and Transportation
Web: http://www.harrm.de

Project Description

The HARRM project stands for “Development of Integrated Hinterland Traffic and Logistics Systems as a Sustainable Factor for Increasing Cross-Border Value Creation”. Indeed this Euroregional territory is known for its high density of logistical added value and high trade levels. Thus, the project looked for alternative ways of relocating increasing road and railway trade traffic by focusing on the role of internal river ports from the two major rivers of the area. It aspired to do so by engaging in a series of feasibility studies and surveys involving the specific hinterlands ports that were searching for a new operational plan for cross-border traffic.

Agents Involved

Leader: Hochschule Neuss für internationale Wirtschaft GmbH (DE)

Partners

DE: Rhein Kreis Neuss; Neuss-Düsseldorfer Häfen GmbH & Co. KG; Standort Niederrhein GmbH; IHK mittlerer Niederrhein; RWE Innogy GmbH; REWE-Zentral-Aktiengesellschaft; neska Schiffahrts- und Speditionskontor GmbH; Bundesverband Öffentlicher Binnenhäfen e.V.; Verband Verkehrswirtschaft und Logistik Nordrhein-Westfalen e.V.; Bundesverband der Deutschen Binnenschiffahrt e.V.; Verband für Spedition und Logistik (VSL) eV.; M. Zietschmann GmbH & Co.KG; WFG Wirtschaftsförderungsgesellschaft Krefeld mbh; DeltaPort GmbH & Co. KG

NL: Fontys Hogeschool; Gemeente Venray; Gemeente Venlo; Fresh Park Venlo B.V.; Seacon Logistics bv

Resources

Budget: 1 173 983 Euros
EU Funds: 586 992 Euros
Own Funds: 586 991 Euros

Source: HARRM Project

Main Achievements

The HAARM project aimed to achieve a series of outputs dedicated to the research of an alternative modality for logistics and goods transport in the Rhine and Meuse rivers. It conducted a survey of all the involved inland port structures and developed a SWOT analysis for cooperative development and efficient use of resources. Specific research was also conducted on cross-border freight traffic and alternative modes of transport. The study developed a multimodal procurement concept for agrologistics, in cooperation with relevant biomass shippers for the local biogas plant. Similarly, carriers have developed new logistic scenarios for rail or inland waterways in the event of relocating fresh produce and other perishable goods. All relevant results were finally disseminated to the local public and private stakeholders.

Rhein-Waal Euregion

General information

Date of creation: 1978
Countries: DE / NL
Area: 9 000 km²
Population: 4 300 000

Headquarters: Kleve (DE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Netherlands - Germany

Website: http://www.euregio.org

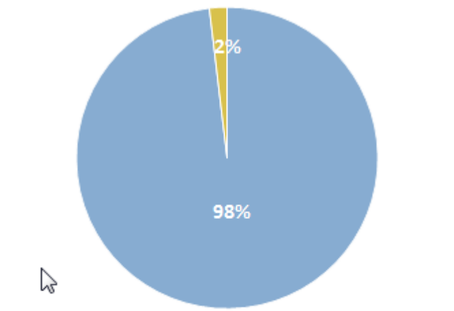
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The main objective of the Rhine-Waal Euregio is to improve and intensify cross-border cooperation in the field of economy and society, bringing partners together in order to develop synergies for new joint initiatives. The Rhine-Waal Euregio covers another substantial portion of the Dutch-German land-river border, being located on the northern side of the Rhine-Meuse-North Euregio. At membership level, the Euregio also includes the two main chambers of commerce of the border area as private actors. At the institutional level, the Rhine-Waal Euregio presents a strongly multilevel component with the presence of a Euregio council for political decisions, 3 permanent thematic committees, a presidency and an executive board, a large secretariat (also hosting the INTERREG authorities) and a series of Euregio Ambassadors on the territory whose task is to create local networks for stimulating new CBC participation. The long tradition of cooperation also allowed the presence of a Strategic Agenda 2020, and the Euregio even relies on a Euregio Forum structure within its secretariat for hosting all kinds of cross-border and non-commercial in nature meetings.

Euroregional partnership



	DE	NL
Local	23	29
Others	1	

Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

SMART INSPECTORS

Period: 2012 - 2015
Main Theme: Research and Investigation
Web: http://www.smartinspectors.net

Project Description

The SMART INSPECTORS project acronym is an abbreviation of “Smart Aerial Test Rigs with Infrared Spectrometers and Radars”. The project dealt with innovation techniques for precision agriculture and environmental research. It involved the development of small sensors and special cameras to be mounted on small UAVs, drones and microcopters. Then the data analysis was meant to be delivered to farmers from the project area. It allowed them to check the general performance of the crops and identify those areas requiring special care without having to take samples or waiting for satellite imaging. More specifically, the development also included a digital database, to which all pictures and data are sent and a Smartphone app for farmers to access the service.

Agents involved

Leader: Hochschule Rhein Waal (DE)

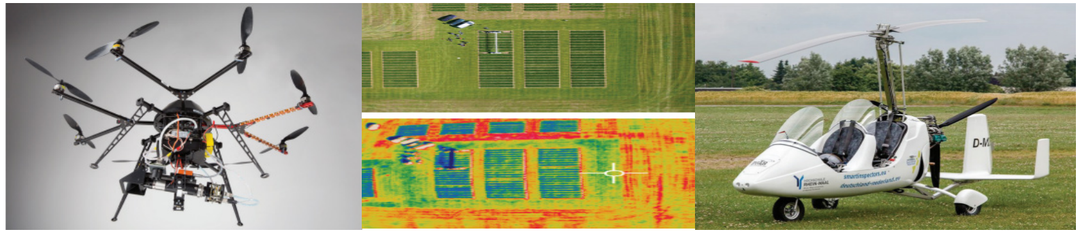
Partners

DE: Landwirtschaftszentrum; Haus Riswick; Sceme.de GmbH; IMST GmbH

NL: Wageningen Universiteit; Blgg agro Xpertus; BLGG Research B.V.

Resources

Budget: 3 165 462 Euros
EU Funds: 1 424 458 Euros
Own Funds: 1 741 004 Euros



Source: Smart Inspectors Project

Main Achievements

The new technology developed during the SMART INSPECTORS project enabled the production of a lighter and more efficient technology to be patented and licensed for precision agriculture. The new technology successfully performed more than 200 flights at more than 70 sites. All legal aspects of such technology were also studied on both sides of the border. At the same time, in 2012 the city of Cleves awarded the project a University Prize for Economic Development. The project was also supported by a big workshop on the functionality of technology and a series of presentations in local science and agricultural fairs for future contracts and applications.

EUREGIO (Gronau Euroregion)

General Information

Date of creation: 1958
Countries: DE / NL
Area: 13 000 km²
Population: 3 370 000

Headquarters: Gronau (DE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Netherlands - Germany

Website: http://www.euregio.eu/en

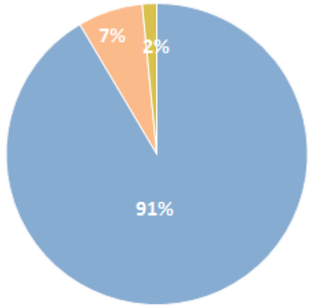
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- ☑ Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

Being the first real example of modern European cross-border cooperation, the historically famous Gronau Euroregion (widely known as "EUREGIO") is considered the true mother of all Euroregional structures. EUREGIO's mission is to develop its cross-border territory into one strong and integrated area of resources, whereby the many negative border effects ave been overcome. Furthermore, the organisation itself promotes and integrates strong European integration morale into its actions by consistently sponsoring EU goals and policies across its territory and all over Europe. It is located approximately at the centre of the Dutch-German land border, comprising a mix of urban and rural areas. At the institutional level, EUREGIO presents one of the most structured Euroregions in the EU. It organises an association meeting with representatives of all members; it possesses a large political council aided by stable sectoral committees and a restricted executive board; in turn, these are presided by a EUREGIO CEO running a large Secretariat for administrative purposes. The strong level of institutionalisation also contributes to the clear vision of a joint Strategy Paper EUREGIO 2020.

Euroregional Partnership



	NL	DE
Local	24	94
Supralocal	2	7
Others	2	0

Priorities

- ☑ Accessibility and Transportation
- ☑ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ☑ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ☑ Local Economic Development

Mechatronics R&D for SMEs

MECHATRONIK FÜR KMU MECHATRONICA VOOR MKB

Period: 2009 - 2015
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.euregio.eu/de/project/mechatronik-für-kmu

Project Description

The "Mechatronics for SMEs" project aimed at the development and massive introduction of cross-sectional and key technology mechatronics in SMEs beyond the standards currently available. The aim is to develop the manufacturing technology and stabilise the product developers' production steps towards cooperating with system suppliers. Furthermore, the project responded to an active need for improving technological requirements in companies, which could not autonomously support the costs. Given this, the project's activities included consulting services for the application of mechatronics in the targeted SMEs, the funding of feasibility studies for the different types of businesses involved and, most importantly, the realisation of mechatronic experimental development projects for purchasing and equipping selected SMEs with new technologies.

Agents Involved

Leader: Euroregio (CB)

Partners

CB: Stichting EUREGIO Cross-Border Consultancy

DE: Landkreis Grafschaft Bentheim; Fachhochschule Münster via Steinfurt

NL: Stichting Stodt, Praktijkcentrum voor Geavanceerde Technologie

Resources

Budget: 18 371 790 Euros
EU Funds: 7 277 400 Euros
Own Funds: 11 094 390 Euros

Source: Mechatronics R&D for SMEs Project

Main Achievements

As far as the publication's selection for an outstanding and possibly unprecedented budget, this particular CBC project breaks a record. "Mechatronics for SMEs" provided 186 total consultations to dedicated businesses in the area. From this number, 95 of the selected businesses were provided partial financing to conduct mechatronic feasibility studies within the industrial processes, while 87 further SMEs were approved for developing and implementing projects of mechatronic technologies. Beyond the clear positive effects that can be seen in the development of the businesses in the area, the project also supported the creation of around 25 new jobs for highly skilled workers and around 650 new jobs in the participative companies to be created in the long run for sustainably implementing new activities.

Ems Dollart Region (EDR)

General Information

Date of creation: 1977
Countries: DE / NL
Area: 19 023 km^2
Population: 2 640 000

Headquarters: Neuschanz (NL)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Netherlands - Germany

Website: http://edr.eu/?lang=en

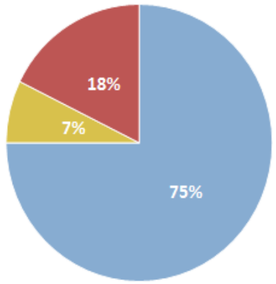
History

Throughout its 40 years of existence, the Ems Dollart Region (EDR) continues to be a strong example of an entity that consolidates cross-border cooperation activities in the European heartland. Its clear European objective is to keep developing the border region in terms of economic development while overcoming cultural barriers between the two populations. Furthermore, it strongly tackles the legislative obstacles involved in CBC, and endeavours to reduce them as much as possible. The EDR is located in the northernmost part of the German-Dutch border, encompassing both a land border and maritime border along the Ems-Dollart Strait. At the institutional level, upon signing of the Treaty of Anholt, the Euroregion's legal structure was improved. Today the EDR has a public body with a high multilevel perspective, including both public and private actors in its membership (e.g. chambers of commerce and regional development agencies). The EDR is comprised of a general council and a more focused board of directors for executive decisions.

Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- ✓ Public Law Agreement
- Other

Euroregional Partnership



	DE	NL
Local	45	27
Supralocal	7	
Others	17	

Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ✓ Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

DIAMANT

Period: 2010 - 2015
Main Theme: Research and Investigation
Web: http://www.eu-opportunities.eu/eu-projects/diamant

Project Description

The objective of project DIAMANT (acronym of "Development and Innovations in Advanced Microsystems and Nanotechnology") is to promote cross-border cooperation between businesses and research institutes in the micro and nanotechnology sector. The main idea behind the project was to facilitate industrial research and experimental development in two German-Dutch sectoral areas. The experimental fields included miniaturization and integration of electronic, mechanical and sensory functions in micro electro-mechanical systems as well as experimenting on photovoltaic solar cells and battery management. Such activities have also been further funded in terms of consultation for the joint successful launch of the new tested products. Thus, the general purpose of the project reinforced a general trend in the area of high specialisation and joint cross-border ventures within the tech industry.

Agents Involved

Leader: Oost NV (NL)

Partners

DE: Use-Lab GmbH; innos-Sperlich GmbH; Clustermanagement NMW.NRW GbR; Ionovation GmbH; Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster; Meier Solar Solutions GmbH; nanoAnalytics GmbH; QING Mechatronics BV (voorheenWeproBV); Tascon GmbH BETEBE GmbH; D.D.V. GmbH Dulevo International; Technologiepool GmbH; Dr. Greiser und Partner; HyET Solar bv; Qmicro B.V.; SM InnoTech GmbH & Co KG; Elten Medical UG

NL: Demcon Twente BV; Kema Nederland BV; C2V BV; IVRA Electronics BV; Finapres Medical Systems BV; Wiertsema & Partners BV; Malibu vervallen !!!; Noéton BV; Micronit Microfluidics; Universiteit Twente - BIOS group; KWIC Healthcare BV; EyeToEye Informatica BV

Resources

Budget: 7 924 040 Euros
EU Funds: 2 974 370 Euros
Own Funds: 4 949 670 Euros

Source: DIAMANT Project

Main Achievements

Thanks to its solid industrial plan and the substantial budget secured for the highly innovative initiative, the DIAMANT project, managed to successfully mobilise a strong joint venture in high-tech production. The project generated a total of 6 subprojects and relevant consortia (i.e. Nanosol; MOPED; Sm2APP; Micro BLM; Ambupress; Density Cone). The whole project managed to bring together industrial clusters and regional business promotion initiatives across the border, facilitating the creation and consolidation of innovative business networks committed to long-term cooperation. Most importantly, it helped create around 300 new stable jobs across the participating territories, both in the EDR and in the Rhein-Waal Euregio.

De Zoom - Kalmthoutse Heide Cross-Border Park

General Information

Countries: BE / NL

Date of creation: 2001

Area: 60 km²

Population Involved: 77 122

Web: http://www.grensparkzk.be

Governance

- ○ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ✓ Public Law Agreement
- ○ Other

History & Activities

The De Zoom-Kalmthoutse Heide represents the typical European case for a cross-border contested territory. The modern Dutch-Belgian border was only established in 1843, thus demonstrating de facto a common history of a region that was continuously governed by several feudal lords, who formed the two countries. Historically, the Belgian side of the CB Park also endured a strong fight between civil society and excessive industrialisation, as the area was already turned into protected landscape in the 1940s and officially became a state reserve in the 1960s. Curiously, a first historical attempt of generating a transboundary nature reserve already commenced but never concluded in the 1930s by the very same Belgian civil society. Geographically, the CB area is located on the central part of the Netherlands-Belgium border, and the park itself is split evenly in two parts by the frontier. Furthermore, in 2011 the CB park area was expanded from 40 km2 to 60 km2. Today the De Zoom-Kalmthoutse Heide area is managed by Benelux and EU patronage via a Special Committee for political steering and a Steering Committee assuming the role of an executive board. The CB Park therefore has the autonomy for managing its own projects through European or national funding.

Source: web of De zoom Kalmthoutse Heide Park

Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park

General Information

Countries: NL / DE

Date of creation: 2002

Area: 870 km²

Population Involved: 1 377 118

Web: http://www.naturpark-msn.de

Governance

- ○ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ✓ Public Law Agreement
- ○ Other

History & Activities

The Maas-Schwalm-Nette is a cross-border nature park that takes its name from the 3 surrounding rivers that flow along its territory. Despite its relatively recent creation in the early millennium, the original Schwalm-Nette CB Nature Park was already established in 1965, and is now integrated into the current structure. With more than 50 years of active cooperation, the park represents yet another good example of CBC structure along with the highly active Dutch-German border. It is located on the Southern part of the frontier, ca. 60 km west of the German city of Dusseldorf. Aside from coordinating normal tasks of the recreational areas and public relations work, the organisational structure administering the park intends to provide an interface for cross-border contacts and information exchange, especially in view of planning and executing cross-border projects. At the governance level, the Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park groups all its territorial administrations members into a general association meeting for political steering and an executive association board for the daily administration of the cross-border area. The CB Park actively makes use of the relevant INTERREG programme to execute projects with a strong border component in the hopes of promoting lasting development and touristic prosperity for the natural reserve.

Source: Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park

Bourtanger Moor-Bangerveem International Nature Park

General Information

Countries: DE / NL

Date of creation: 2006

Area: 166 km²

Population Involved: 936 324

Web: https://www.naturpark-moor.eu

Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History & Activities

The International Nature Park Bourtanger Moor – Bangerveem was not always the natural reserve known today. As a matter of fact, up to the 19th century it was even considered as a sinister and menacing territory irrespective of the borders that crossed it. Such landscape has been however considerably transformed thanks to extensive human action, which introduced settlements, peat mining and agriculture landscapes that shaped the moors landscape. Geographically, this prevalently rural area is located on the northern part of the Dutch-German land border, some 140km west from the German city of Bremen. As an institution, the Nature Park Consortium has been created to guarantee the preservation and maintenance of the specific natural conditions, but also for the development of recreational/educational facilities and visitors relations. Furthermore, the organization considers the economic, cultural and social issues associated with the Park and its inhabitants. At the governance level, the CB Park is administered jointly by almost all the public territorial actors around it, including municipalities, counties and provinces from the two sides of the border. Most importantly, the Nature Park Consortium has achieved the capability of managing both national and European funding for the realisation of its own projects, some of which through INTERREG funding.

Source: Bourtanger Moor-Bangerveem International Nature Park

Wadden Sea World Heritage Site

General Information

Countries: DE / NL / DK

Date of creation: 1987

Area: 11 500 km²

Population involved: 3 775 000

Web: http://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org

Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History & Activities

The Wadden Sea World Heritage Site is a widely recognised cross-border maritime area, whose future is ensured by the cooperation among Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. It is located in the southeastern part of the North Sea, spanning from Den Helder in the southwestern part across the barrier islands of the Dutch coast, the German Bight and the Danish coast towards Blåvandshuk in the northeastern part of Denmark. The Wadden Sea is also the largest system of intertidal sand and mud flats in the world, with transitional zones alternating land, sea and freshwater environments. Furthermore, it is also a crucial point in Europe for migratory birds, with up to 10 to 12 million birds passing through it annually. At the institutional level, the area is administered by the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, which is represented by the Council of the National Ministers on one side and the Wadden Sea Board on the other at decision-making level. The organisation is further structured by the presence of thematic task groups responsible for general planning and projects, while the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat is in charge of implementation and support tasks and deals with experts and network groups involved in the CB area. Thanks to its long CBC tradition and numerous achievements, UNESCO officially recognised the Wadden Sea as a World Heritage in 2009.

Source: Wadden Sea World Heritage Site

Channel Tunnel

General Information

Location: Folkestone (UK) - Coquelles (FR)

Date of creation: 1994

Length: 50.45 km

Goods transported: 22 340 tones (2016)

Passengers Traffic: 20.7 million (2016)

Web: http://www.eurotunnel.com

Source: www.telegraph.co.uk

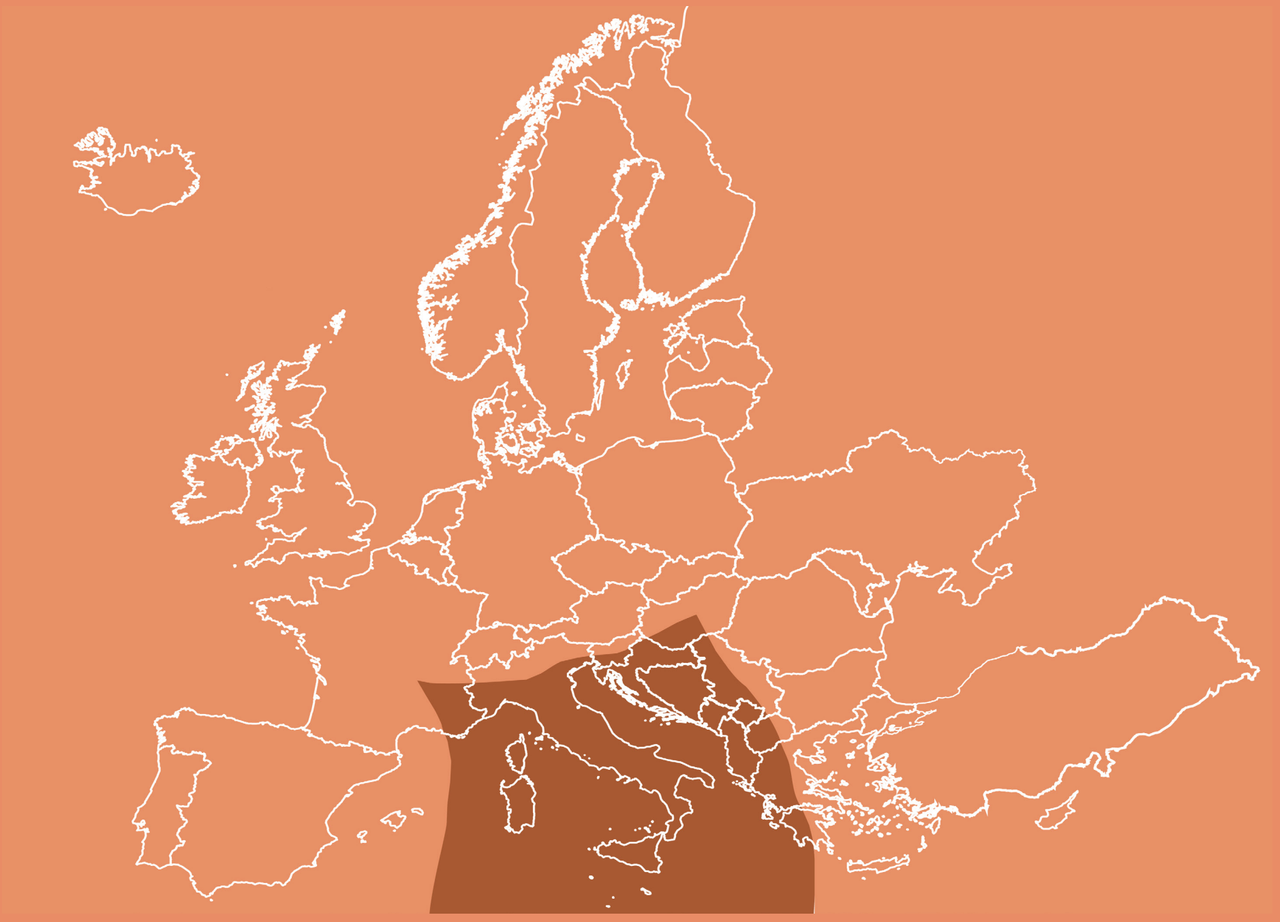
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- ☑ Other

History & Activities

The Channel Tunnel (sometimes nicknamed and shortened as the Chunnel) is an historical European railway tunnel linking the city of Folkestone in the region of Kent, UK and the city of Coquelles in the Pas-de-Calais region in France. The tunnel offers services to high-speed Eurostar passenger trains, the Eurotunnel Shuttle for road vehicles as well as freight trains. The idea for a cross-channel tunnel has been around a very long time; according to old sources, it was mentioned as early as 1802. However, the turn of events during the 19th and 20th centuries prevented any real plans of constructing the cross-border equipment. Real talks about its development only began with the winds of imperialism dying down and after WWII and the uncertainty about UK's role in the old European institutions had been settled. The modern project only started its planning in 1979, while tunnelling was executed between 1988 and 1994. In the same year, the American Society of Civil Engineers elected the tunnel as one of the seven modern Wonders of the World. Today The Chunnel reaches impressive levels in passenger and freight transportation statistics. However, it also stands at the centre of the debate concerning migrants in Calais - an issue that began in 1997 and continues to be heightened by the recent crises in the Middle East.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN AND ADRIATIC



EUROREGIONS

- Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion
- Gorizia-Nova Gorica EGTC
- Sicily-Malta Cross-Border Region

TRANSBOUNDARY PARKS

- Maritime-Alps Mercantour European Park
- Mont Viso Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve

Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion

General Information

Date of creation: 2006

Countries: IT / GR / HR / BA / ME / AL

Area: 229 028 km²

Population: 22 000 000

Headquarters: Pola (HR)

Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Italy-Croatia
IPA Adriatic CBC Programme

Website: http://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu

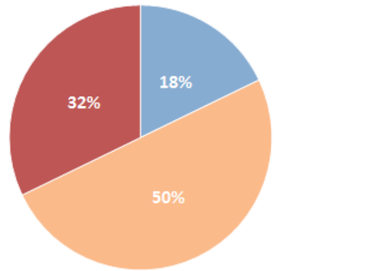
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- ✓ Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, formerly called Adriatic Euroregion, is one of the largest cross-border and interregional cooperation organisations on European soil. In terms of borders, this Euroregional territory presents a large variety of land and maritime frontiers across six participating countries. Despite being created with the intention of generating a cooperation space for the entire Adriatic-Ionian area, i.e. from the Italian-Slovenian border, all the way down to Greece, a further purpose lies in the task of Europeanising the Euroregion towards those Balkan countries aiming for accession and integration in the European Union. Thus, it also promotes strong practices of multilevel governance even with its elaborate institutional composition. Due to its unconventional size, this Euroregion is also involved in transnational cooperation (INTERREG MED). It is governed by two main bodies: the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, which are responsible for the decision-making. The organisation also has a President and two Vice Presidents. The Thematic Commissions handle all thematic policies relevant to the network, while the Secretariat provides administrative support to the Euroregion and facilitates interaction among the members.

Euroregional Partnership



	IT	GR	HR	BA	ME	AL
Local					5	
Supralocal			7	1		6
Regional	7	2				

Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- ✓ Governance
- Health
- ✓ Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

AdriGov

Period: 2013 - 2017

Main Theme: Governance

Web: http://www.adriawealth.eu/project/adrigov

Project Description

The project AdriGov (Adriatic Governance Operational Plan) intends to enhance cross-border cooperation in the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion by focusing on two main objectives: promoting and adopting an innovative and participatory Adriatic Governance Operational Plan designed to constitute an effective governance model in the area; and realising a series of knowledge-transfer actions to enhance information and awareness on European integration and EU accession with the goal of improving the knowledge and skills of the representatives of the involved local and regional authorities. Furthermore, its list of activities included effective training programmes structured around the improvement of EU funding management and general administrative expertise.

Agents Involved

Leader: Region Molise (IT)

Partners

IT: Veneto Region; Abruzzo Region; Puglia Region; Marche Region; Emilia Romagna Region; Friuli Venezia Giulia (through the Agency Informest)

HR: Region of Istria; Dubrovnik-Neretva County (through the Agency DUNEA)

ME: Municipality of Kotor

GR: Region of Epirus

AL: Regional Council of Shkodra

BA: Herzegovina Neretva Canton

Resources

Budget: 663 124 Euros
EU Funds: 331 562 Euros
Own Funds: 331 562 Euros

Source: Adrigov Project

Main Achievements

As its main achievement, AdriGov succeeded in increasing the capacity of the partnership and regional stakeholders in dealing with European instruments. Beyond this, the numerous outputs of the project include: creating a centre for EU and international cooperation in Istria; a cycle of specific training programmes and administering diverse EU funds towards multi-level governance; events and workshops with a vast selection of public and international actors; creating a permanent network, i.e. a “regional lab on macro-regional issues”, which also participated in the consolidation of the Adriatic Macro-regional Strategy; a comparative analysis study on SMEs and FDI from IPA countries trying to accession to the EU; and finally, a packaging of communication multimedia material, ranging from a video documentary to reports and publications.

Gorizia-Nova Gorica EGTC

General Information

Date of creation: 2011
Countries: IT / SI
Area: 365 km²
Population: 73 750

Headquarters: Gorizia (IT)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Italy-Slovenia

Website: http://www.euro-go.eu

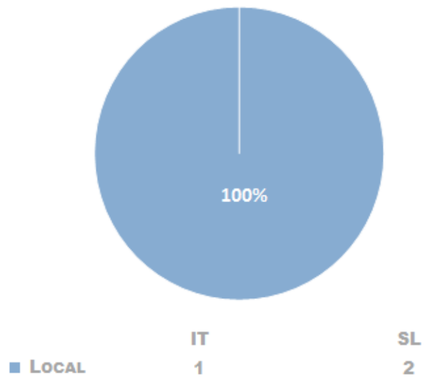
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The Gorizia-Nova Gorica EGTC is an active example of a local Euroregion structure borne out of a desire to achieve cooperation purposes among territories scarred by historical events and borders. The two towns, situated less than 50 km north of the Italian city of Trieste, are markedly split by the border cutting through the rural and urban landscape. Considering the relatively recent creation of the Slovenian state, it is clearly understandable how the pursuit of territorial cooperation policies represents a clear instrument for generating good relations and common development in the border region. After the negotiations commenced within the decade of 2010, the two towns decided to form together an EGTC (available since 2006) as a way of creating a cross-border organisation. The institutional structure of the EGTC is composed of the General Assembly chaired by a President, six permanent thematic committees and a technical director leading the administrative secretariat. Interestingly, most of the responsibilities inside the EGTC are without remuneration, as these tasks are perceived as being part of their own public administrations.

Euroregional Partnership



Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [ ] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [x] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [x] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

TIP- Transborder Integrated Platform

Period: 2011 - 2015
Main Theme: Accessibility and Transportation
Web: http://www.tip-project.eu

Project Description

The TIP project planned a series of activities and events to support the functional coordination of Gorizia and Vrtojba truck terminals and intermodal areas of the "Villesse-Gorizia-Razdrto" motorway. The project is primarily dedicated to the infrastructure and accessibility level of the area included in the Euroregional territory. It focuses on improving the existing road system connecting the structures located on the border with urban areas nearby. With an eye on environmental sustainability, it also aims at improving restroom areas and facilities in the vicinity of the motorway. Finally, the project also executes preliminary analysis for future railway intermodal networks between the two territories.

Agents Involved

Leader: SDAG S.p.A. (IT)

Partners

IT: Comune di Gorizia; Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia; Log System Scarl

SI: Obcina Sempeter-Vrtojba; RRA Severne Primorske; Ministrstvo za Promet; Družba za avtoceste v Republiki Sloveniji d.d.; Slovenske Zeleznice d.o.o

Resources

Budget: 1 326 990 Euros
EU Funds: 1 009 356 Euros
Own Funds: 317 634 Euros

Source: TIP Project

Main Achievements

The concrete achievements of the TIP project comprised a series of outputs dedicated to the area: the planning and design of missing road connections to the truck terminals (mainly on the Slovenian side) in terms of pedestrians and bike traffic; a general improvement of track terminal services including restaurant modernisation, protected parking areas with video-surveillance and a coordinated signalling system for logistics; feasibility studies in terms of energy efficiency and renewables for the whole cross-border system; a legal study on the feasibility of a wide area including joint urban and territorial strategies; and finally, a preliminary study on railway junctions between national lines in Italy and Slovenia, designing the necessary extension of the intermodal junction and necessary renovations in the existing infrastructure.

Sicily-Malta Cross-Border Region

Italia Malta 2007 - 2013

General Information

Date of creation: 2004
Countries: IT / MT
Area: 26 147 km²
Population: 5 417 478

Headquarters: Palermo (IT)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Italy-Malta

Website: http://www.italiamalta.eu

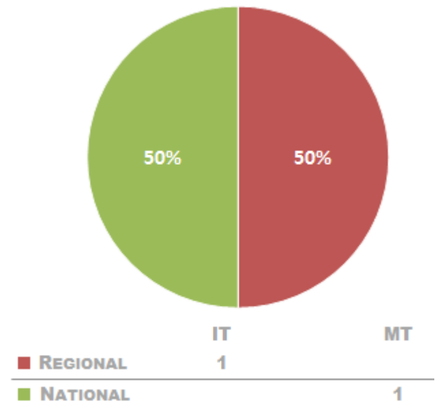
History

The Sicily-Malta Cross-Border Region is one of the southernmost areas of CB cooperation inside the EU territory, and as such, it presents a number of interesting features. It is also one of the few European cases of active cross-border cooperation of islands. Both Sicily and Malta are located in the centre of the Mediterranean and the Strait of Sicily separating the two territories, which is approximately 92 km, clearly marks the extent of the maritime border. Despite the presence of historical and cultural ties, the creation of the Sicily-Malta border region was eventually stimulated by Malta's accession into the EU in 2004, when the European Commission proposed to establish a dedicated INTERREG Italy-Malta programme between the autonomous region and the island state. Thus, at the institutional level, the border region shows the presence of INTERREG-derived institutions, e.g. the Management Authority or Joint Technical Secretariat, developing projects alongside the general cohesion policy agenda. However, recent attempts to constitute an EGTC in 2011 as well as the current trajectory in the evolution of the CBC processes seem to indicate a potential proto-Euroregional structure aiming for further development.

Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- ✓ Other

Euroregional Partnership



Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ R&I
- ✓ Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

Vamos Seguro

Period: 2011 – 2013
Main Theme: Environment
Web: http://www.vamosseguro.eu

Project Description

The project VAMOS SEGURO ("Volcanic Ash Monitoring and FOrecaSting between Sicilia and Malta arEa and sharinG of the resUlts foR aviatiOn safety") realised an automatic system for monitoring and forecasting volcanic ash dispersal between Sicily and Malta coming from Mt. Etna. It entailed the purchase and installation of new volcanic activity monitoring systems to help gather data on explosive activity and volcanic particles. Finally, the implementation of tephra dispersal models made the system capable of forecasting the locations and the height of volcanic clouds. The developed system is thus able to inspect the cross-border region between Sicily and Malta, where there is a high probability of finding dangerous concentrations of volcanic ash and gas. As a result, the surveillance system is also capable of producing alert systems, e.g. highlighting which affected airspace to prohibit passage to ensure aviation safety during incidents.

Agents Involved

Leader: Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia – Osservatorio Etneo (IT)

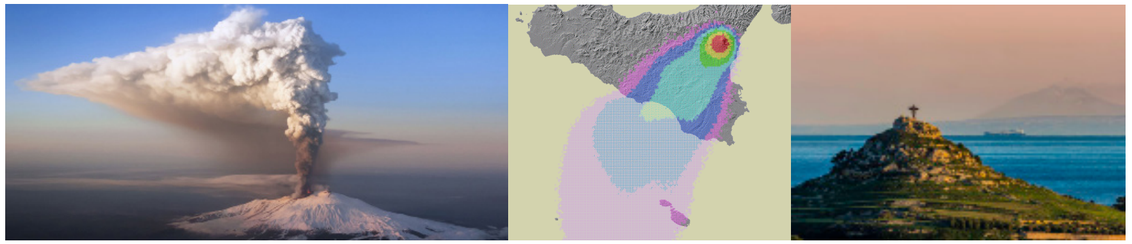
Partners

IT: Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica, Osservatorio Astrofisico di Catania; Comune di Montedoro

MT: Atmospheric Research, Physics Department, University of Malta

Resources

Budget: 837 884 Euros
EU Funds: 498 499 Euros
Own Funds: 339 385 Euros



Source: www.vamosseguro.eu; etnaest.com; Daniel Cilia© (lovingmalta.com)

Main Achievements

The project entailed the acquisition of new LIDAR technology for the activation of a surveillance system detecting the presence of volcanic ash between Sicily and Malta. The data was vital for conventional laboratory analysis and helped develop a practical methodology for forecasting the presence and trajectory of volcanic ash plumes. Most importantly, it secured a communication channel for the aviation of both the territories, thereby making an effective case for risk prevention measures against natural causes. Furthermore, the project also proved useful for the community as well as the social and productive activities of the interested areas. A typical example would be the frequent cases reported by storage facility personnel, who monitor forecasts for securing outdoor equipment and goods from occasional ash dispersal.

Maritime-Alps Mercantour European Park

General Information

Countries: IT / FR

Date of creation: 1987

Area: 965 km²

Population Involved: 1 837 896

Web: http://fr.marittimemercantour.eu

Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History & Activities

Located at the western end of the Alps, the Argentera-Mercantour Massif covers nearly 100,000 hectares of protected nature. On the French side, the Mercantour is flanked by the French Parc National du Mercantour, and the Italian side by the Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime. Since their creation, the two parks have developed an increasingly close collaboration with the same objective of protecting and enhancing the cultural wealth and natural landscape as well as preserving biodiversity. So far, they have cooperated on ecological missions pertaining to the restoration of flora and fauna species, exchanges of expertise and personnel and the development of common management tools including a geographic information system. They also consult each other on topics pertaining to education, sustainable development and culture. First twinned in 1987, the two parks signed a charter of cooperation in 1998 with the objective of strengthening their cross-border identity. In June 2013, the Parks approved the creation of the EGTC to facilitate integrated projects. As a short-term goal, the EGTC plans to form a legal structure for the management of the protected area that is geared towards creating a truly cross-border European Park.

Source: Maritime Alps Mercantour European Park

Mont Viso Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve

General Information

Countries: FR / IT

Date of creation: 2013

Area: 4 270 km²

Population Involved: 292 369

Web: http://www.mab-france.org/en/biosphere/reserve-de-biosphere-transfrontiere-du-mont-viso///#presentation

Governance

- [ ] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [x] Public law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History & Activities

The cross-border Mont Viso region is a glacial cirque surrounded by valley floors, with Alpine and Mediterranean influence and a dry and sunny climate. At the ecological level, this region has an insularity still marked today by the presence of abundant endemic species. At the same time, it presents a shared history, which dates back to the 14th century and explains the strong links among the local populations. Even the establishment of a concrete mountain border between France and Italy has not diminished these enduring links whose current relations on cultural, environmental and economic events can attest to. Wanting to establish a full cross-border cooperation space, it took the actors of the territorial consortium ten years to be recognised by UNESCO as a “biosphere reserve”. Today the governance of the Mont Viso cross-border biosphere reserve is based on a participatory principle comprised of territory policymakers, socio-professionals and representatives of a Steering Committee, and supported by thematic work groups. A permanent cross-border secretariat attends to the coordination of the reserve . However, beyond its Euroregional structure as an official biosphere reserve, other actors are also responsible for the general management of the territory, e.g. the Natura 2000 Network led by EU member states.

Source: Mont Viso Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve

CENTRAL EUROPE

EUROREGIONS

- Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine
- Regio PAMINA Eurodistrict EGTC
- Strasbourg Ortenau Eurodistrict
- Vis-à-Vis LGTC
- Freiburg Region and Alsace Eurodistrict
- Basel Trinational District
- Leman Council
- Greater Geneva
- International Lake Constance Conference (IBK)
- MontBLanc Space
- EUROPAREGION (Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino Euroregion)
- Via Salina Euregio
- Inntal Euregio
- Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein EuRegio
- Inn-Salzach-Euregio
- Egrensis Euregio
- Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa
- Glacensis Euroregion
- Praded Euroregion

CROSS-BORDER EQUIPMENTS

- Europa 1 Fireboat LGTC
- Euroairport Basel Mulhouse Freiburg
- MontBlanc Tunnel EEIG
- Great Saint Bernard Pass Tunnel
- CEVA Railway Link

Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine

TRINATIONALE METROPOLREGION OBERRHEIN
REGION METROPOLITAINE TRINATIONALE DU RHIN SUPERIEUR

General information

Date of creation: 2008
Countries: DE / FR / CH
Area: 21 000 km²
Population: 5 900 000

Headquarters: Kehl am Rhein (DE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
InterregUpper Rhine

Website: http://www.rmtmo.eu

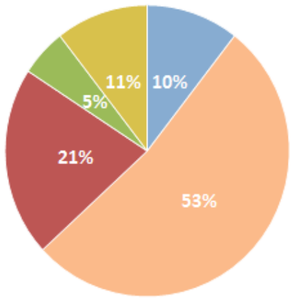
Governance

- ○ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ✓ Public Law Agreement
- ○ Other

History

The Upper Rhine Trinational Metropolitan Region (RMT) is structured around the Franco-German-Swiss border and constituted by four territories: Alsace and the Pays de Bade, the Southern Palatinate and Northwestern Switzerland (i.e. the cantons of Bâle-Ville, Bâle-Campagne, Argovie, Jura et Soleure). The RMT is enclosed by the Black Forest towards the east, the Vosges towards the west, the Pfälzewald towards the north and part of the Jura towards the south. Its territorial structure is highly polycentric and marked by a tight network of large, medium and small towns, each exercising different and complementary urban functions. Since the establishment of the Franco-German-Swiss Intergovernmental Commission in 1975, numerous projects and measures have been carried out by actors from the spheres of politics, economics, science and civil society, especially through Interreg initiatives. The RMT's genesis goes back to the 1980s, when it was boosted by the cooperation between the Upper Rhine regional institutions (Tripartite Congress). In 2006 the metropolitan region's concept was launched and two years later the joint declaration was signed. The RMT was officially recognised by national governments in 2010. It currently includes a joint territorial strategy.

Euroregional partnership



	DE	FR	CH
Local	2		
Supralocal	3	2	5
Regional	3	1	
National		1	
Others	2		

Priorities

- ○ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ○ Education and Culture
- ✓ Governance
- ○ Health
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ R&I
- ○ Security
- ○ Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

Lupus Biobank Upper Rhine

LBR
Lupus BioBank des OberRheins
Lupus BioBanque du Rhin supérieur

General information

Period: 2011 - 2014
Main Theme: Health
Web: http://www.chru-strasbourg.fr/Toutes-les-actualit-s/Cooperation-transfrontaliere-pour-le-developpement-de-la-recherche-sur-le-lupus-systemique-le-projet-Lupus-Biobanque-du-Rhin-Superieur-LBBR/

Project Description

Systemic Lupus (LS) is an autoimmune disease that mainly affects young women. The project aims to address the severity of LS and is therefore concerned with taking progressive steps in understanding this condition better, identifying the prognostic markers and new treatments. At the same time, any progress made in this field will be useful for other autoimmune diseases that generally affect 5-6% of population. One of the aims of the project is to create a comprehensive database for patients, which combines detailed clinical records with a complex Biobank that enables approaching the pathology by conducting multiple research projects. The project also helps doctors from the Upper Rhine intending to collect essential clinical data accompanying the patients' biological samples.

Agents involved

Leader: HUS - Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg (FR)

Partners

FR: Centre Hospitalier de Mulhouse, Centre hospitalier de Colmar, CNRS - Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Région Alsace

DE: Universitätsmedizin der Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, UniversitätsKlinikum Freiburg, Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg, Baden Baden, Rheumazentrum, Städtisches Klinik Karlsruhe

Resources

Budget: 2 667 091 Euros
EU Funds: 1 333 545 Euros
Own Funds: 1 333 546 Euros

Source: web of Hôpitaux Universitaires d'Strasbourg

Main Achievements

Numerous research projects were started in the labs located along the Upper Rhine. These are mainly based on phenotype-genotype correlations, the search for prognostic markers and new therapeutic pathways. Due to the strong involvement of doctors from these research sites for the pathology concerned, a population enlargement is desirable to improve patient acquisition. The project networks many specialist clinicians of the Upper Rhine Region and also involves the health care structure of the Grand Est French region. 14 hospitals participate in the collection of clinical and biological data of about 3 000 patients; each clinic has a specific task towards contributing to the shared Biobank. Information exchange and network strengthening will contribute to improving CBC in the medical research field.

Regio PAMINA Eurodistrict EGTC

General information

Date of creation: 2003
Countries: FR / DE
Area: 6 500 km²
Population: 1 700 000

Headquarters: Lauterbourg (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Upper Rhine

Website: http://www.eurodistrict-pamina.eu/

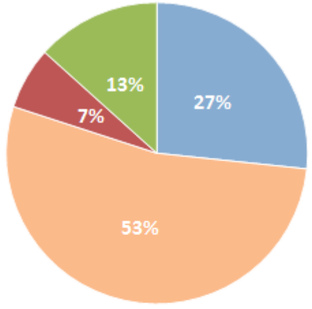
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The Eurodistrict PAMINA (Palatinat, Mittlerer Oberrhein and Nord Alsace), which is located along the northern part of the upper Rhine River, is surrounded by the Black Forest along the east, the northern Vosges mountain range towards the west, as well as the Palatinate forest. This CBC officially began in 1988 as part of the Wissembourg Declaration and reinforced in 1996 by the Karlsruhe Agreement. In 2001 it assumed the LGTC status and its current designation "Eurodistrict PAMINA" in 2008, and later becoming an EGTC in 2017. Currently the Eurodistrict PAMINA involves many local and regional partners from Northern Alsace (France), the Middle Upper Rhine and the Southern Palatinate (Germany). The cross-border governance is based on four institutional bodies: the president, vice-president, assembly (33 representatives, 11 for each territory) and the managing committee (12 representatives, 4 each). The Eurodistrict PAMINA also promotes local CBC by funding micro-projects.

Euroregional partnership



	FR	DE
Local	1	3
Supralocal	1	7
Regional	1	
National		
Others	2	

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [x] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [x] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Management and Improvement of the former Lauterbourg's customs building

Period: 2008 - 2010
Main Theme: Spatial Planning
Web: http://www.interreg-rhin-sup.eu/projet/amenagement-et-extension-du-batiment-de-lancienne-douane-a-lauterbourg

Project Description

The building of the former customs office located in Lauterbourg, which already housed the INFOBEST mission (Information and Advice) and entrusted to the LGTC, now hosts all Eurodistrict cross-border activities. In addition to its highly symbolic civic value, this real estate development helped improved public reception. PAMINA's INFOBEST is a service centre providing information and advice on cross-border issues to individuals, companies, administrations, elected representatives and associations. The main objective is to facilitate understanding between France and Germany and reduce current obstacles related to the border. This centre is part of the INFOBEST network within the wider Upper Rhine cross-border region (INFOBEST Kehl-Strasbourg, Vogelgrun-Breisach and Palmrain).

Agents involved

Leader: Conseil général du Bas-Rhin (FR)

Partners

DE: Stadt Karlsruhe; Landkreis Karlsruhe; Landkreis Rastatt; Stadt Baden-Baden; Stadt Rastatt; Regionalverband Mittlerer Oberrhein; Landkreis Südliche Weinstrasse; Landkreis Germersheim; Landkreis Südwestpfalz; Stadt Landau; Stadt Germersheim; Verband Region Rhein Neckar.

Resources

Budget: 1 127 729 Euros
EU Funds: 563 865 Euros
Own Funds: 563 864 Euros

Source: Regio Pamina Eurodistrict EGTC

Main Achievements

Renovation was completed and PAMINA's INFOBEST started operating in 2011. The new building satisfies "Low-Energy Building" standards by means of an innovative heating system, i.e. the glass façade is equipped with solar panels that collect and reuse solar energy. The building includes a documentation area with brochures and documents on cross-border and European cooperation as well as French and German regional presses. INFOBEST deals with up to 3 000 advisory cases per year. In 2013 the "Pension task force" was launched to provide information and advisory services related to the German system of double taxation. It seems to be an innovative and useful service for ca. 30 000 retirees in the entire Upper Rhine.

Strasbourg Ortenau Eurodistrict

General information

Date of creation: 2003
Countries: FR / DE
Area: 2 167 km²
Population: 914 014

Headquarters: Strasbourg (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Upper Rhine

Website: http://www.eurodistrict.eu/fr

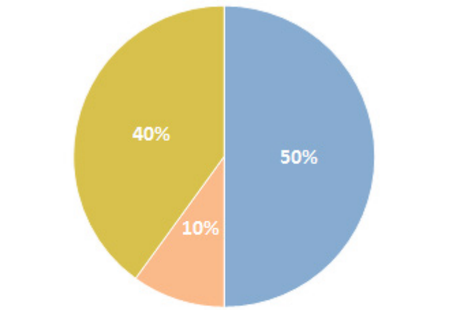
Governance

- ☑ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ○ Public Law Agreement
- ○ Other

History

According to its mission statement, the Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict is a Euroregional structure conceived to push boundaries, tear down administrative barriers and ease everyday civic life. The political agreement for cross-border cooperation between the two territories emerged relatively recently thanks to the opportunities provided by the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Franco-German Élysée Treaty. The Eurodistrict is located on the central part of the Germany-France land border, which encompasses urban, rural and fluvial territories of Strasbourg and Orthenau along the Rhein. At the institutional level, the public actors from both sides form supportive groups around the General Council led by a president and vice president, which in turn, uses a bureau executive board for developing the decided political orientations. The whole structure is further supported by a General Secretariat for administrative purposes. It is worth noting that having been only established in 2005, this already relies on a "Growing at 360°" joint strategy and plenty of associations with local NGO organisations in the territory.

Euroregional partnership



	FR	DE
Local		5
Supralocal		1
Others	4	

Priorities

- ☑ Accessibility and Transportation
- ☑ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ☑ Education and Culture
- ☑ Governance
- ☑ Health
- ☑ Environment
- ○ R&I
- ○ Security
- ○ Spatial Planinng
- ☑ Local Economic Development

Medical cabinet of cross-border treatment of addiction

Period: 2013 - 2016
Main Theme: Health
Web: http://www.eurodistrict.eu/fr/projets/le-cabinet-medical-transfrontalier-de-substitution-2013

Project Description

The "Cross-Border Medical Cabinet for Addiction" project arose from a concrete need to establish a joint medical institution for drug addiction treatment in the border region. Initially as a way to avoid long commutes to the city of Offenburg (19 km away from Ortenau district) for German residents with addictions, gradually the need to establish a new centre close to the border also became very apparent and opened the possibility for a new cross-border type of initiative. As a matter of fact, the project's activities were meant to ensure a proper start for the organisation and support its startup costs and the legal and administrative logistics associated with the managing both French and German patients. Beyond the INTERREG funding, the project was also supported by local donations from other local administrations.

Agents involved

Leader: Baden-Württembergischer Landesverband für Prävention und Rehabilitation GmbH (DE)
Partners

CB: Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau

FR: Association Ithaque

DE: Statd Kehl; Land Baden-Wurtemberg; Ortenaukeis

Resources

Budget: 238 460 Euros
EU Funds: N/A
Own Funds: N/A

Source: Strasbourg-Orteanu Eurodistrict Le Courrier des addictions journal www.edimark.fr/Front/frontpost/getfiles/20372.pdf

Main Achievements

Since its inception, the project has been providing competent service for drug dependency treatment to around 60 people from the German side of the border. It further proceeded in consolidating a new experimental cross-border venture in the sector of CB health by also providing treatment to French inhabitants in their native language and breaking down administrative barriers for medical and legal issues. Furthermore, the centre employs a new approach by combining social, psychological and medical aspects associated with drug addiction. Today the centre possesses a total admission capacity for 120 patients, and each member of the bilingual personnel has been trained to attend to 50 patients.

Vis-à-Vis LGTC

General information

Date of creation: 2004
Countries: FR / DE
Area: 590 km²
Population: 136 733

Headquarters: Erstein (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Upper Rhine

Website: https://www.vis-a-vis-online.eu

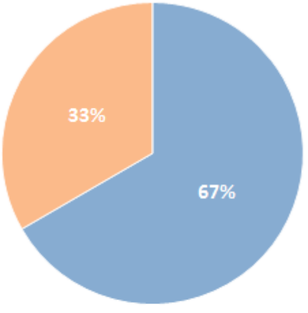
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [x] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

Vis-à-Vis is a small-scale cross-border LGTC structure located on the Upper Rhine French-German Border and has 136 000 inhabitants. Despite the proximity of the very active Strasburg metropolis on cross-border cooperation, the rural territorial structure requires more specific attention. There is a long lasting tradition of CBC between the local administrations that dates back to the mid-1970s. Since that period, the main goal has primarily focused on improving the connections between the two sides of the rivers, namely the reconstruction of the cross-border bridge, which was destroyed during the World War II. In 2004 the LGTC status was adopted as a suitable cross-border institutional framework, its partners (German municipalities and French Communautés de Communes). The cooperation currently regards important sectors for cross-border daily life, such as transport (especially for student mobility), improvement of mutual linguistic knowledge, the promotion of scholarship as well as cultural exchanges and, most importantly, the project of the cross-border bridge over the Rhine continues to be maintained.

Euroregional partnership



	FR	DE
Local		8
Supralocal	1	3

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [ ] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [ ] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Bus-Vis-à-Vis to the Rhine

Period: 2011 - ongoing
Main Theme: Accessibility and Transportation
Web: http://www.feuerwehr-lahr.de/home/traffic/vis_à_vis_bus.14330.10037,13958,14330.htm

Project Description

Aiming to improve local cross-border connection and promoting proximity mobility, in the late 1990s, Vis-à-Vis has implemented a cross-border seasonal bus line connecting the cities of Lahr, Erstein and Obernai and has recently become very popular among the borderland communities. Beyond mere transport, the Vis-à-Vis bus supports local economic development by promoting so-called “slow tourism” initiatives, whereby passengers can also have the opportunity of bringing their bikes to discover natural and cultural heritage sites. This initiative also contributes to acquainting inhabitants and tourists alike with the French and German cultures of both sides the Rhine, i.e. the Alsatian and Ortenau cultures.

Agents involved

Leader: GLCT Vis-à-Vis – Erstein/Obernai/Lahr (CB)

Partners

DE: Lahr; Schwanau; Meißenheim; Kappel-Grafenhausen; Friesenheim; Kippenheim; Rust; Ringsheim; Community of Municipalities of the Rhine; Community of communes of the country of Erstein; Community of communes of Benfeld (*)

FR: Community of communes of Saint-Odile (*)

(*): All partners are membres of Vis-à-Vis LGTC Euregion

Resources

Budget: 60 000 Euros (per year, estimated)
EU Funds: N/A
Own Funds: N/A

Source: Stadt Lahr

Main Achievements

In 2017 the Vis-à-Vis bus celebrates its twentieth season. Since its implementation, more than 13 000 users have benefited from this service. The bus runs twice every Saturday and also operates during French public holidays, e.g. July 14 and August 15. The bus can accommodate up to 40 bicycles. According to recent news, this option promotes both sides as weekend touristic destinations (especially the city of Obernai), even if the visits depend on weather conditions. Generally, German passengers stop in Alsace as a starting point for biking tours, shopping or dining out. Besides provding a basic transport service, this initiative seems to promote a certain economic dynamism among the local communities.

Freiburg Region and South Alsace Eurodistrict

General information

Date of creation: 2003
Countries: FR / DE
Area: 5 200 km²
Population: 1 200 000

Headquarters: Mulhouse (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Upper Rhine

Website: http://www.eurodistrict-freiburg-alsace.eu/

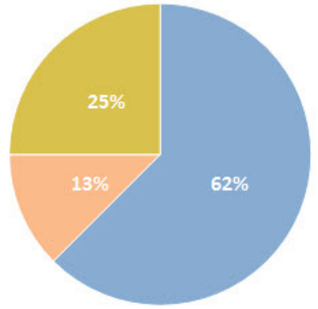
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Eurodistrict Region Freiburg-Centre and Sud Alsace is located along the Upper Rhine and covers the Freiburg Region (Landkreis Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald, Landkreis Emmendingen, Stadt Freiburg), the Pays de la région mulhousienne, the Pays Rhin-Vignoble-Grand Ballon, the Grand Pays de Colmar and the Pays de l'Alsace Centrale. In 2003 the partners signed a joint declaration paving the way towards a stable CBC. The formal agreement was finally signed in 2006. The local scale represents a very important territorial framework in which CBC transpires. Over the years, the five bridges on the Rhine have helped intensify cooperation among the municipal and intercommunal authorities, which actively participate in the governance's structure as well as CBC activity. Education, transport, job market integration and the residents' daily problem-solving processes constitute this Eurodistrict's main action fields.

Euroregional partnership



	FR	DE
Local	4	6
Supralocal		2
Others	4	

Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ✓ Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

Platform for cross-border employment – PETra

Period: 2012 - 2013
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.cc-essordurhin.fr/economie/plateforme-pour-l-emploi---petra.htm

Project Description

The objective of the Cross-Border Employment Platform (PETRA) is to provide suitable matches between French jobseekers and German employers. The aim is to allow applicants from the French CC Essor du Rhin and the broader Pays Rhin-Vignoble-Grand Ballon to have privileged access to job offers across the Rhine. In 2006 the new bridge between the municipalities of Fessenheim and Eschbach on the Rhine provided new job opportunities in the Eurodistrict territory. The idea was to connect job seekers with the GewerbePark Breisgau Business Park located in Eschbach. To realise this objective, PETRA proposes actions for increasing opportunities by preparing candidates for the German job market.

Agents involved

Leader: Communauté de communes "Essor du Rhin" (FR)

Partners

FR: Région Alsace; Conseil Général du Haut-Rhin; Pays Rhin-Vignoble-Grand-Ballon; Région Alsace; Pôle Emploi; Agence de l'environnement et de la maîtrise de l'énergie

DE: Bundesagentur für Arbeit; Infobest Vogelgrun Breisach; GewerbePark Breisgau

Resources

Budget: 800 000 Euros
EU Funds: N/A
Own Funds: N/A

Source: PETra Project

Main Achievements

Since its creation, PETRA has been particularly active in the sectors of grocery and retail commerce, transport, industry, construction and tourism. In 2013 almost 500 people were registered in the cross-border platform. The initial recruitment process was successful, whereby more than 80 jobseekers signed permanent or temporary employee contracts with German enterprises. PETRA also provides support for job seekers, in terms of translating documents (diplomas, CVs, etc.) into German or organising monthly meetings on cross-border working issues (i.e. taxation, health care assistance, etc.) in cooperation with INFOBEST as well as German and French employment agencies.

Basel Trinational District

General information

Date of creation: 2007
Countries: FR / DE / CH
Area: 1 989 km²
Population: 830 000

Headquarters: Village Neuf (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Upper Rhine

Website: http://www.eurodistrictbasel.eu/

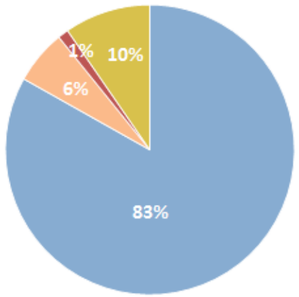
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- ☑ Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Basel Trinational Eurodistrict (ETB) is characterised by a political, geographical, economic and administrative exceptionality: three countries, which includes one non-EU (Switzerland) at the core of the Rhein river and revolves around the cross-border agglomeration of Basel (CH), St.-Louis (FR) and Lorrach (DE). The area has a high economic attractiveness and important transport infrastructures, especially the Basel Airport. Since 1995 local authorities have undertaken CBC actions through Interreg programmes and Swiss funding. In 2007 the ETB was officially established and the current partnership includes 250 members (municipalities, CC, Swiss Cantons, etc.). Among its institutional bodies, the governance's structure includes the Association for the Sustainable Development of the Territory of the Trinational Agglomeration of Basel (ATB) and the Agglomeration's Conference, which mainly focuses on sectors, such as transport and mobility, regional and urban planning, social cohesion and cross-border citizenships.

Euroregional partnership



	FR	DE	CH
Local	12	12	45
Supralocal	1	1	3
Regional	1		
Others	4	2	2

Priorities

- ☑ Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- ☑ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ☑ Environment
- R&I
- Security
- ☑ Spatial Planinng
- ☑ Local Economic Development

3Lands

HUNINGUE
WEIL AM RHEIN
BASEL
3LAND

Period: 2013 - 2014
Main Theme: Spatial Planning
Web: http://3-land.net

Project Description

In 2012, the cities of Basel (CH), Huningue (F) and Weil am Rhein (D) signed a planning agreement for a coordinated development of the cross-border territory (3Land). Convinced of the potential synergies of joint planning, the three cities took this unique opportunity to develop an innovative and sustainable cross-border territorial planning. The long-term transformation of the industrial zone of the ETB will be accompanied by economic and structural changes, whereby huge areas can be converted or re-used. The project covers 430 hectares, of which 82 hectares (equivalent to 120 football fields) could be allocated over the next ten years to real estate projects allowing the construction of sites for 20,000 jobs.

Agents involved

Leader: Stadt Weil am Rhein (DE)

Partners

FR: Département du Haut-Rhin; Communauté de communes des Trois Frontières; Ville de Huningue

CH: Canton de Bâle-Ville

Resources

Budget: 700 000 Euros
EU Funds: 222 500 Euros
Own Funds: 450 000 Euros

Source: web of 3DLands Project

Main Achievements

In 2011 the trinational team from LIN Architectes - Urbanistes was commissioned to develop an urban concept for the 3Land area. The urban concept presents several "Vision2020" projects. The joint urban development focuses on issues, such as environmental conservation and landscape enhancement, integrated mobility and multifunctional spaces. In the first planning convention of 2012, this vision served as a basis for defining a blueprint for working together. In 2016 the project partners signed a new planning agreement. Taking the Rhine river as the core element of the new urban concept, several interventions were defined: three new bridges, a new concept for mobility (X scheme), and several complementary developmental programmes (education centre, neighbourhoods and enterprise pole).

Leman Council

General information

Date of creation: 1987
Countries: FR / CH
Area: 18 868 km²
Population: 2 900 000

Headquarters: Annecy (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg France-Switzerland

Website: http://www.conseilduleman.org/

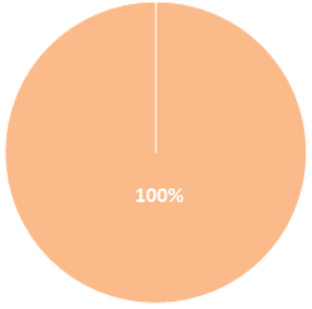
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Council of Léman was set up in 1987 by the French departments of Ain and Haute-Savoie and the Swiss cantons of Vaud, Valais and Geneva, which surround Europe's largest alpine lake, Lake Geneva (also known as Lake Léman). The CB governance is based on a Joint Secretariat and the actions are focused on four commissions: Economy, Tourism and Cross-Border Populations, Lemanic Mobility, Lemanic Youth and Culture and Lemanic Environment. Official meetings are organised twice a year. The Council of Léman works synergistically with other CB institutions of the territory, such as the Transjurassienne Conference, the Franco-Genevois Regional Committee (CRFG) as well as CB sectorial associations (tourism, chambers of commerce, agriculture and crafts). The representatives of the French and Swiss national authorities are involved as observer members. The main actions of the council are geared towards improving accessibility and transport integration (train, ferries, buses, cycle ways) as well as the joint conservation of the specific and fragile lake environment.

Euroregional partnership



	CH	FR
Supralocal	3	2

Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ✓ Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

MOBI- LEMAN

Period: 2012 - 2015
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: https://www.leman-sans-frontiere.org/offres-promotions-autour-leman-france-suisse/itineraires-mobi-leman

Project Description

As the first cross-border tourist app for the Lake Geneva region, the "mobi-léman" is a CB project developed by the Conseil du Léman, in cooperation with Aintourisme and the Franco-Swiss association "Léman sans Frontière". Three thematic itineraries and fifteen points of interest were proposed by the partners. The project promotes public transport and intermodal solutions. The mobi-léman app is free and helps users discover cultural, natural and historical points of interest along thematic itineraries on both sides of the lake. The app can be easily downloaded from the App Store or Google Play. This project was funded by the Council of Léman, the Léman sans Frontière touristic association and by the Interreg IV France-Switzerland CBC.

Agents involved

Leader: Aintourisme (FR); Fondation des Mines de Sel de Bex (CH)

Partners

CB: Conseil du Léman

FR: Association Léman sans Frontière; Conseil général de l'Ain; Conseil général de Haute-Savoie

CH: République et canton de Genève; Canton du Valais; Canton de Vaud

DE: Staat Freiburg

Resources

Budget: 537 916 Euros
EU Funds: 148 750 Euros
Own Funds: 389 166 Euros

Source: Mobi Leman Project

Main Achievements

The mobi-léman project presents 19 thematic itineraries (on foot, by bike or car) that were created in order to discover the common natural and cultural heritage of the territory. For each thematic route, the mobile app provides important information on 200 points of interest (via videos, sound recordings, slide shows and augmented reality). The app's map and the geolocalisation service represent a useful tool and provide comprehensive information for navigating from one point on the itinerary to another. Users can consult the app, watch and listen to discover information about the selected destination. Currently, the mobi-léman app has garnered more than 1,000 downloads via Google Play Services.

Greater Geneva

General information

Date of creation: 2004
Countries: CH / FR
Area: 2.000 km²
Population: 946 000

Headquarters: Geneva (CH)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg France-Switzerland

Website: http://www.grand-geneve.org

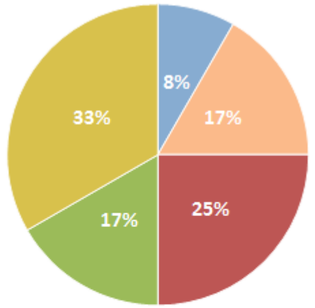
Governance

- ○ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ✓ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ○ Public Law Agreement
- ○ Other

History

The Greater Geneva is a vast territory of 2 000 km² spanning the Swiss cantons of Geneva and Vaud, and the French departments of Ain and Haute-Savoie. It is composed of the Canton of Geneva, the District of Nyon and the ARC Syndicat Mixte (the French part of Greater Geneva). The whole area of cooperation includes 212 municipalities. Greater Geneva, which is a 20-year-project that began in 1997 when the France-Geneva Regional Committee (CRFG) was set up in 1973, put together the Development Scheme for the France-Valdo-Geneva (FVG) Agglomeration. In 2004 the FVG Agglomeration Project was launched. After the 2004 and 2007 project cycles, the Greater Geneva Plan 2016-2030 was adopted in 2016. Cross-border governance is carried out by the LGTC (adopted in 2013). A total of 26 members make up the LGTC Assembly, thus constituting the first LGTC under Swiss law. The governance's structure operates in three main sectors: mobility, spatial planning and environment.

Euroregional partnership



	FR	CH
Local		1
Supralocal	2	
Regional	1	2
National	1	1
Others	2	2

Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ○ Education and Culture
- ○ Governance
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Environment
- ○ R&I
- ○ Security
- ✓ Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

The Innovation's Circle. The International City of Knowledge Ferney-Voltaire

Period: 2011 - 2030
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.grand-geneve.org/sites/default/files/fichiers/cahiers-PACA/Geneve-St-genis-Gex/synthese-cercle-innovation_sept2013.pdf

Project Description

The "Innovation Circle" project aims to promote Greater Geneva's endogenous and high quality economic development. It is a large-scale territory project (35 km2) intended to create a major economic polarity apart from the Geneva agglomeration, based on the existing strategic infrastructures and facilities, such as the International Geneva, Geneva-Cointrin Airport, the CERN, as well as the high density of SME, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders. The International City of Knowledge Ferney-Voltaire (Paimboeuf – Tré la Grange sector), which is intended as an economic hub of 10 hectares, is envisioned to be a centre of expertise dedicated to knowledge transfer, tertiary activities and innovation. It will host training activities, tertiary activities and services.

Agents involved

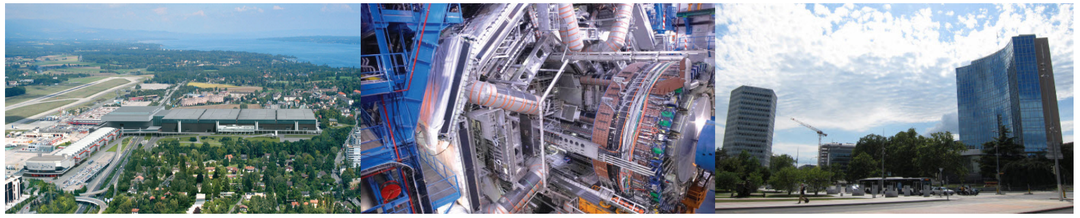
Leader: Canton de Genève (CH)

Partners

FR: Communauté de communes du Pays de Gex

Resources

Budget: 1 050 000 Euros
EU Funds: 220 000 Euros
Own Funds: 945 000 Euros



Source: The Innovation's Circle Project (working document)

Main Achievements

This ambitious project has yet to be realised. Nevertheless, requests for the first building permits were filed in 2017. Construction for this first real estate complex is slated for 2018, and will include 15 000 m² of floor space, comprising a four-star hotel, offices, a conference centre and a centre for sports and wellness activities. An efficient public transport link (Cornavin-Gex through the Bus à Haut Niveau de Service) will improve accessibility. Here some important measures were identified, such as business schools with private training centres or the Atelier Lambert, a so-called "International Institute of the Book and Bookshop", which is annexed to the prestigious castle of Ferney-Voltaire.

International Lake Constance Conference (IBK)

General information

Date of creation: 1972
Countries: CH / DE / AT / LI
Area: 14 797 km²
Population: 3 900 000

Headquarters: Kreuzlingen (CH)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Alpenrhein-Bodensee-Hochrhein

Website: http://www.bodenseekonferenz.org

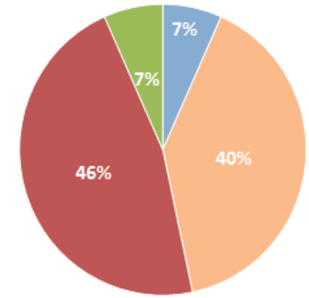
Governance

- ○ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ✓ Public Law Agreement
- ○ Other

History

The International Lake Constance Conference (IBK), which was founded in 1972, is the joint platform of different territorial administrations surrounding Lake Constance (German and Austrian states, Swiss cantons and Liechtenstein). The purpose of the cross-border cooperation is to maintain and promote the attractiveness and the sustainable development of the Constance and strengthening regional identity. The IBK governance structure includes a political body (the Regional Leaders Conference), an operative Standing Committee which coordinates seven thematic commissions (education, science and research, culture, environment, nature and energy, transport, economy, job and tourism, health, social affairs and public relations) and the presidency (Vorsitz). The IBK is particularly committed to the sustainable development (the Bodensee Agenda 21 project started in 1999) and integrating the educational structures of the region with the ambitious Internationale Bodensee-Hochschule (IBH).

Euroregional partnership



	DE	AT	LI	CH
Local	1			
Supralocal	6			
Regional		1		6
National			1	

Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- ○ Governance
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ R&I
- ○ Security
- ✓ Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

Euregio Bodensee day pass

Period: 2009 - 2012
Main Theme: Accessibility and Transportation
Web: https://www.bodensee-ticket.com/

Project Description

The project aims to harmonise and promote public transport services around and across Lake Constance by introducing the Euregio Bodensee pass (TKEB); one singular ticket entitles passengers unlimited travel by train, bus and ferries around the lake. It represents a sustainable mobility strategy for cross-border trips not only for tourists, but also for the local population. Special offers also promote travelling by bicycle. In Switzerland and Austria, the Euregio Bodensee day ticket is valid on all the trains. The Coordination Committee is in charge of planning and the decision-making process as well as information and exchange. The representatives of the states and cantons as well as the transport companies are directly involved.

Agents involved

Leader: Internationale Bodenseekonferenz (CB)

Partners

CH: Kanton St. Gallen; Kanton Schaffhausen; Kanton Appenzell-Außerrhoden; Kanton Appenzell-Innerrhoden

DE: Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Wirtschaft; Infrastruktur,Verkehr und Technologie; Innenministerium Baden-Württemberg

AT: Amt der Vorarlberger Landesregierung

LI: Ressort Verkehr und Kommunikation Fürstentum Liechtenstein

Resources

Budget: 600 000 Euros
EU Funds: 149 400 Euros
Own Funds: 450 600 Euros

Source: Euregio Bodensee day pass Project

Main Achievements

Fifteen years after its introduction, the Bodensee Pass is still a unique cross-border initiative in Europe. The daily ticket covers currently 4 000 kilometres of bus and rail routes. Since the introduction of the TKEB, passengers can enjoy the Friedrichshafen-Romanshorn and Constance-Meersburg ferry connections without extra charge. Furthermore, the ship operators offer a 25% discount in some cases. TKEB has become a valid alternative for cross-border mobility. Indeed in 2016 around 37 000 tickets were sold. As of 2014, the offer was extended to include a bicycle combination ticket. With the last upgrade, a three-day pass was introduced, whereby passengers can spend more time travelling around the lake to visit numerous natural and cultural heritage sites, thus altogether positively affecting the tourism sector.

MontBlanc Space

General information

Date of creation: 1991
Countries: FR / IT / CH
Area: 2 800 km²
Population: 100 000

Headquarters: Chamonix (FR)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Alcotra

Website: http://www.espace-mont-blanc.com

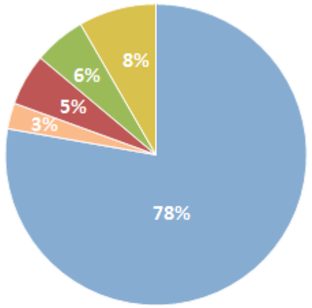
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- ☑ Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The region of Mont Blanc represents a symbolic cross-border area of cooperation, as it has the highest European mountain and also features unique biodiversity as well as extraordinary and fragile nature and landscapes. A large part of the Espace Mont-Blanc is located at high altitude; nearly 80% of the territory is situated above 500 metres. In 1991 the environmental ministries of Italy, France and Switzerland approved the establishment of Mont Blanc Transboundary Conference (CTMB), which is composed of many regional and local administrations. The MontBlanc Space covers the French department of Savoie (communes of Bourg Saint Maurice, Beaufort, and Hauteluce) and Haute-Savoie (two CCs of the Pays du Mont Blanc and Chamonix Mont Blanc Valley), the Italian Autonomous Region of the Aosta Valley, and the Swiss Canton of Valais (17 communes). Since the first sectorial pilot projects, the Mont Blanc Space has been experiencing progressive territorial integration thanks to the Sustainable Development Schema (SDD).

Euroregional partnership



	FR	IT
Local	8	5
Supralocal	1	
Regional		1
National		1
Others	2	1

Priorities

- ☑ Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- ☑ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ☑ Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ☑ Local Economic Development

Eco innovation in altitude

Project Description

Period: 2013 - 2015
Main Theme: Environment
Web: http://www.autourdumontblanc.com/amb/index.cfm/le-projet-eco-innovation-en-altitude.html

The main objective of the Eco-Innovation project is to disseminate information on the exemplary sustainable and environmentally friendly management of the altitude's accommodation facilities. Mountain accommodation facilities are faced with specific and diversified problems depending on the altitude and the visitors' range of interests, i.e. water management, sorting and re-descending waste, food supply, production and energy saving. The project identifies the main inefficiencies in building management and the technical and economic analysis of the measures for improving performance of the building and its potential in terms of reducing the impact on building the environment (CO2 emissions, wastewater quality, etc.).

Agents involved

Leader: Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta Assessorato territorio e ambiente (IT)

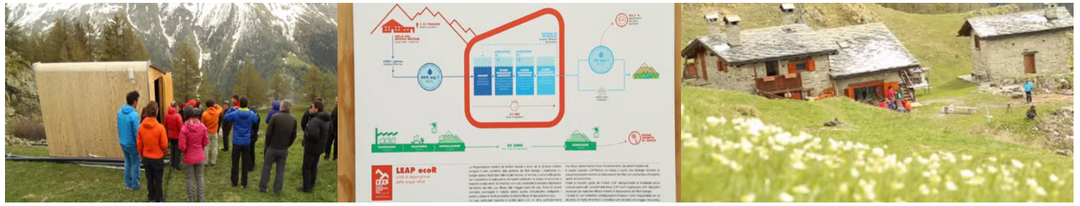
Partners

FR: Communauté de Communes de la Vallée de Chamonix Mont-Blanc; Commune des Contamines-Montjoie; Fédération Française des Clubs Alpins et de Montagne FFCAM

CH: Canton du Valais

Resources

Budget: 1 017 540 Euros
EU Funds: 461 167 Euros
Own Funds: 556 373 Euros



Source: youtube video frames from Eco Innovation in Altitude Project https://youtu.be/I_Xzc5MbEmE

Main Achievements

The results of various studies, interventions and experiments conducted have translated into thirty technical data sheets intended to provide mountain professionals and administrators with tools for managing many problems specific to high-altitude sites. The cross-border technical and scientific group (GTS) has been set up to establish a common and cross-border methodology, eco-management parameters and criteria for their evaluation. Specifically, many studies have been translated into operational actions carried out on the whole Mont Blanc Space. An innovative and common type of environmental audits has been applied and tested on eleven pilot sites. The results of the eco-innovation project go beyond concrete actions because it represents a shared toolkit for all custodians of the alpine huts and professionals striving to reduce environmental impacts on mountain structures.

EUROPAREGION (TYROL-SOUTH TYROL-TRENTINO EUROREGION)

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE OF CREATION: 1996
COUNTRIES: IT / AT
AREA: 26 247 km²
POPULATION: 1 773 989

HEADQUARTERS: Bolzano (IT)
CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME (2007-2013):
INTERREG ITALY-AUSTRIA

WEBSITE: http://www.europaregion.info

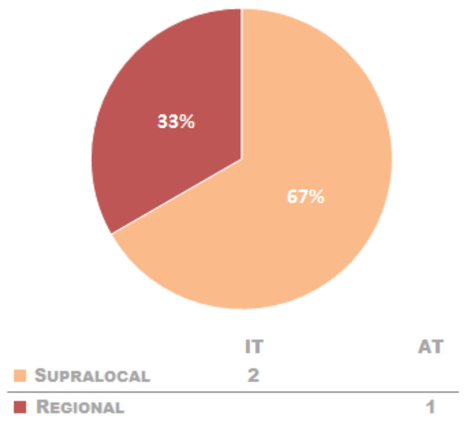
GOVERNANCE

- ✓ EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

HISTORY

EUROPAREGION is conventionally considered one of the most representative Euroregions. It is located at the heart of the Central-Eastern Alps Sector and connects the Tyrol state in Western Austria with the Italian cities of Trento and Bolzano. The three current administrative units resulted from the former Tyrol County, which is a historical and geographical alpine region split by the Austrian-Italian border since the end of the World War I. The strong linguistic and cultural ties are important catalysts for the local and regional CBC. Since 1991 the three regional legislative assemblies celebrate annual joint sessions (*Dreilandtag*) to discuss common problems and future challenges. The Euroregion was officially founded in 1998 and the EGTC status was adopted in 2009. Communication and media coverage is also considered as a strategic action for promoting cross-CBC initiatives in many fields, such as transport (mobility pass), economic development, health care assistance, R&D networks, linguistic and cultural youth exchanges.

EUROREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP



PRIORITIES

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- Governance
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

SOLAR TIROL

PERIOD: 2012 - 2015
MAIN THEME: Energy
WEB: http://www.europaregion.info/it/progetti-energia.asp
http://webgis.eurac.edu/solartirol/

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The aim of "SOLAR TIROL" is to create a freely accessible, geo-referenced solar potential database available for private and public users to estimate the solar potential at roof level. The project arose from a lack of a reliable regional database for planning solar energy installation in both regions. In this sense, the geoportal also provides concrete recommendations to local and regional administrations on the relevance of solar energy (incoming solar radiation) and the potential of developing solar energy action in the city of Bolzano and the entire Tyrol region. The project is based on a public-private cooperation that involved Austrian regional administration and Bolzano's EURAC Research Centre.

AGENTS INVOLVED

LEADER: Amt der Tiroler Landesregierung Sachgebiet Landesstatistik und tiris (DE)
PARTNERS

AT: Amt der Tiroler Landesregierung Abteilung Geoinformation; Universität Innsbruck Institut für Geographie

IT: Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano, Ripartizione Informatica e Servizio Cartografia provinciale e coordinamento geodati; Europäische Akademie Bozen (EURAC)

RESOURCES

BUDGET: 1 155 686 Euros
EU FUNDS: 486 951 Euros
OWN FUNDS: 668 735 Euros

Source: Europaregion Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino Euroregion

Source: WebGIS of Solar Tirol Project

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The main results of "SOLAR TIROL" are presented in a specific Geocatalog. It provides cartographic information (Raster) representing solar radiation and duration (in hours of sunshine) in high resolution (0.5 meter per pixel) on the main valleys and good resolution to the rest of the Tyrol and Bolzano territory. The calculation of these parameters is based on computer simulation of the sun's position, terrain shadows, buildings and vegetation, intervals of 15 minutes, for a full year and across the surface. The project finally began providing detailed information for planning and implementing solar thermal systems. Indeed single roofs are divided into surfaces belonging to different energy classes. WebGIS application provides a selection of tools for calculating photovoltaic and solar potential thermal values.

Via Salina Euregio

General information

Date of creation: 1997
Countries: DE / AT
Area: 6 574 km²
Population: 673 337

Headquarters: Kempten (DE); Pflach (AT)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Bavaria-Austria

Website: http://www.euregio-via-salina.de

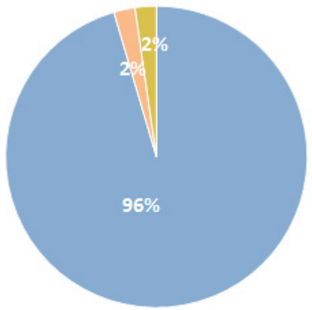
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- ☑ Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Via Salina Euroregion was created in 1997. Curiously, the name was inspired by the connecting role of Roman roads in ancient Europe, connecting the natural salt rock deposits in the area to both Venice in the South and Allgau to the west. It is intended by the participating authorities as an information, advice and at times coordination centre for ERDF structural funding. It mainly develops such tasks through project support, marketing of the INTERREG initiatives, strengthening the euroregional identity and generally acting as a networking tool across the border. It is located at the border between Germany and Austria and it is defined by the presence of land borders in a predominantly mountain and rural environment. At governance level, Via Salina provides an interesting example of a public law consortium that acts as an umbrella organization for the three regional development agencies of the involved territories. On the other hand, the added presence of local Municipalities, rural districts and even a chamber of commerce make this Euroregion quite multilevel in nature.

Euroregional partnership



	DE	AT
Local	125	1
Supralocal	3	
Others	1	2

Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- ☑ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ☑ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ☑ Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ☑ Local Economic Development

Management of a Small Project Fund Euregio Via Salina

Period: 2007 - 2015
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.interreg-bayaut.net/interreg_iv/content/pool/projektliste/Projektliste%20KPF.pdf

Project Description

One of the aims claimed by the Via Salina Euroregion is to improve the problem-solving skills and competencies of local and regional stakeholders. The INTERREG Austria-Bayern has been for many years an essential and continuous financial support for small and medium euroregional projects. Indeed, the two fold funding strategy aims in promoting the local and regional cross-border networks in the fields of social and cultural cohesion, economic development (especially tourism enhancement), professional training, environmental conservation and mutual knowledge. The projects eligibility has been supervised by the so-called Regional Steering Committee (RLA). The total amount, which has been calculated by summing the small and medium multi-annual funding, show the importance of such priority for the Austrian-German cross-border programme.

Agents involved

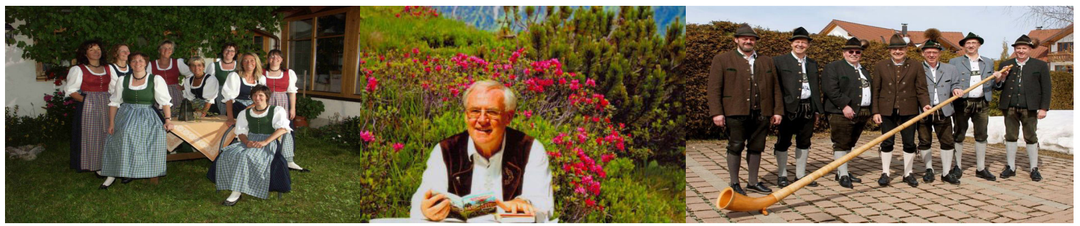
Leader: REGIO Allgäu e.v. (DE)

Partners

AT: Regionalentwicklung Außerfern REA; Regio Kleinwalsertal / Bregenzerwald

Resources

Budget: 790 917 Euros
EU Funds: N/A
Own Funds: N/A



Source: Via Salina Euregio

Main Achievements

Despite being for many years a micro-Euroregion (which are conceived as a cross-border structure with a low financial capacity and a small territorial extension), it has recently turned into a regular Euroregion. The Interreg financial support has generated an up-scaling process through which the local and regional actors have been empowered. Over the last 10 years, cross-border relations have considerably increased based on the continuous Interreg programme's support. As a matter of fact, Via Salina Euroregion is now able to compete for ambitious cross-border projects. It is currently succeeding in the endorsement and support of innovative projects in the broader fields of environmental protection (a clear example if the large "Moving Nature - Protected Life Diversity" project at €2.1 Million budget), health, tourism and R&Dth.

Inntal Euregio

General information

Date of creation: 1998
Countries: AT / DE
Area: 5 143 km²
Population: 640 540

Headquarters: Kufstein (AT)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Bavaria-Austria

Website: http://euregio-inntal.com

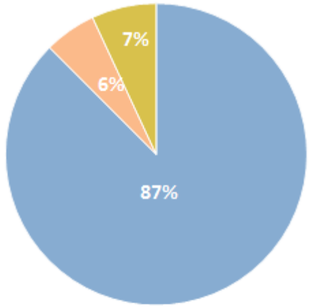
Governance

- [ ] EGTC
- [x] Private Law Association
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Other

History

The Inntal Euregio is located in the northeastern side of the Alps spanning Bavarian and Tyrolean regions. It neighbours the Inn-Salzach-Euregio. Its territory is mainly rural and shaped by the Kaiser Mountain, the Inn River and the Chiemsee (the largest lake in Bavaria). This Euroregion was founded in 1998 with the aim of supporting CBC both in the institutional and advisory framework by providing technical support for regional management initiatives. The main statutory organs of the Euregio are the Bureau (head of the Euregio) and the General Assembly. The presidency changes every three years between Austrian and German partners. Its members are local authorities and municipalities as well as various associations. Similar to the neighbouring Inn-Salzach Euregio, it promotes small project funds of up to €25 000.

Euroregional partnership



	AT	DE
Local	27	36
Supralocal	2	2
Others	1	4

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [x] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [x] Governance
- [x] Health
- [x] Environment
- [x] R&I
- [x] Security
- [x] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Caves Culture Experience Inntal

inntaler unterwelten
Vier Wege :: vier Höhlen :: vier Erlebnisse

Period: 2008 - 2012
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.unterwelten.com

Project Description

The "inntaler unterelten - four paths, four caves, four experiences" represents an innovative concept of experiencing four very different caves in the Bavarian-Tyrol borderland (the Wendelsteinhöhle and the Grafenloch cave in southern Bavaria; the Tischoferhöhle and the Hundalm Eishöhle in northern Tirol). Researchers and speleologist have investigated four cave paths and their findings were transferred to seven suitable caves in the Alpine region. Each of the four caves leads provides specific natural and cultural aspects. A common web portal collect and promote jointly the sites. It provides up-to-date information and detailed material. The technical and communicative realization of this idea has been developed by four project partners Wendelsteinbahn GmbH in Brannenburg, the communities of Oberaudorf and Ebbs and the Tyrolean State Association for Speleology through the INTERREG funds.

Agents involved

Leader: Wendelsteinbahn GmbH (DE)

Partners

AT: Landesverein für Höhlenkunde in Tirol, Hundalm, Eis- und Tropfsteinhöhle; Gemeinde Ebbs

DE: Gemeinde Oberaudorf

Resources

Budget: 335 006 Euros
EU Funds: 277 064 Euros
Own Funds: 57 942 Euros

Source: Caves Culture Experience Inntal Project

Main Achievements

The touristic route opened in 2010. But beyond promoting jointly the four sites, the project improved the accessibility and the condition of the four caves. An example is Wendelsteinhöhle. Here, four stations with interactive monitors have been installed and a specific LED technology has been introduced. Moreover, an independent lighting system that improve the touristic experience has been implemented (the cave may be wandered alone without a guide). The entire lighting was realized with identical energy efficient luminaires. This project is promoting further research, like a recent project in which almost 13,000 animals have been identified in the same cave by a Bavarian research group ("Living in the Dark" project).

Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein EuRegio

General Information

Date of creation: 1995
Countries: DE / AT
Area: 9.500 km²
Population: 803 237

Headquarters: Freilassing (DE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Bavaria-Austria

Website: http://www.euregio-salzburg.eu

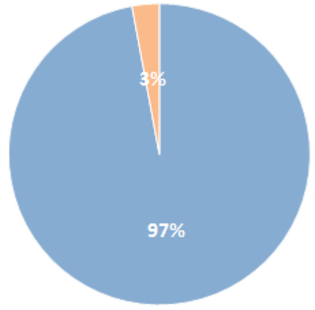
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- ✓ Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The EuRegio Salzburg - Berchtesgadener Land - Traunstein is located across the Bavarian-Austrian border in the Berchtesgaden Alps. The first CBC steps started in the early nineties as an initiative of the German and Austrian municipal authorities. It was officially established in 1995 and currently involves more than a hundred members, mainly medium-small municipalities (except the City of Salzburg), provincial counties (Kreise), the Salzburg State as well as sectorial associations (Salzburg business and labour chambers). The EuRegio activity is based on various sectors, such as business, transport, culture, education, economy, youth, spatial planning, tourism, natural and environmental development, land and agriculture. One of the main CBC driving force are the forestry sector and sports activities. Euroregional governance is structured in three main bodies: the Presidency, the EuRegio Council (110 members, mainly from public), the Advisory Board and 15 thematic working groups.

Euroregional Partnership



	DE	AT
Local	41	59
Supralocal	2	1

Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- Governance
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ R&I
- ✓ Security
- ✓ Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

3 EuRegio Summits: Natural spaces and soft mobility

Period: 2012 - 2014
Main Theme: Accessibility and Transportation
Web: http://www.slow-bike-tour.com/de/etappen-slowbike

Project Description

The project “3 EuRegio Gipfel” (“3 EuRegio Summits”) aims to improve accessibility to the natural areas of the Euroregion for cyclists. Through new green infrastructures, the project partners want to promote local and regional sustainable development. This initiative improves the soft mobility approach towards preserving existing cultural landscapes and natural ecosystems. It also supports the integration of mountain touristic activities into the regional economy of the EuRegio area of Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein. The partnerships are based on a public-private association that joins the city councils (mostly small border towns) with regional tourism businesses and relevant associations.

Agents Involved

Leader: Tourismus Salzburg GmbH - TSG (AT)

Partners

DE: Berchtesgadener Land Tourismus GmbH

Resources

Budget:	260 425 Euros
EU Funds:	151 055 Euros
Own Funds:	109 370 Euros

Source: 3 EuRegio Summit Project

Main Achievements

The route was inaugurated on May 8, 2015. The three mountain peaks of the EuRegio (Gaisberg, Högl and Buchberg) are linked together by a 160-km E-biking route. Many innovative infrastructure systems, such as rental stations, charging stations, steering and control systems, etc. were provided by a regional enterprise. Furthermore, the natural areas surrounding the Gaisberg, Buchberg and Högl peaks were provided with information boards, observation towers, foundling park, panoramic viewpoints to promote nature and landscape reserves along the route, such as the Surspeicher, the Weidmoos and the Haarmoos, the Oichten valley, the Trumerseen, the Saalachauen (between Bad Reichenhall and Siezenheim) and the Schönramer Filz. The interactive website represents a valuable tool for users for planning their trips and itineraries.

Inn-Salzach-Euregio

General information

Date of creation: 1994
Countries: AT / DE
Area: 2 822 km²
Population: 276 657

Headquarters: Braunau am Inn (AT)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Bavaria-Austria

Website: http://www.inn-salzach-euregio.at/

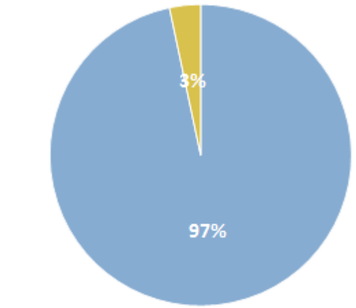
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- ✓ Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Inn-Salzach-EUREGIO was founded in 1994 as a non-profit association. It joins 140 local administrations of the Inn River and the Hausruckviertel regions. The aim is to strengthen the competitiveness of rural areas via joint promotion of the economic development, labour market, cultural activities and environmental management. Ambitious regional development initiatives are geared towards spatial planning (the future Braunau cross-border regional strategy) or risk prevention (specifically tackling flood and heavy rain emergences). The Inn-Salzach Euroregion is the management authority of the INTERREG small-projects funds (up to €25 000) and it finances also people-to-people actions (up to €5 000). The governance board includes representatives of municipalities, district authorities, interest groups, political parties and associations of the LEADER programme. Since 2006 the Inn-Salzach-EUREGIO has been a stakeholder of Regional Development Agency of Upper Austria.

Euroregional partnership



	AT	DE
Local	137	8
Others	5	

Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ✓ Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

CARE: A labor market of the FUTURE

Project Description

Period: 2010 - 2013
Main Theme: Cohesion and Social Integration
Web: https://www.lgl.bayern.de/gesundheit/gesundheitsversorgung/informationsplatform_versorgungsforschung/akteure/kathfhmue_schwpkt1_projekt1.htm

The aim of the project is to reveal the differences between German and Austrian elderly health care. Suitable survey instruments were initially developed by university partners to cover supply needs. These methods were applied in selected model regions in order to reveal cross-border similarities in supply situations, possible supply gaps and supply requirements (like the Altötting regional model on the German side). The population was involved in qualitative group interviews. The results of the interviews are then compared with the existing offers of professional service providers (outpatient and inpatient). In the sense of a user-oriented, community-based methodology, the results of the qualitative and quantitative documentations and findings were discussed in various workshops with the affected parties; also recommendations for action arose from such discussions.

Agents involved

Leader: Kammer für Arbeiter und Angestellte für OÖ (AT)

Partners

AT: FH OÖ Forschungs & Entwicklungs GesmbH; Regionalmanagement OÖ GmbH - Geschäftsstelle Innviertel-Hausruck;

DE: Katholischer Pflegeverband e.V; Klinikum der Uni München, Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Palliativmedizin (IZP); Christophorus Akademie für Palliativmedizin, Palliativpflege und Hospizarbeit; Katholische Bildungsstätten für Sozialberufe in Bayern; Katholische Stiftungsfachhochschule München (KSFH).

Resources

Budget: 1 474 000 Euros
EU Funds: 770 000 Euros
Own Funds: 704 000 Euros

Source: youtube video frames of CARE Project https://youtu.be/2yOVFNdFNkU

Main Achievements

The differences between German and the Austrian elderly health care services and measures were detected. As such, the results represent both opportunities and threats. In Austria, for example, this health care service is centrally managed, whereas in Germany, a kind of "free market" is applied instead. In Germany's case, on the one hand, it enables a quick development of supply offers without a higher level of control. On the other hand, it reduces the offer of innovative health-care services in uneven areas. Moreover, Bavaria has a decentralized system (according to the "Senior Citizenship Concept" of the state government). Innovative potential elements were also detected. Alternatively, the Community Health Assessment (CHA) model was examined. It enables a theoretically developed as well as a more holistic and more participatory coverage of supply needs.

Egrensis Euregio

General information

Date of creation: 1993
Countries: DE / CZ
Area: 17 000 km²
Population: 2 000 000

Headquarters: Marktredwitz (DE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Bavaria-Czech Republic
Interreg Saxony-Czech Republic
Website: http://www.euregio-egrensis.eu

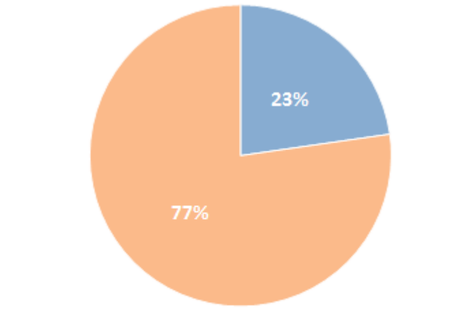
Governance

- [ ] EGTC
- [x] Private Law Association
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Other

History

The Egrensis Euroregion, which was established in 1993, was founded by three legally independent work groups, which have since operated for cross-border organisations, i.e. the EUREGIO EGRENSIS Arbeitsgemeinschaft Sachsen/Thüringen e. V.; the EUREGIO EGRENSIS Arbeitsgemeinschaft Bayern e. V. and the EUREGIO EGRENSIS Working Community of Bohemia. Among its priorities, the Egrensis aims to promote mutual understanding and tolerance among the population, mutual reconciliation and a successful CBC and cross-border integration. Its members include many municipal authorities. This Euroregion seeks to involve cities and municipalities, schools, businesses and institutions as well as interested private individuals through small project funds financed by the INTERREG programmes. At the same time, the Euroregion achieved large-scale Interreg projects in multiple sectors (i.e. institutional capacity, education & language training and protection of environment).

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [x] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [x] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

CLARA II - Development of the Joint Partnership of the Public administration in the Czech-Saxon region

Period: 2010 - 2013
Main Theme: Governance
Web: http://www.clara2.eu

Project Description

Based on the results and experience of the previous Clara@ project (2004-2006), the Clara II project aims to intensify and deepen mutual relations and build a more complex network of partners on both sides of the border. This is a cross-cutting approach to public administration issues, i.e. topics having immediate impact on citizens' lives. This initiative reinforces the role played by CBC institutions and addresses the current challenges of a common cross-border region in order to contribute to its sustainable and coordinated development. Indeed it focuses on creating stable and functional cross-border structures and communication platforms and channels between the participating partners to contribute to the sustainable development of the Euroregion.

Agents involved

Leader: Karlovarský kraj (CZ)

Partners

CB: Euregio Egrensis

DE: Landratsamt Vogtlandkreis (Plauen); Landesdirektion Sachsen (Chemnitz); AG Sachsen/Thüringen e.V. (Plauen)"

CZ: Infocentrum m ě sta Karlovy Vary, o. p. s. (Karlovy Vary)

Resources

Budget: 498 000 Euros
EU Funds: 294 454 Euros
Own Funds: 203 546 Euros

Source: Clara2 Project

Main Achievements

The CLARA2 project was implemented in Saxony, Bavaria and the Carlsbad region more than three years ago. Its achievements include many coordinators' meetings, expert and publicly accessible conferences and workshops on individual sub-themes. Through many joint cross-border actions, the involved partners developed joint strategies in sectors, such as civil defence, tourism (especially spa tourism), campaigns for conservation and environmental management, modernisation of public administration, regional development & spatial planning, human resources and education. It is likely to be a "soft" activity, due to exchanges in experience and implementation of specific projects. Currently the follow-up of the project (Clara III) is being financed through the INTERREG V A 2014-2020.

Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa

General information

Date of creation: 1991
Countries: DE / CZ / PL
Area: 13 254 km²
Population: 1 638 216

Headquarters: Zittau (DE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Czech Republic-Poland
Interreg Saxony-Poland

Website: http://www.euroregion-nysa.eu/

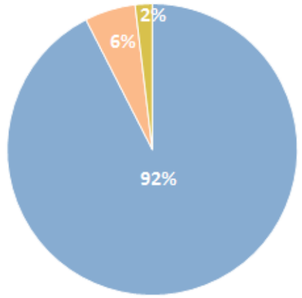
History

Located across the German-Czech-Polish border (Western Sudetes), it is considered a pioneering experience of CBC among the three countries. The Euroregion was established in 1991 and involves many local administrations. The Euroregional priorities include the improvement of people's living condition, economic development and environmental restoration of the so-called "Black Triangle of Europe" (a highly polluted transboundary area). The governance structure is composed of the Euroregional Council, which consists of the presidency and two thematic commissions (economy and society), supported by expert groups and the Euroregional Security Forum (it coordinates the cooperation and exchange of information between partners and other public security and public order authorities). The Euroregion has contributed in reducing the damage of the pollution through the protection of the Jizera Mountains from the devastating effects of acid rain. Other achievements include improving the CB transport networks (introducing a cross-border tariff), the cross-border university cooperation (Euroregion Academic Coordination Center Neisse-Nisa-Nysa University), a review of the history of the Euroregion (through the tripartite commission of historians) and many joint cultural projects (Youth European Orchestra).

Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- ☑ Public Law Agreement
- Other

Euroregional partnership



	DE	CZ	PL
Local		6	43
Supralocal	2	1	
Others	1		

Priorities

- ☑ Accessibility and Transportation
- ☑ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ☑ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- ☑ Spatial Planinng
- ☑ Local Economic Development

Neisse Go / Nisa Go

Period: 2009 - 2015
Main Theme: Accessibility and Transportation
Web: http://www.neisse-go.de/

Project Description

The aim of the project is to promote an attractive and integrated local transport offer for local communities as well as tourists. It covers a large part of the district of Bautzen and the district of Görlitz (Saxony, DE) and the district of Liberec (CZ). The core of the project involves the development of an innovative, comprehensive, multilingual information platform to promote a modern and intuitive planning tool that integrates German, Czech and Polish local transport systems of soft mobility (rail, bus, cycling and hiking). In the mid to long-term, this initiative will contribute to the sustainable mobility of the Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa by promoting the local cross-border interactions. It will also increase its touristic attractiveness.

Agents involved

Leader: ZVON Zweckverband Verkehrsverbund Oberlausitz-Niederschlesien (DE)

Partners

CZ: Liberecký kraj - Liberec

Resources

Budget: 711 496 Euros
EU Funds: 604 771 Euros
Own Funds: 106 725 Euros

Source: Neisse Go Project

Main Achievements

In 2012 the interactive trip planner for the Euroregion Neisse was launched. It shows tourist destinations and their accessibility by public transport. The interactive planning system is a successful attempt at integrating trans-border public transport and facilitating cross-border mobility for residents and visitors. Basic geodata and timetable data for trains and buses are linked together in real time and can be accessed via the web platform. In addition, the portal provides up-to-date touristic information on hiking and cycling trails as well as nature protected areas, cultural & sports facilities and accommodation. The EURO-NISA-TICKET integrated network ticket was also introduced. The ticket can be used for local transport within the Czech Liberec region and some neighbouring German and Polish districts.

Glacensis Euroregion

General information

Date of creation: 1996
Countries: CZ / PL
Area: 4 900 km²
Population: 1 000 000

Headquarters: Rychnov (CZ)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Czech Republic-Poland

Website: https://www.euro-glacensis.cz/

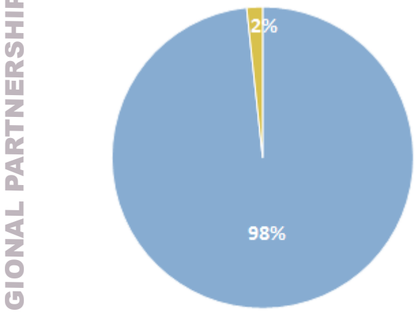
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- ✓ Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Glacensis Euroregion represents the largest and currently the oldest Czech-Polish cross-border institution, founded in 1996. It joins the border towns, municipalities and other legal entities in the central sector of the Czech-Polish border, where the Sudetes reach their highest altitudes (i.e. the Sněžka/ Śnieżkathe in the Giant Mountains) and important biosphere reserves are hosted. It is administrated by the Czech districts of Náchod, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Hradec Králové, Trutnov, Jičín, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Pardubice, Jeseník a Šumperk together with the association of towns and municipalities of the Polish districts of Kłodzko, Ząbkowice, Wałbrzych and Strzelińa Dzierżoniow. Its governance is composed of an executive committee, the Euroregional council (2 PL and 2 CZ members). Also two parallel structures are presented by the Polish and the Czech parts (President and assembly). These are coordinated by the Joint Expert Committee (Společne Odborné Komise). Cross-border projects mainly deal with the touristic and cultural enhancement of the Euroregional territory, which are realised by both European funds and its own small-project fund. The 2014-2020 Strategy has also presented case studies.

Euroregional partnership



	CZ	PL
Local	84	32
Others	1	1

Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ✓ Environment
- R&I
- Security
- ✓ Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

Lookout Towers, Observation Towers and Places with Views of Euroregion Glacensis

Period: 2013 - 2015
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: https://www.euro-glacensis.cz/rozhledny.html

Project Description

The project focuses on the touristic development of the Euroregion Glacensis. The Sudetes mountains attract an increasing number of visitors not only for its nature, but also for cultural purposes. The core of the Euroregion is characterised by a mountainous landscape with a great number of sightseeing spots. It aims to improve tourism opportunities for the summer season by focusing on the currently requested topic of the observation towers and sightseeing spots. Therefore, the main goal of the project is the construction and reconstruction of observation towers and sightseeing points in the Czech-Polish border area (Central Sudetes). This project contributes more in general to making the borderland more accessible to tourists.

Agents involved

Leader: Euroregion Glacensis (CB)

Partners

CZ: Město Trutnov; Správa Krkonošského národního parku Vrchlabí; BRANKA, o.p.s.; Obec Horní Čermná

PL: Město Nowa Ruda; Obec Kudowa Zdrój; Obec Radków; Sdružení polských obcí Euroregionu Glacensis

Resources

Budget: 1 731 657 Euros
EU Funds: 1 258 138 Euros
Own Funds: 473 519 Euros

Source: Lookout Towers Project

Main Achievements

As a result of the project, a total of eight observation towers were built or rebuilt in 2014, forming a remarkable network of observation towers. The towers are located in Trutnov, Broumov, Orlickoústecko and the Lower Silesian Voivodeship. Another accompanying activity of the project was the creation of new promotional materials dealing with these new tourist objectives. A set of eight leaflets on individual observation towers was produced, which provides more information. The towers are connected by a cycling path, which increases the accessibility of the mountain area. As a result, tourist traffic is developing considerably and new border crossing points were promoted. After the construction of another tower in Czernica, a touristic peak was registered in 2015 in the vicinity of Bielice.

Praded Euroregion

General information

Date of creation: 1997
Countries: CZ / PL
Area: 7 386 km²
Population: 870 600

Headquarters: Vrbno pod Pradědem (CZ)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Czech Republic-Poland

Website: http://www.europraded.cz/

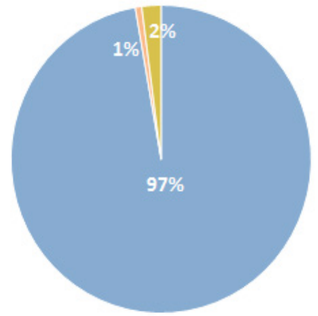
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Praded Euroregion is the located on the Eastern Czech-Polish border, neighbouring the Glacencis Euroregion. The first attempts at local and regional CBC started in the 1990s between the municipalities of the Jesenic region (CZ) and the Polish towns and villages of the Opole and Walbrzych Voivodeship. The agreement was signed in 1997 as a result of the increasing cooperation between municipalities, schools, cultural centres, sports clubs and other social organisations. In order to intensify the cooperation of the Polish side, an Association of Polish municipalities of the Praděd Euroregion was founded on 7 January 2000 (16 members). Currently, the Euroregion has 70 municipalities, 6 associated members (CZ) and 39 municipalities and 5 Powiat or districts (PL). According to the legal order, the decisional organs of Euroregion Praděd comprises of a General Assembly, the highest body in which each member is represented. The Council is the executive body of the General Assembly. Its 19 members elect the President and the Vice President, who are the statutory representatives of the Euroregion.

Euroregional partnership



	PL	CZ
Local	70	71
Supralocal		1
Others		3

Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

Euregio PL-CZ

Period: 2011 - 2014
Main Theme: Governance
Web: http://www.euroregions.org/pl/index/o-projekcie/2.html

Project Description

The project EUREGIO PL-CZ is a project implemented by INTERREV IV-A 2007-2013 Czech Republic-Poland. The main objective of the project is to deepen the mutual cooperation between the Czech-Polish Euroregions, so as to gain new experiences. Specifically, the goal is to create a permanent common structure and develop stable cross-border relations between Czech-Polish Euroregions (Euroregion Silesia, Euroregion Nisa, Euroregion Glacensis, Euroregion Těšínské Slezsko and Euroregion Beskydy). The fact that all project partners are jointly involved in the management of the Micro-Projects Fund provides stability for further cooperation within similar initiatives. Another goal of the project is also to define common obstacles that impede an effective and more intensive CBC.

Agents involved

Leader: Sdružení obcí povodí Horní Odry (PL)

Partners

CB: Euroregion Praděd; Euroregion Glacensis; Eurore gion Silesia; Euroregion Nysa; Eurorregion Śląsk; Euro-rregion Beskidy

Resources

Budget:	313 952 Euros
EU Funds:	266 858 Euros
Own Funds:	47 094 Euros

Source: Euregio PL-CZ Project

Main Achievements

Three main results have been achieved. Firstly, a joint webpage has been realised to promote all 6 Euroregions. Secondly, study exchange for gaining practical experience with the activities of individual Euroregions has been organised. In this sense, 6 three-day meetings of representatives of each Euroregion were carried out between 2012 and 2014. Thirdly, these exchanges and conferences on the Czech-Polish CBC provided a fruitful analysis of the common problems in sectors, such as transport, environment, health care assistance, the EU legislation, CBC programs (including its own Micro-Projects Fund), EGTC legal status, etc. This innovative comparative approach, which is still unique in Europe, can also be applied to other EU borders to improve the mutual learning experience of neighbouring Euroregions and generating new transversal strategies.

Europa 1 Fireboat LGTC

General Information

Countries: FR / DE

Headquarters: Strasbourg (FR)

Date of creation: 2007

Measures: 23 m lenght / 6.20 m width

Firemen team: 6 person on board / 2 on land

Web: www.sdis67.com/fr/actualites/voeux-aux-equipages-franco-allemands-armant-le-bateau-pompe-europa-1

Source: Mission operationnelle transfrontaliére

Governance

- [ ] EGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [x] LGTC
- [ ] Other

History & Activities

The EUROPA 1 Fireboat is a shared and unique form of intervention along the French-German Upper Rhine. The origins of the projects date back to the late 1980s, starting in 1987 when the local fire brigades began cooperating in a Rhine hot-spot sector. In 1986, when a fatal large-scale fire in Switzerland induced regional authorities to strengthen the CBC concerning risk prevention within the Upper Rhine Conference organisation. Furthermore, a specific task force was set up in 1999 for mutual support in case of catastrophes, and the formal CBC agreement between regional and local authorities was signed in 2002. The same year, an impressive simulation organised by firemen, police and other emergency units convinced public authorities to consider the necessity of a joint intervention unit. In 2003 the Upper Rhine Conference approved the acquisition of a shared fireboat, which got the INTERREG IIIA funding. In 2007 the LGTC has been adopted by the partners involved. In the same year, the pump boat was inaugurated. Its innovative character is twofold. On the one hand, its partnership- involves many institutional and technical stakeholders, as a result of a longstanding process. It intervenes in the event of damage to a defined area of intervention of the Upper Rhine as well as in the port area of Strasbourg and the neighbouring German city Kehl. Technically, on the other hand, the EUROPA 1 constitutes a multifunctional rescue and rapid assistance operative unit. As such, its state-of-the-art technology has few equals in Europe.

Euroairport Basel Mulhouse Freiburg

General Information

Countries: FR / CH / DE

Location: Saint-Louis (FR)

Date of creation: 1946

Length: 3 900 m (Longest runaway)

Passengers: 7 061 059

Freight: 101 050 Tons

Aircraft movement: 94 359 (2014)

Web: https://www.euroairport.com/en

Source: www.bilanz.ch

Governance

- [ ] EGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] EEIG
- [x] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Other

History & Activities

The trinational airport Basel, Mulhouse Freiburg, located at the core of the Upper Rhine valley (French-German-Swiss Border), symbolises the pioneering European cross-border cooperation experiences. Since the 1930s, French and Swiss authorities agreed in working together for the expansion of the Basel Airport. Once the Second World War ended, the first Basel-Mulhouse airport was constructed on the French side (1946). During the 1950s the main road connection were built and in the following decades, the main airport's facilities and equipment were put into use. Its privileged geographical location at the core of the Rhine corridor and at the crossroads of three economically thriving regions (Alsace, North West Switzerland and Baden-Württemberg) contributes to the continuous enlargement and modernisation for passengers and cargo uses until today. The headquarters is located in Blotzheim (France) and is under French jurisdiction. Nonetheless, the Euroairport has several unique features: it is one of the few airports in the world operated jointly by three countries (via the 1949 international convention), it is split in a French and a Swiss sector and the Swiss law is applied to custom processes, police work and medical services. Curiously, the non-Schengen travellers could receive either a Swiss or French passport stamp, depending on which officer provides the control. The multilevel governance is provided through the Board of Directors, which involves an equal number of Swiss and French representatives of institution and economic stakeholders (eight per part).

MontBlanc Tunnel EEIG

General Information

Countries: IT / FR

Headquarters: Courmayeur (IT)

Date of creation: 1957

Length: 11 600 m

Vehicles traffic: 1 872 941 (2015)

Web: http://www.tunnelmb.com

Source: www.sitmb.com

Governance

- EGTC
- [x] EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History & Activities

Today the Monlt Blanc Tunnel still represents one of the world's engineering masterpieces. It is one of the most important transport infrastructures through the Alps. Since 1965 it connects the two sides of the Western Alps, specifically the current Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and the Valle d'Aosta Region. It has been the longest road tunnel in the world until 1978 (Arlberg Road Tunnel). Nonetheless, its record is valid for the cross-border ones. Its construction took over a century of history. Local community and politicians claimed the need for a transalpine connection since the first half of the nineteenth century (then under the Duchy of Savoy). The project was approved by the Italian and French State in 1946 and the tunnel was inaugurated in 1965. The tunnel represents an essential equipment for the local socioeconomic and cultural relations (between the Courmayeur and Chamonix valleys) as well as a strategic European corridor for sectors such as trade and tourism. 2016 data show that almost 2 million vehicles have crossed the TMB (more than 5 000 per day). After the 1999 fire accident that caused the death of 39 people, security had been considerably improved along with the cross-border governance. Indeed, in 2002 the EEIG-TMB, an Italian-French concessionary, provided the joint maintenance and operational management of the tunnel. The organisation is supervised by the Supervisory Board (10 members), the Intergovernmental Control Commission and the Safety Committee. It is composed of five departments. The EEIG-TMB includes the support of the immediate intervention team and the binational Police Services.

Great Saint Bernard Pass Tunnel

General Information

Countries: CH / IT

Headquarters: Bourg-St-Pierre (CH)

Date of creation: 1958

Length: 5 798 m

Total traffic: 740 000 ca. vehicles (2016)

Web: http://www.letunnel.com

Source: france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr

Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- [x] Other

History & Activities

The historical importance of the Great St. Bernard Pass is well known. Through the Italian-Swiss mountain pass (2 473 m above sea level). Roman legions, barbarian tribes, Saracens, Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire, Popes, crusaders and Napoleon Bonaparte's forces passed from the northern to the southern side of the Alps. The construction of the Great St. Bernard Tunnel began 1958. In less than six years, the Swiss and Italian concessionary firms completed the works (the tunnel itself, approach roads from either side, toll stations at the tunnel entrances, the customs offices and police stations). Inaugurated on March 19, 1964, it represents the first Alpine road traffic tunnel and it links the Valle d'Aosta Italian autonomous region and the Swiss Valais Canton. Until the opening on the Mont Blanc tunnel, it was the longest road tunnel in the world, replacing the Spanish Vielha tunnel on the Pyrenees (opened in 1948). Regarding the tunnel's governance, since 2010, the Italian and the Swiss concessionaries has been acting jointly through the SISEX SA (Société italo-suisse d'exploitation du Tunnel du Grand-Saint-Bernard) in accordance with Directive 2004/54/CE. It is in charge of the safety, management, maintenance of the infrastructure and the division of revenue between the two concessionary companies. It also deals with matters of financial policies (tolls and special offers). In 2016 there have been more than 740 000 crossings, which proves to be an increasing trend since 1964, mainly for touristic purposes.

CEVA Railway Link

General Information

Countries: FR / CH

Headquarters: Geneva (CH)

Date: 2017 (partially open)

Length: 3.7 km of tunnels

Rail tracks: 20 km

Web: https://www.ceva-france.fr

Source: metropolegeneve.blog.tdg.ch

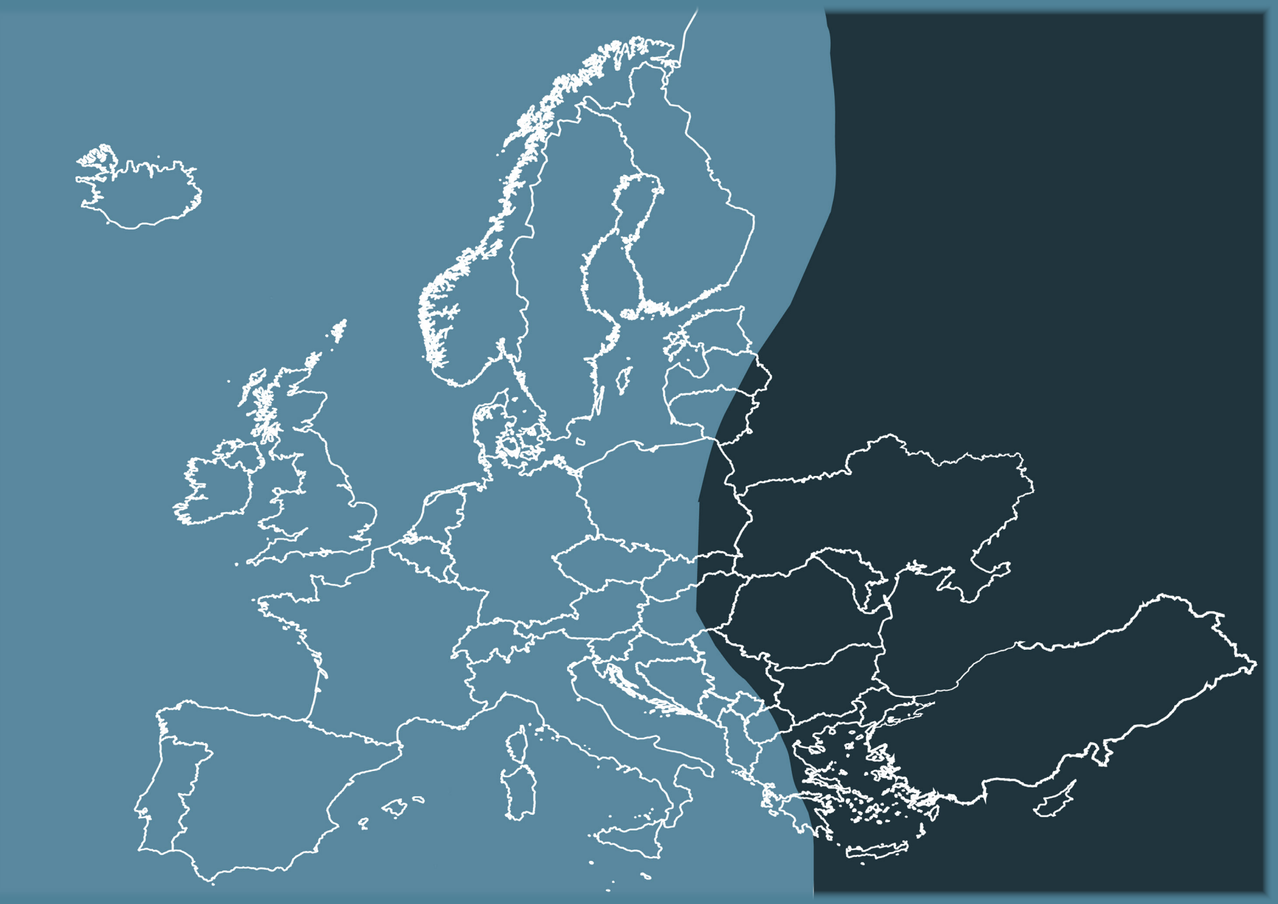
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- ✓ Other

History & Activities

The CEVA rail is a ring line designed to connect the main railway station of Geneva (Gare de Cornavin) on the southwest side of Lake Geneva with the Annemasse Train Station located on the southeastern side of the lake. Currently Annemasse lacks an efficient railway connection with the Swiss metropole along with the rest of the French Upper Savoy Department. Since the end of the nineteenth century, there have been many attempts to connect these two urban poles through public transport (in 1888 and in 1949). The current project was designed in the 1990s and it was officially launched in 2012. These urban areas have now merged in a high dense transboundary conurbation. The cross-border infrastructure constitutes therefore a priority to provide an efficient sustainable means of transport that could promote the labour market mobility of Southern Lake Geneva. The line is an underground double track between Praille and Ambilly (French sector) and four intermediate stops are under construction. The CEVA is also considered an essential part of the mobility scheme of Greater Geneva and specifically the Léman Express, which intends to connect 45 stations on 230 km of lines to serve more than one million inhabitants on both sides of the Franco-Swiss border, through the cantons of Vaud and Geneva and the departments of Ain and Upper Savoy. Once the project will be completed, approximately 240 000 people will live within 500 meters of a station and 50 000 passengers will commute daily on one of the 40 Léman Express trains crisscrossing the network.

EASTERN EUROPE



EUROREGIONS

- Banat Triplex Confinium EGTC
- Carpathian Euroregion
- Tatry Euroregion
- Country of Lakes Euroregion
- Ruse-Giurgiu Danubius Euroregion

TRANSBOUNDARY PARKS

- Prespa Transboundary Park
- Amazon of Europe Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Mura-Drava-Danube)

CROSS-BORDER EQUIPMENTS

- New Europe Bridge
- Danube Bridge

Banat Triplex Confinium EGTC

General information

Date of creation: 2009
Countries: HU / RO / (RS)
Area: 3 500 km^2
Population: 434 797

Headquarters: Mórahalom (HU)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Hungary-Romania CBC Programme
Hungary-Serbia IPA CBC

Website: http://www.btc-egtc.eu

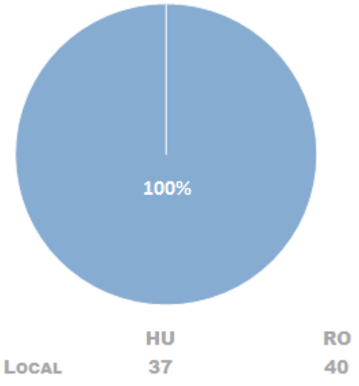
History

The Banat Triplex Confinium EGTC is a local cross-border structure located along the Hungarian-Romanian-and Serbian borders. Promoted by 50 municipalities in 2009, it was officially set up two years later with the EGTC status. The membership involves more than 80 local governments (37 Hungarian, 37 Romanian and 8 Serbian as observer members). As in many Central and Eastern European borderlands, in the Banat Euroregion, there is a cultural and historical background beyond the institutional initiative. One of the reasons for establishing this Euroregion was to reduce geographical and economic marginalisation, by promoting innovative and bottom-up initiatives in strategic fields, such as agriculture, SME competitiveness, renewable energies and spatial planning. The EGTC governance relies on an executive committee of 7 members that equally represent the three countries (a president, 3 deputy directors and 3 deputy members) as well as a Supervisory Board (3 members). The Projects Development Office promote CBC actions mainly based on EU programmes (INTERREG Romania-Hungary and the IPA Hungary-Serbia).

Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [ ] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [x] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

SME Network CB

Period: 2010 - 2011
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.btc-egtc.eu/en/tenders/won-tenders/33-content-development-of-the-sme-related-services-and-the-establishment-and-operation-of-a-unified-business-development-network-hu-srb0901211009

Project Description

One of the main challenges that the Banat-Triplex Confinium EGTC faces is the task of stimulating the borderland local economy. This project aims to develop a cross-border network of small and medium enterprises (SME) between Vojvodina (SRB) and the Great Hungarian Plain territory (HU). It is based on concrete and operative actions for promoting developmental services to SMEs and enhancing the organisational potential of the network. It also aims to reinforce competitiveness through training in strategic topics, such as corporate finance, economic law, EU integration quality assurance, public procurement, etc. Further ad-hoc training courses for professional trainers working in the centres: liabilities, economic and financial investment requirements, public; preparing business plans, export plans and financial monitoring plans; establishment of an SME Development Center in Mórahalom/Kanjiza.

Agents involved

Leader: Municipality of Kanjiža (RS)

Partners

HU: Municipalities of Homokhát Small-Regional Developmental Association

Resources

Budget:	90 128 Euros
EU Funds:	76 608 Euros
Own Funds:	13 520 Euros

Source: SME Network CB Project

Main Achievements

The cooperation between the two municipalities generated new networks and exchange of experience. The Hungarian-Serbian Unified Development Network was finally established; it conforms to European regulations and considers the local institutions and SME instances. Business plans, export plans and financial monitoring plans were case studies for 9 Serbian companies, and in 2 cases, the business plans have finally been implemented. Many training programs and workshops for experts, representatives of municipalities, companies, and SME development institutions have been provided through the cross-border network, including four workshops. The data collection of the structure and the activity of the SME in the borderland expand the knowledge of the economic performance of the Banat Euroregion. As a result, the Banat Euroregion led a similar project on the Romanian-Hungarian side in 2012 (COOP-BANAT).

Carpathian Euroregion

General Information

Date of creation: 1993
Countries: SK / HU / UA / PL / RO
Area: 14 002 km²
Population: 1 503 899

Headquarters: Kosice (SK)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Hungary-Slovakia CBC Programme
Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI CBC Programme

Website: http://www.carpathianeuroregion.org
http://www.tradecarp.com/en

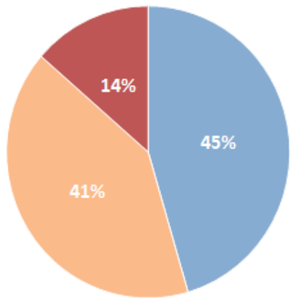
History

The Carpathian Euroregion (CE), which is one of the largest active Euroregions, is located across five borders of Central and Eastern European countries (Poland, Ukraine, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania). It was established in 1993 through a top-down initiative led by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Poland, Ukraine and Hungary. It represented the first Euroregional attempt in the former Eastern Bloc after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Its current administrative units (17) are located in the same geographical framework and its communities share important historical, cultural and economic similar features. The cross-border governance is based on four main bodies: the council (the higher decision-making level), the Chairman (a representative elected every two years), International Secretariat (operative tasks) and five Working Committees led by different countries. Since 2004 Euroregional activity decreased considerably for political reasons. Nonetheless, the recent mid-term strategy, i.e. The Carpathian Euroregion Strategy 2020 & Beyond, tries to give new life to one of the most ambitious cross-border regional initiatives that symbolises the EU integration process.

Governance

- [ ] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [x] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

Euroregional Partnership



	SK	HU	UA	PL	RO
Local	2	5	2		1
Supralocal		4			5
Regional			2	1	

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [x] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [ ] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [x] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

The Carpathian Regional Development Agency (KARR)

Period: 2011 - 2012
Main Theme: Governance
Web: http://www.karr.com.pl

Project Description

The project aims to improve the socioeconomic development of the Polish-Slovakian border area by reinforcing the local and regional CBCs (Podkarpackie Province, Prešov Region). To achieve this goal, the project established a joint institutional structure, including all the responsible stakeholders involved in regional development on both sides of the border. Specifically, the key actors of spatial planning are also involved in coordinating the strategic objectives. The project considers three main stages: agency creation, planning process, and implementation of spatial planning strategy. The cross-border agency became operative in the second step to stimulate the cross-border interaction and globally coordinate the actions included in the project.

Agents Involved

Leader: Association Carpathian Euroregion Poland (CB)

Partners

PL: Regional Development Agency Swidnik; Regional Development Agency SA in Rzeszow

SK: Regional Development Agency Humenne

Resources

Budget: 303 570 Euros
EU Funds: 255 160 Euros
Own Funds: 48 410 Euros

Source: The Carpathian Regional Development Agency Project

Main Achievements

The KARR, set up in Jaroslaw (PL), already established important networks to strengthen their purpose as a Euroregion. For example, the network of cities involves many Polish and Slovakian local governments for institutional cooperation and information exchange (Ukrainian and Hungarian cities expressed their willingness to join the network). Similarly, touristic sector joins local governments, business entities and tourism associations to promote the Carpathian Euroregion potential. Another goal is the Carpathian College, which aims to strengthen the multilateral and multidimensional scientific CBC among the research centres and institutions within the CE, by adapting their offer and quality to the European level. Regarding education, the Carpathian Euroregion School Network is preparing to set up the Youth Parliament of the CE as well the EURODESK network.

Tatry Euroregion

General information

Date of creation: 1994
Countries: PL / SK
Area: 13 700 km²
Population: 1 500 000

Headquarters: Nowy Targ (PL)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Poland-Slovakia

Website: http://www.euroregion-tatry.eu/home.html

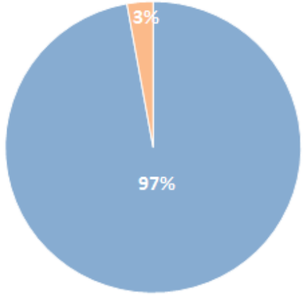
Governance

- [x] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The Euroregion Tatry was formed in 1994 by several local governments of Poland and Slovakia. It covers a large area surrounding the western side of the Polish-Slovakian Border and coinciding with the Podhale, Spisz, Orava and Liptov regions. For many centuries local communities shared similar languages and traditions, and also shared the unusual geographic and natural richness. It currently involves many local institutions (municipalities, counties and communities), which aim to cooperate in sectors, such as culture, science, tourism, economy and environmental protection. The Euroregional governance is based on a well-developed structure. Firstly, two parallel regional structures are in force (the Polish Euroregion Tatry and the Slovak Tatry Region Association). Both share a set of common bodies with equal representation: the congress is the highest authority (with 70 deputies), the council represents the executive power (with 14 deputies and 2 secretaries), the thematic commissions (economy, environmental protection, culture Information, tourism, sport and youth). Finally, the Auditorial Commission controls all the Euroregional organs and activities. In 2013 the EGTC status was adopted.

Euroregional partnership



	PL	SK
Local	26	111
Supralocal	4	

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [ ] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [x] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [x] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Tatry together

TATRY společne-spólnie

Period: 2011 - 2012
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://visit-tatry.com

Project Description

The aim of the project is to create a joint complex Tatra campaign including various activities for implementing so-called joint destination marketing and management. It responds to the worldwide trend of efficient destination management at a regional level. The administrative and legal barriers are overcome by creating a long-term partnership between the Zakopane (PL) and Liptov (SK) districts' stakeholders. The primary activities of the project address two main target groups: firstly, the institutional and economic agents that are active in travel, tourism management and marketing; and once the strategy is ready, tourists and visitors represent the second group.

Agents involved

Leader: Klaster LIPTOV - združenie cestovného ruchu (SK)

Partners

PL: Propagačno-informačne centrum mesta Zakopane

SK: Hotelová akadémia v Liptovskom Mikuláši

Resources

Budget: 294 835 Euros
EU Funds: 243 657 Euros
Own Funds: 51 178 Euros

Source: Tatry Together Project

Main Achievements

Through the combination of forces and the creation of a joint marketing strategy, the existing summer and winter tourism attractions on both sides of the border of the Zakopane and Liptovský Mikuláš were promoted as a one cross-border destination. Information catalogues on the winter and summer regional attractions were put together and widely distributed. The trilingual website www.visit-tatry.com was created to improve information on places, touristic activities, recreational attractions and other cultural information. Specialised training courses and workshops were organised for tour operators involved in planning tourist services to improve the quality and standard of services.

Country of Lakes Euroregion

Euroregion "Ežerų kraštas"
Еўрарэгіён "Азёрны край"
Еврорегион "Озерный край"
Euroregion "Country of lakes"

General information

Date of creation: 1998
Countries: LT/ LV /BY
Area: 359 000 km²
Population: 839 000

Headquarters: Krāslava (LT)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Latvia-Lithuania CBC Programme
Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus ENPI CBC Programme

Website: http://www.ezeruzeme.lv/about-us

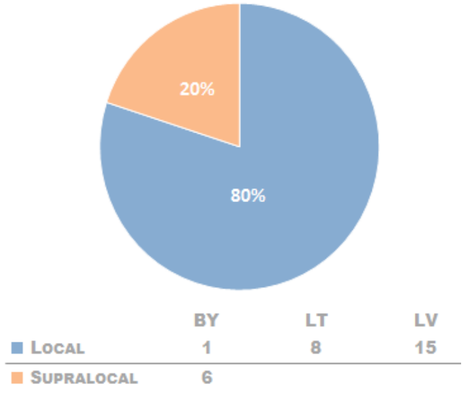
History

The Euroregion "Country of Lakes" is a cross-border organisation of municipal governments. Historically, the local governments of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus have very old traditions of cooperation, especially in the field of culture. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, local and regional cooperation between Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus decreased as well as the cross-border mobility when visa requirement was introduced. However, despite the differences in legislation and the lack of funding for CB initiatives, friendly relations were maintained. In 1998 the municipalities of Kraslava (LV), Ignalina (LT) and the District of Braslav (BL) set up the Country of Lakes Euroregion. Currently, it involves 30 members (15 Latvian, 8 Lithuanian and 7 partners from Belarus). This Euroregion often receives the support of the governments of the neighbouring countries as well as local and regional associations. The CBC aims to strengthen cultural ties, exchanging information and developing joint actions in such fields as tourism, infrastructure, environmental protection and entrepreneurship. Operatively, three medium-term cross-border strategies have been adopted (first in 2001-2007, then 2008-2013 and currently 2014-2020).

Governance

- ○ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ✓ Public Law Agreement
- ○ Other

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- ✓ Governance
- ○ Health
- ✓ Environment
- ○ R&I
- ○ Security
- ○ Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

Educate for Business

EDUCATE FOR BUSINESS

Period: 2012 - 2014
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.ezeruzeme.lv/projects/educate-for-business

Project Description

The project Educate for Bussiness ("Development of co-operation platform for Latvian and Lithuanian vocational schools and entrepreneurs ") aims to establish a cross-border cooperation platform between Latvian and the Lithuanian vocational institutions as well as businesses. It wants to increase a new generation of labour force competitiveness and productivity in the Latvian-Lithuanian border regions that contribute to the sustainable and cohesive socio-economic development of the Euroregion. The project also enables the Latvian office of the Euroregion to prepare the project proposal, which requires intervention at the cross-border level. This project is based on the recent modifications triggered by labour market trends, especially after admission into the EU as well as changes in the systems and management of vocational institutions demanding more specific specialisations. The project is geared towards improving training programmes, supporting competitive graduates undergoing economic hardships. Specifically, the target area involves the Latgale region (LV) and the Utena region (LT).

Agents involved

Leader: Country of Lakes Euroregion (CB)

Partners

LT: Utena district municipality administration; Alanta school of technology and business

LV: Middle Latgale vocational secondary school; Austrum Latgale vocational secondary school; Kraslava local municipality

Resources

Budget: 784 847 Euros
EU Funds: 667 120 Euros
Own Funds: 117 727 Euros

Source: Latvia-Lithuania cross-border cooperation programme 2007-2013 http://20072013.latlit.eu

Main Achievements

The project succeeded in increasing cooperation between vocational schools in LT and LV. Specifically, in 5 Latvian and 2 Lithuanian vocational institutions, the schools' infrastructures, equipment and available study material have been improved. On a larger scope, the project contributes in increasing the possibilities for students to make practical experiences in real enterprises, working on overall student capacity and motivation to start their own businesses; it also succeeds in improving information exchange and interaction between regional vocational institutions and enterprises within the related spheres. This process could facilitate the entry of students into the labour market, thereby promoting the increase of the human capital of the Country of Lakes Euroregion.

Ruse-Giurgiu Danubius Euroregion

General Information

Date of creation: 2002
Countries: RO / BG
Area: 6.329 km²
Population: 500 746

Headquarters: Giurgiu (RO)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Bulgary-Romania

Website: http://www.primariagiurgiu.ro/portal/giurgiu/primarie/portal.nsf/AllByUNID/000042AA?OpenDocument
http://ruse.bg/en/euroregion-danubius-en

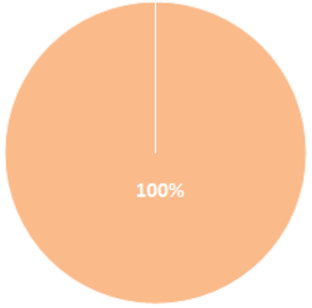
History

The Cross-Border Cooperation involves two local administrations located along the Romanian-Bulgarian border, which follows the course of the Danube River: the Ruse district (BG) and the Giurgiu County (RO). Both territories have strong historical relations. During the communist period, the inhabitants of local communities crossed the Danube for cross-border shopping. However, since the end of the Cold War, interactions decreased drastically and the non-Schengen border status did not help matters. Officially, institutional CBC started in 2002 with the formation of the Euroregion Danubius Association. It involves representatives of local and regional authorities, non-governmental and public organisations located in the territories of Giurgiu and Ruse. It currently has more than 60 members. The association is chaired alternatingly by Ruse regional administration and Giurgiu County Council each year. The management is carried out by the Executive Director and by the Management Board (8 members). The highly similar rural economy of Ruse and Giurgiu limits cross-border mobility and exchanges. Nonetheless successful initiatives to promote sustainable development of the cross-border region have been implemented in many fields, e.g. spatial planning, infrastructures, environmental management and socioeconomic development.

Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- ✓ Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

Euroregional Partnership



Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ✓ Environment
- R&I
- Security
- ✓ Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

ERGO Masterplan

Period: 2011 - 2012
Main Theme: Spatial Planning
Web: http://ergo.bulplan.eu

Project Description

The ERGO Masterplan's main goal is to contribute to the sustainable development of the Danubius Euroregion with the help of a shared spatial development policy. The strategic document includes 10 significant joint projects that have been discussed and adopted by local communities, according to four sectors: economic (to increase the territorial competitiveness and support the SME), transport (to promote cross-border accessibility using an efficient transport system), energy (to increase the energy efficiency and saving for public and private buildings and promote renewable sources) and tourism/urban development (to enhance the urban centres and green areas). This initiative intends to support cross-border socioeconomic development by promoting investment and a positive regional identity.

Agents Involved

Leader: Rousse Municipality (BG)

Partners

RO: Giurgiu Municipality

Resources

Budget: 949 944 Euros
EU Funds: 805 742 Euros
Own Funds: 144 202 Euros

Source: ERGO Masterplan Project (WebGIS)

Main Achievements

The main result of the project is the publication of the detailed master plan of the Euroregion Danubius, which will be the basis for an effective future development of the entire cross-border territory. The implementation of the master plan is a long-term strategy (until 2027). 10 strategic joint investment projects have been detailed and presented in the online cartographic portal. Examples include the large industrial sites (Mega Sites) to host large industrial companies; cross-border SME incubators; the new bridge over the Danube (construction is scheduled for early 2018); the common train/tram; reconversion of the waterfront functional landscapes; new energy solutions, etc. Furthermore, the investment profile literature has been published in five languages for potential local and foreign investors.

Prespa Transboundary Park

General Information

Countries: GR / AL / MK

Date of creation: 2000

Area: 1 168 km2

Population Involved: 24 100

Web: http://www.spp.gr/index.php?option=com_co&view=frontpage&Itemid=1&lang=en?&lang

Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- ✓ Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History & Activities

Prespa Transboundary Park encompasses a single catchment basin formed by two freshwater lakes having a geological and biological uniqueness. The Prespa Park is the first transboundary protected area in the Balkans established in 2000 with the joint declaration of the Prime Ministers of Greece, Albania and FYROM (initially promoted by the Society for the Protection of Prespa and WWF Greece). The declaration has three important goals: to preserve the natural and cultural values of the Prespa Lake with the participation of local communities; to promote the sustainable socioeconomic development and strengthen peace and cooperation between the three countries. The management of the area is based on the Trilateral Prespa Park Coordination Committee (PPCC), which meets twice a year to improve the organisational and the operational aspects. It consists of 10 members and includes representatives of the central government (Ministry of the Environment), local government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from the three countries, including a permanent observer from the Ramsar Convention. During its 17 years of activity, important goals have been achieved and many projects have been implemented, which were often financed by international funding organisations. Examples are the Study for the Strategic Action Plan (2001-2002) and the "Integrated Management of Ecosystems in the Prespa Basin in Albania, FYROM and Greece – GEF Programme" (2006-2011). CBC reaches an important cornerstone in 2010 when the three governments signed an agreement to establish permanent CBC structures for the development of the joint strategy; the agreement was later ratified by Greece in 2017. Finally, in 2014 the UNESCO Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Reserve was also declared.

Source: Society for Conservation of Prespa Transboundary Park

Amazon of Europe Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

General Information

Countries: AT / HR / HU / RS / SK

Date of creation: 2013

Area: 2 150 km2

Population involved: 400 000

Web: http://www.amazon-of-europe.com/en/biosphere-reserve

Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- ✓ Other

History & Activities

The lower courses of the Drava and Mura Rivers and parts of the Danube spanning Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia are collectively known as the "Amazon of Europe". This region is one of the most important ecological networks of Europe. The rivers form a 700-km long "green belt" connecting almost 1 000 000 hectares of high level of biodiversity (alluvial forests, wet grasslands, gravel and sand bars, islands, steep banks, oxbow lakes, stagnant backwater, abandoned riverbeds and meanders) as well as valuable natural and cultural landscapes. In March 2011, the ministers responsible for environment and nature conservation from the five countries signed a joint declaration to establish the reserve, based on the preliminary bilateral agreement between Croatia and Hungary in 2009 and with the support of many local and international NGOs. It represents the world's first five-country Transboundary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (declared in 2012), which connects 13 protected areas along the rivers for enhancing and preserving ecological values. The Biosphere Reserve concept covers 300 000 hectares of core and buffer zones based on the existing protected area network and around 700 000 hectares of transition zones. The core zone is the ecological backbone of the reserve (the river and floodplain areas) and the goal is to preserve and restore the natural habitats and species. The buffer zone hosts a population of circa 27 000 animal and human activities (agriculture, forest management, sand and gravel extraction, diverse types of industry, and ecotourism) and natural areas (small lakes and wetlands). The reserve's governance has a 15-member coordination board (3 per country). Joint projects include the reserve management (Coop-MDD), river restoration and ecotourism (bike trail) with EU funding (INTERREG and LIFE Programmes).

Source: Amazon of Europe Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Mura-Drava-Danube)

New Europe Bridge

General Information

Location: Vidin (BG) - Calafat (RO)

Date of creation: 2007

Length: 1 971 m

Width 31.35 m

Average Traffic: 1 100 000 vehicles/year (2009)

Web: http://www.vidincalafatbridge.bg

Source: New Europe Bridge

Governance

- ○ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ○ Public Law Agreement
- ✓ Other

History & Activities

The New Europe Bridge is the second cross-border bridge on the Danube river between Bulgaria and Romania. It comprises of a road and rail bridge connecting the cities of Vidin (BG) and Calafat (RO). The concept of the bridge was initiated at the beginning of the 20th century when local communities were already claiming a need for infrastructure, instead of relying on unstable ferry connections across the Danube. However, almost 100 years passed before the serious project was presented in 1999. Feasibility studies were realised with the support of the PHARE EU Programme and other European transport companies debating on the potential location. At the same time, there was the need to stimulate regional and local economy and find an alternative route to the Eastern Danube Bridge, in view of recent wars in former Yugoslavia and emerging EU expansion process in Eastern Europe. However, construction only started in 2007, and after three years of delay, the bridge was officially inaugurated in 2013. In the EU framework, the New Europe Danube Bridge constitutes a fundamental part of the Pan-European Corridor IV, which connects Greece, Istanbul and the Black Sea Port of Costanza (RO) with central Europe. The traffic data goes beyond the forecasts: in the first two years, more than 1.1 million vehicles crossed the bridge, averaging at almost 20 000 per week. About 40%-45% of the traffic is caused by the cargo vehicles weighing over 12 tons. The cross-border infrastructure is managed by the Bulgarian-Romanian company “Danube Bridge Vidin - Calafat”. The company is responsible for the management and maintenance and the toll collection.

Danube Bridge

General Information

Location: Giurgiu (RO) - Ruse (BG)

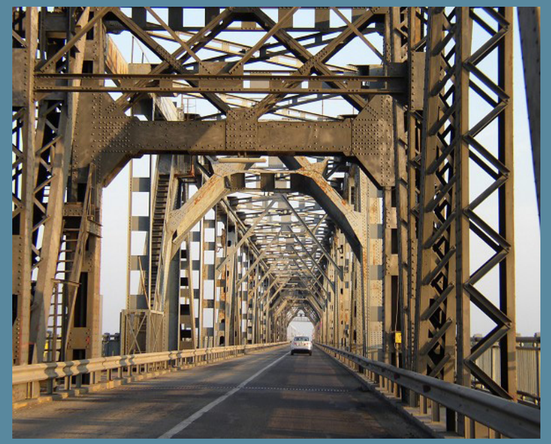
Date of creation: 1952

Length: 2 223 m

Width 31.35 m

Average Traffic: 1 370 000 vehicles/year (2017)

Web: https://structurae.net/structures/giurgio-ruse-bridge



Source: Danube Bridge

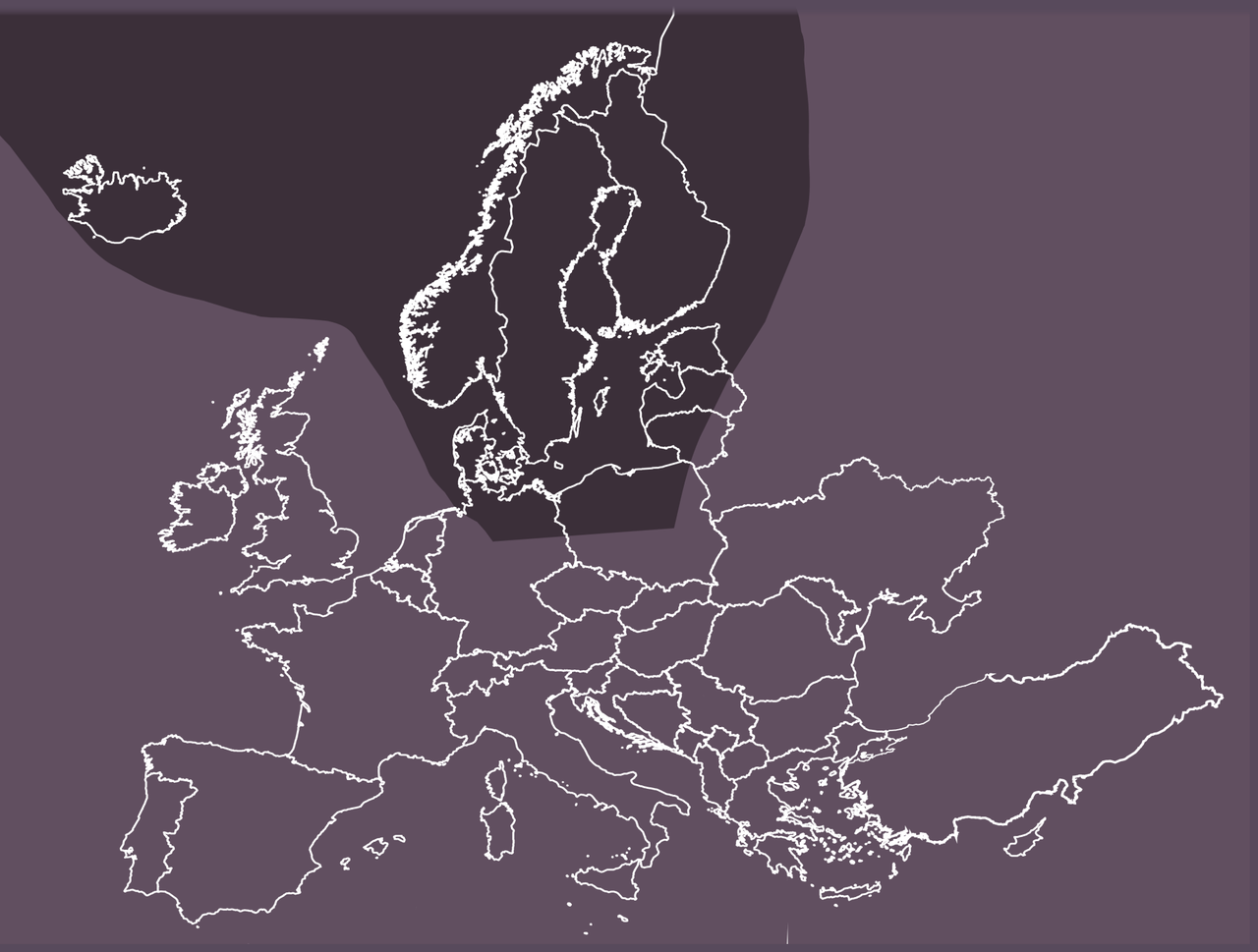
Governance

- ○ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ○ Public Law Agreement
- ✓ Other

History & Activities

Since the Constantine Bridge of the Roman era, the Danube Bridge is the first road infrastructure connecting the Bulgarian and Romanian banks of the Danube River between the cities of Ruse (BG) and Giurgiu (RO). It was built in 1954 with the economic support of the Soviet Union. During the communist era, it was called the Friendship Bridge. The structure consists of a two-lane motorway with separated pedestrian sidewalks and an underlying railway. The 85m-central part of the bridge is mobile so as to allow the passage of boats, and Romania oversees its maintenance. Starting from early 2007, customs control was ceased. Also being an EU internal border, the border police performs passport/identity card control once per crossing. The future implementation of the Schengen Agreement will remove fix border control. While strengthening the Ruse and Giurgiu cross-border cooperation, the idea of a new bridge arises. Bulgarian and Romanian authorities have recently recognised the necessity for reconstructing the existing bridge or even building a new one. In the first eight months of 2017, 1 370 000 vehicles already crossed the bridge. It has been determined that the capacity of the existing infrastructure is insufficient for such traffic performance since there is only one lane in each direction. The new bridge would provide faster road and improved rail connection between the two countries within the framework of the Pan-European Corridor IX (from Helsinki in Finland to Alexandroupolis in Greece), and it would be located along the Eastern part of the existing bridge.

NORTHERN EUROPE



EUROREGIONS

- Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion
- Fehmarnbelt Committee
- Greater Copenhagen & Skåne Committee
- Frankfurt-Słubice Cooperation Centre
- Pomerania Euroregion
- Baltic Euroregion
- Svinesunds Committee
- Kvarken Council
- Botnian Arc
- Finestlink Helsinki-Tallin

CROSS-BORDER EQUIPMENTS

- Oresund Bridge

Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion

General information

Date of creation: 1997
Countries: DE / DK
Area: 8 200 km²
Population: 700 000

Headquarters: Padborg (DK)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Syddanmark-Schleswig, KERN
(Currently Interreg Germany-Denmark)

Website: http://www.region.de/region/de/

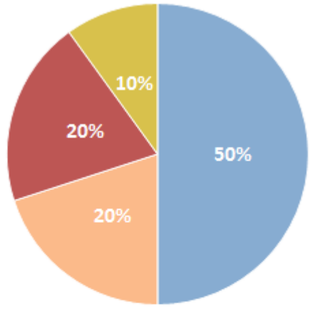
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion was created with the general purpose of encouraging common growth and improving the cultural link in the cross-border area, aiming for a general intensification of cross-border cooperation among people and organisations. The common historical development of the region has brought over an interesting intersection of German and Danish cultures, while also signalling the presence of a Frisian minority. The geographical area involved is located on the border between the northernmost part of Germany and the southernmost part of Denmark, making it a symbolical borderland that is seen as a gateway between Central and Northern Europe. At the institutional level, the Euroregion presents a high level of structuring and several organisational bodies supporting its work. It comprises a political board of territorial representatives, who are responsible for creating ad hoc committees, specialist meetings and thematic working groups (except for the cultural committee, which holds a permanent position). Furthermore, the board is supported by an administrative management group and a joint secretariat for the technical management of the institution.

Euroregional partnership



	DE	DK
Local	1	4
Supralocal	2	
Regional	1	1
Others	1	

Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

Emergency response without borders

Period: 2011 - 2014
Main Theme: Environment
Web: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/germany/efficient-cross-border-emergency-response-in-the-danish-german-border-region

Leader: Tønder Kommune (DK)

Project Description

The project sought to develop citizen awareness for fires, accidents and disasters in the proximity of the border. The project's aim was to develop a common system of resources (equipment and personnel) for handling risks in a joint cross-border perspective together with the development of common coordination and prevention efforts. The general activities were meant to include: the mapping of available resources and equipment on both sides of the border; a study on the feasibility of legal insurances for cross-border initiatives; specific trainings for firefighters on procedures and technology knowhow; a common mapping system of accidents to be managed by authorities on both sides of the border; finally, joint practical exercises and recruitment activities.

Agents involved

Partners

DK: Brand & Redning, Aabenraa Kommune; Sønderborg Kommune

DE: Kreis Schleswig-Flensburg; Kreis Nordfriesland; Stadt Flensburg

Resources

Budget: 478 212 Euros
EU Funds: 310 838 Euros
Own Funds: 167 374 Euros

Source: Sønderjylland-Schleswig Euroregion; Emergency response without borders Project

Main Achievements

The general achievements of the project include setting up an effective emergency rescue service. Thanks to the new legal and operational protocols established between the two countries, the closest fire station can now reach the area irrespective of the national side it is located in. The coordination between Danish and German firemen has been improved by using several tools, while all legal issues related to rescue activities and insurances have been resolved. In the years leading up to 2014, eight cross-border emergency response actions were carried out successfully and the project partners have now ensured the expansion of such cooperation activities by introducing the new INTERREG 2014-2020 project "Contingency without Borders - Version 2.0".

Fehmarnbelt Committee

General information

Date of creation: 2009
Countries: DE / DK
Area: 9 863 km²
Population: 1 370 000

Headquarters: Rødby (DK) / Eutin (DE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Fehmarn Belt Region
(Currently Interreg Germany-Denmark)

Website: http://www.fehmarnbelt-portal.de/

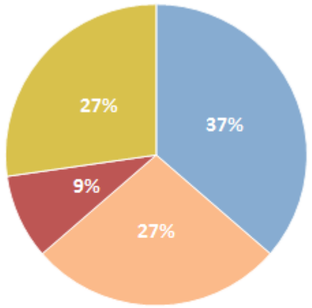
Governance

- [ ] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [x] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

The Fehmarnbelt Committee is a relatively recent cross-border organisation intended for the development of a solidly-integrated and competitive border region. The region takes its name from the 19 km waterway between Denmark and Germany, making the case for a clear maritime border between the peninsular region and the Danish island. The committee not only includes local territorial administrations into its rankings, insofar as representatives also join from the NGO sector, such as trade and employers' associations, educational institutions, trade unions and tourism, culture and nature conservation organisations. At the institutional level, the committee members appoint an executive committee to administer the organisation's plan of action; it is chaired by an officially elected Presidency. The committee is also aided by an administrative office. Despite its recent creation, the cooperation levels achieved by the organisation are quite profound, especially considering the regular redaction of strategic action plans with a clear focus on common key areas and guidelines for their joint realisation. Such plan is also accompanied by a patronage of common initiatives and other activities of a cross-border scope.

Euroregional partnership



	DE	DK
Local	1	3
Supralocal	3	
Regional		1
Others	1	2

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [ ] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [ ] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [x] Health
- [x] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Futura Maritima

Period: 2013 - 2015
Main Theme: Cohesion and Social Integration
Web: http://futuramaritima.eu/de/

Leader: Korsør Produktionshøjskole (DK)

Project Description

The project "Futura Maritima" heavily focuses on the common maritime border in the cross-border region and in how to exploit at most the development of new productive activities relating to the sea, e.g. boatbuilding, sailing or adventure tourism. The general list of activities included pedagogical sailing events with teenagers or children (also including specific groups, such as disadvantaged or disabled persons), boatbuilding workshops focusing on technical and professional skills, celebrations of maritime days and a special set of cultural events related to common historical Viking culture featuring craftsmanship of ancient boatbuilding or common utensils.

Agents involved

Partners

DE: CJD, Eutin; Jugendaufbauwerk Plön Koppelsberg

DK: Kalundborgegnens Produktionsskole

Resources

Budget: 778 886 Euros
EU Funds: N/A
Own Funds: N/A

Source: Futura Maritima Project

Main Achievements

The project mainly involved the execution of a large set of events gathering multiple groups of people around the different core themes of the initiative. Six sailing and navigation trips were organised on large sailboats incorporating young crews and teaching fundamental concepts of sailing accompanied by other lessons on ecological principles at sea; three intensive boatbuilding workshops and two Maritime festival days were organised for boatbuilding activities; five cultural and crafting Viking festivals were organised with a pedagogical focus; finally, four further cultural Viking festivals were entirely focused on creative activities for children. A list of pedagogical manuals for replicating the crafting activities developed during the project is also available online on the website platform.

Greater Copenhagen & Skåne Committee

GREATER CoPENHAGEN

General Information

Date of creation: 1993 (2016)
Countries: SE / DK
Area: 21 203 km²
Population: 3 732 000

Headquarters: Copenhagen (DK)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak-Startsida

Website: http://www.greatercph.com

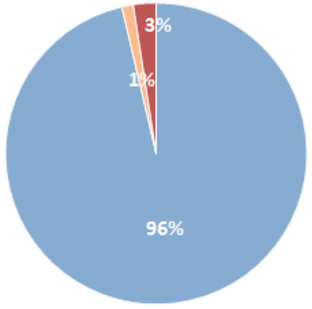
Governance

- [ ] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [ ] Private Law Association
- [x] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

History

Formerly known to many as the Oresund Committee and the relative Oresund Region, this cross-border area underwent a major marketing rebranding and institutional restructuring in 2016 for the consolidation of the cross-border processes. Now more than ever, the newly baptised Greater Copenhagen region pursues the task of being a cross-border international hub for investment and knowledge in terms of generating and increasing sustainable economic growth and employment. The metropolitan region, which spans Eastern Denmark and Skåne County in Southern Sweden, presents the highly interesting case for a maritime border standing in-between two intensely urbanised areas. At the institutional level, the recently constituted committee shows a genuine multilevel attitude, insofar as it brings local, provincial and regional public actors together in the administration of the cross-border area. The organisation is structured around three main bodies: a political board, an administrative steering committee and a coordination group with members proceeding either from the municipal or regional level. Finally, the work of the Committee is also aided by a small joint administrative secretariat.

Euroregional Partnership



	SE	DK
Local	33	46
Supralocal	1	
Regional		2

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [x] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [ ] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [ ] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Öresund Region Creative Metropole

Øresundsregionen som KREATIV METAPOL

Period: 2008 - 2011
Main Theme: Education and culture
Web: http://interreg-oks.eu/webdav/files/gamla-projektbanken/se/Menu/Projektbank+2007-2013/Projektlista-oresund/xresundsregionen+som+kreativ+metapol.html

Leader: Herlev kommune (DK)

Project Description

The Creative Metropole project intends to strengthen the role of culture as a driving force for sustainable development of society. It seeks to reaffirm the importance of culture as a motor of growth by fostering networks of collaboration among universities, public authorities and creative companies. Furthermore, it seeks to develop municipal competences for smarter cultural management in local administration affairs. Thus, the project is meant to become a laboratory for new creative methods and the testing of projects with new managerial approaches. The project's slogan states that it wants the whole Euroregional territory to be presented as a "creative fire" capable of creating a better society.

Agents Involved

Partners

SE: Region Skåne; Malmö Högskola; Hässleholm; Malmö kommun, Simrishamn

DK: Albertslund; Frederiksberg; Køge; Hvidovre municipalities; Roskilde County; Ballerup Kommune; Furesø municipality

Resources

Budget: 1 870 949 Euros
EU Funds: 930 617 Euros
Own Funds: 940 332 Euros

Source: Öresund Region Creative Metropole Project

Main Achievements

The project achieved a total of four survey projects on culture in the Euroregional territory, two models of inclusion and participation in cultural activities, two tell-projects, a youth network and more than 20 professional training seminars for participants and members of the cultural networks involved in the project's main themes. Most importantly, the main long-term achievement was the setup of a stable interregional cultural network with forum spaces for different stakeholders, such as the dedicated sub-network for cultural entrepreneurs or youth management and participation in cultural development processes. Finally, the network has generated an online platform called "Kulturmetropolen" that is used for information and marketing purposes concerning the cultural activities.

Frankfurt- Słubice Cooperation Center

General information

Date of creation: 2011
Countries: DE / PL
Area: 300 km²
Population: 79 000

Headquarters: Frankfurt (Oder) (DE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
CBC Programme Lubuskie - Brandenburg

Website: http://www.frankfurt-slubice.eu

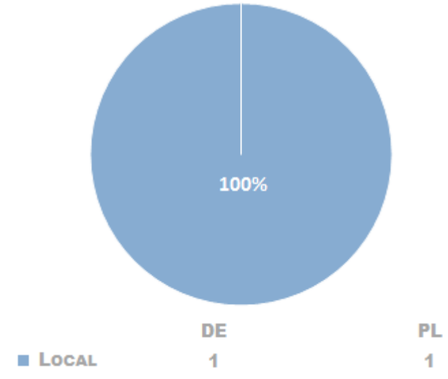
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

From its very foundation, the Frankfurt-Słubice area represented a classical example of a European city twinning to invest in the future by its shared purpose of overcoming borders. This border region is situated on the central part of the Polish-German borderline and is delineated by the river Odra, making the case for a fluvial border separating two rural areas with a general urbanised landscape. The region enjoys a long tradition of cooperation, having made the first agreements between the two territories as early as the 1950s, ergo even long before Poland's relatively recent accession to the EU. At the institutional level, the cooperation centre has been consolidating its structure by becoming the equivalent of a technical secretariat with joint budget and personnel. The rest of the structure is attached to the local administration of the two towns (as in the case of the joint thematic committees comprising city council members or the regular agenda of meetings of the two mayors). High levels of cooperation are also realised by the development of a Frankfurt-Słubice Plan of Action 2010-2020.

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

German-Polish Center Bolfrashaus in Frankfurt (Oder) and Kleistturm in Słubice

Period: 2011 - 2014
Main Theme: Local Economic Development
Web: http://www.bolfras-kleist.eu/en

Project Description

The objective of the project has been the recovery, restructuration and reconstruction of two historical buildings on both sides of the border, i.e. The Bolfras House and the Kleist Tower, which are historically significant for both territories. In such a way, the authorities intended to invest in what they term as "beacons" for a cross-border Frankfurt-Slubice joint tourism marketing. Furthermore, being per se the first in a succession of future initiatives with the same purpose, the project was intended to enhance trans-border infrastructure for touristic purposes while delivering a joint image of cultural heritage. The whole project was also meant as an exercise of networking and synergy for further collaborations in the future.

Agents involved

Leader: Arbeiten und Leben in historischen Gebäuden gGmbH (DE)

Partners

PL: Municipality of Słubice

DE: Stadt Frankfurt (Oder); Tourismusverein Frankfurt (Oder)

Resources

Budget: 4 411 763 Euros
EU Funds: 3 749 999 Euros
Own Funds: 661 764 Euros

Source: Bolfrashaus and Kleistturm Project

Main Achievements

The general outputs of the project included rebuilding the Bolfras House on the Frankfurt side while working on the Słubice side for developing technical documents on the reconstruction of the Kleist Tower (discovery of the remaining foundation; creating construction plans, reinforcement and ground preparation, as well as future planning of the intended uses). The restored Bolfras House is now open to the public, being the seat of a Polish-German tourist information centre, a large venue for offices and conference rooms as well being a documentation centre having the capacity to host exhibitions and cultural events.

Pomerania Euroregion

EUROREGION POMERANIA
POLSKA DEUTSCHLAND

General information

Date of creation: 1995
Countries: DE / PL
Area: 35 500 km²
Population: 2 700 000

Headquarters: Löcknitz (DE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Mechklenburg-Vorpommern-Brandenburg-Poland
CBC Programme South Baltic

Website: http://www.pomerania.net/de/

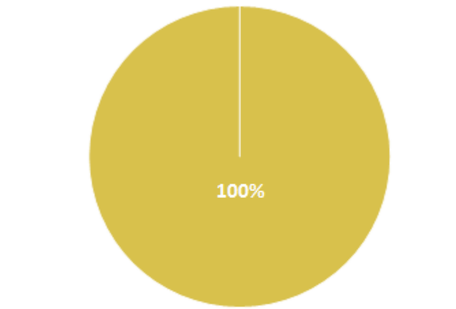
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Pomerania Euroregion is one of the last cross-border regions created along the Poland-Germany border. As it has often been the case in relationships between countries affected by the so-called “scars” of history, cross-border cooperation has been the main tool for resolving political and historical conflicts among neighbouring territories. In its original agreement, the Euroregion included the presence of Sweden, but it later abandoned the project in 2013. Therefore, today this vast cross-border area in the northernmost part of the Polish-German border mostly includes a long borderland with a short maritime section. At the institutional level, the Pomerania Euroregion is highly structured insofar as it presents a Euroregional council, an official Bureau coordinated by a secretary position and responsible for the Euroregion working groups as well as a common secretariat for administrative purposes. The Euroregion is also very experienced in the management of INTERREG funding, gaining double access to both the Polish-German-dedicated operational programme and the South Baltic programme.

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ✓ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- ✓ R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

Telemedicine within the Euroregion POMERANIA

TELEMEDIZIN IN DER EUROREGION POMERANIA
Lasst Daten wandern, nicht Patienten und Ärzte.

Period: 2010 - 2013
Main Theme: Health
Web: http://www.telepom.eu

Project Description

The project responds to a clear necessity inside the Euroregional territory for a general lack of advanced access to specialised medical disciplines, such as radiology, ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, etc. The general aim of the initiative is to promote the networking of small hospitals with larger ones of the main cities in the whole cross-border area. The activities include the setup of 8 different sub-projects realising a series of technological networking activities such as the setup of video-conference equipment, the creation of data-sharing web portals for accessing clinical info or the coordinated protocol for medical procedures to be consulted through remote communication technologies. The whole project is therefore meant to reinforce CBC medical cooperation and coordination within the border region.

Agents involved

Leader: Telemedicine European Region POMERANIA e. V. (CB)

Partners

PL: Medical University of Poznan; Pomeranian Medical University of Szczecin

DE: Telemedicine Euro POMERANIA eV - Part Brandenburg

Resources

Budget: 13 325 951 Euros
EU Funds: 11 327 057 Euros
Own Funds: 1 998 894 Euros

Source: Telemedicine within the Euroregion Pomerania Project

Main Achievements

The concrete list of achievements includes: a website database, online student lessons and quick videoconference setup for pathology studies (telepathology); a Tele-Stroke communications network for immediate neurological follow-ups and patient data exchange between remote clinics and big hospitals; a teleradiology network for immediate follow-up to radiological procedures and analysis of results; the installation of 52 advanced video conferencing systems in 14 clinic locations; An Ear-Nose-Throat (ENT) network for coverage of patient analysis on nights and weekends; an experimental and high-tech eye-scan technology network between a small and large hospital; a teleconference system for interdisciplinary approaches to cancer patients; finally, a telecardiology network with fast servers for exchanging urgent clinical data and collaborative treatment solutions.

Baltic Euroregion

General information

Date of creation: 1998
Countries: DK / LT/ PL / RU / SE
Area: 86.040 km²
Population: 5 562 705

Headquarters: Elbląg (PL)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg South Baltic

Website: http://www.eurobalt.org

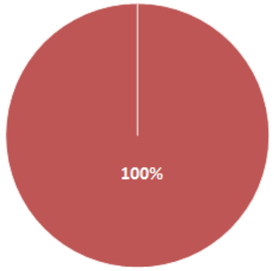
History

The Baltic Euroregion always wanted to become a regional cooperation hub for all the main countries of the Baltic area. It is also known as the first CBC structure that took on board a Russian territorial partner (Kaliningrad Oblast) into its list of members. All the participating public actors are located on both sides of the southeastern Baltic Sea, making an interesting case for a Euroregion with both land and maritime borders. At the organisational level, it possesses a highly institutionalised structure including an International Permanent Secretariat, an Executive Board, several regional antennae and an innovative Youth Board with members aged 16-25 actively participating in its governance process. Furthermore, the Baltic Euroregion is also involved in multiple cooperation initiatives and the development of concrete political cooperation. While playing a supportive role in the establishment of the EU Macro Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, it also has its own 2020 Agenda as it already helped establishing the South Baltic CBC programme.

Governance

- ○ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ✓ Public Law Agreement
- ○ Other

Euroregional partnership



	DK	LT	PL	RU	SE
Regional	1	1	2	1	3

Priorities

- ✓ Accessibility and Transportation
- ○ Cohesion and Social Integration
- ○ Education and Culture
- ○ Governance
- ○ Health
- ✓ Environment
- ○ R&I
- ✓ Security
- ○ Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

DISKE

Period: 2009 – 2011
Main Theme: Research and Investigation
Web: https://www.keep.eu/keep/project-ext/41594/DISKE?ss=059c29c22a310c94b7da5a4cee01006a&espon=

Leader: The City Commune of Elbląg (PL)

Project Description

The DISKE project ('Development of Innovative Systems through knowledge Exchange') aims to improve cooperation among the technology parks and incubators inside the whole Euroregional territory. It seeks further local economic development of its innovation SMEs by promoting stronger strategic alliances among local authorities, academia and companies, following the triple helix model. The project is expected to produce new networks of cooperation among the actors, improve technology and information transfer among them and organise various benchmarking events to promote new activities. The whole project was also oriented towards incorporating such best practices into future working methodologies and the individual strategies of relevant partners.

Agents involved

Partners

PL: Gdynia Innovation Centre, Budgetary Unit; Pomeranian Special Economic Zone; Center of Technology Western Pomerania

DK: Business Centre Bornholm

SE: VIDEUM AB

Resources

Budget: 1 315 311 Euros
EU Funds: 1 060 610 Euros
Own Funds: 254 701 Euros

Source: Baltic Euroregion

Main Achievements

The project realised more than ten study visits among the management staff of the different technology parks in three countries (Poland, Sweden and Germany). It also provided a series of specialist trainings for personnel involved in the field of effective technology park management. At the same time, it aided in organising thematic benchmarking events for the development of new sectorial alliances. In terms of long-lasting impacts, DISKE provided a final benchmarking report involving the analysis and comparison of different technology parks and centres, while inspiring them in producing new and more integrated development strategies and an official partner cooperation plan to be signed by all members.

Svinesund Committee

General Information

Date of creation: 1980
Countries: NO / SE
Area: 1 550 km²
Population: 558 000

Headquarters: Stromstadt (SE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Sweden-Norwmay

Website: http://www.svinesundskommitten.com

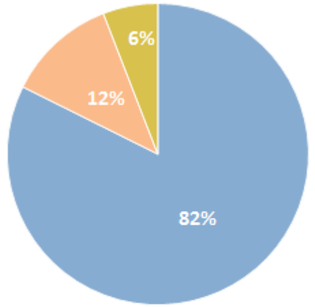
History

The Svinesund Committee is a political organisation established to handle cross-border cooperation between Swedish and Norwegian subnational actors lying close to the sound of Svinesund. The border area is situated ca. 120 km south of Oslo, Norway. It also represents the main port for trade, tourism, commuting and border traffic between the two countries. The sound narrowness in an internal sea-duct makes the case for an almost fluvial-like border rather than a pure maritime one. Svinesund is a further example of a successful cross-border cooperation ignited by the mandate of The Nordic Council of Ministers. Its mission is to promote sustainable development (both in green and blue growth) while working to reduce border obstacles for a more integrated cross-border region. At the institutional level, the committee was restructured and rebranded in 2014; before this, it was formerly known as the "Border Committee Østfold-Bohuslän / Dalsland". Today its governance is ensured by the presence of a board of directors and a steering committee, which are in turn supported by a general secretariat.

Governance

- [ ] EGTC
- [ ] EEIG
- [ ] LGTC
- [x] Private Law Association
- [ ] Public Law Agreement
- [ ] Other

Euroregional Partnership



	NO	SE
Local	7	7
Supralocal	1	1
Others	1	

Priorities

- [x] Accessibility and Transportation
- [ ] Cohesion and Social Integration
- [ ] Education and Culture
- [ ] Governance
- [ ] Health
- [x] Environment
- [ ] R&I
- [ ] Security
- [ ] Spatial Planinng
- [x] Local Economic Development

Freedom of Movement for Business

GRÄNSHINDER FÖR NÄRINGSLIVET

Period: 2011 - 2011
Main Theme: Governance
Web: http://www.granshinder.se

Leader: Fyrbodals kommunalförbund (Association of Municipalities) (SE)

Project Description

As one can anticipate from the project title, the general purpose of the initiative is the removal of as many barriers as possible between Sweden and Norway to improve business and commuting. The main goal is to stimulate growth and development in the border region between Goteborg / Karlstad and Oslo as well as in other border regions in Sweden and Norway. It intends to do so by investigating information service levels to cross-border commuters to determine whether it needs to be accompanied by a similar information service for business issues. General activities include a selection of pilot studies and some surveys regarding commuting and cross-border businesses between the two countries, separating the working packages along with four thematic areas of study.

Agents Involved

Partners

SE: Bengtsfors kommun; Dals-Eds kommun; Melleruds kommun; Strömstads kommun; Tanums kommun; Trollhättans Stad; Åmåls kommun; Västra Götaland County (*)

NO: Aremark kommune; Fredrikstad kommune; Halden kommune; Hvaler kommune; Rygge kommune; Råde kommune; Sarpsborg kommune; Østfold fylkeskommune (*)

(*): All partners are members of Svinesund Committe Euregio

Resources

Budget: 1 047 778 Euros
EU Funds: 506 667 Euros
Own Funds: 541 111 Euros

Source: Freedom of Movement for Bussines Project

Main Achievements

The main results of the project rotate around the achievements of the four theme groups: trade and industry, customs and tax, employees and finally collaboration and organisation. The first three groups have worked on making an inventory of border obstacles through the production of relevant studies, while the fourth group concentrated its work on finding new structures for collaboration and communication across the frontier. The mapping of border obstacles focused on making an inventory of trade and industry needs, distinguishing formal border obstacles from informal obstacles, including several types of difficulties ranging from everyday complications to substantial information deficiencies concerning cross-border procedures and practices.

Kvarken Council

General information

Date of creation: 1972
Countries: FI / SE
Area: 42 755 km²
Population: 760 000

Headquarters: Vaasa (FI)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Botnia-Atlantica

Website: http://www.kvarken.org

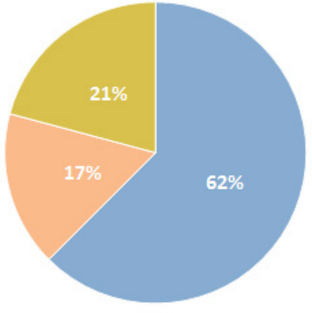
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Kvarken Council (also known as Quark Council) is one of several Nordic cross-border cooperation forums established by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The organisation started as an annual conference, but as soon as 1979, the Council officially became an institutional structure with its own bodies. The main objective of the organisation is to initiate activities for reducing border barriers in the region. Its area of involvement includes the narrowest part of the Gulf of Bothnia, which is also commonly known as "Kvarken". The distance between the two territories from coast to coast is around 80 km, making the case for a cross-border region with a clear maritime border. At the institutional level, the Swedish and Finnish public actors involved attend and participate in an annual meeting while leaving the Council Board to act as the operational management body. The Board is assisted by an official secretariat (headed by an assigned director) that hosts two operational teams (one for cross-border projects and the other for the administration of the cross-border region).

Euroregional partnership



	FI	SE
Local	11	4
Supralocal	3	1
Others	4	1

Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

Kvarken Short Cut System

Period: 2009 - 2012
Main Theme: Accessibility and Transportation
Web: http://www.kvarken.org/projects/other-projects/kvarken-short-cut-system

Project Description

The purpose of the Kvarken Shortcut System is the development of a proper European transport route in the cross-border region to stimulate its development. By taking in consideration the entire Euroregional territory, the project is meant to establish a set of coordinated activities for stimulating an operational model dedicated to all public and private actors in the area either working with or depending on infrastructure. Furthermore, for a more concerted action, the entire work has been coordinated in cooperation with the east-west corridor from Finland to Norway. The general activities include a series of key studies and dissemination activities for the Kvarken Strait transport vision in all its forms, i.e. as air-traffic or sea-traffic, bridge/tunnel or a combination of the above.

Agents involved

Leader: Kvarkenrådet r.f (FI)

Partners

SE: Regionförbundet Västerbotten

Resources

Budget: 1 100 000 Euros
EU Funds: 550 000 Euros
Own Funds: 550 000 Euros

Sources: Kvarken Short Cut System Project; Kvarken Council

Main Achievements

The main project outputs included producing information material on transport in the area and conducting individual "transport package" studies for relevant stakeholders of the cross-border region. In the study, considerable attention was paid to the social and economic significance of new routes across the Kvarken Strait. The main results therefore derived from the update of the Kvarken Strait transport vision in terms of its status and plans for its development. Most importantly, the general feasibility study proved to be an excellent practice for setting up the "Midway Alignment of the Bothnian Corridor" project for the 2014-2020 period with funding of 20 million Euros, which facilitated the setup of a new environmentally friendly ferry system integrated with railroad transport routes.

Bothnian Arc

General information

Date of creation: 2002
Countries: SE / FI
Area: 55.000 km²
Population: 710.000

Headquarters: Haparanda (SE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Nord

Website: https://www.bothnianarc.net

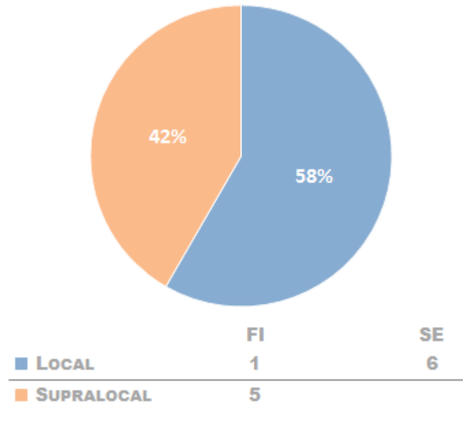
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- ✓ Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- Other

History

The Bothnian Arc aspires to be a cross-border space for a competitive and innovative area in Northern Europe. It was conceived as a forum for advancing the cross-border region's development with regard to increasing the quality of life and ensuring the safety of inhabitants. It is located in the northernmost part of the Baltic Sea and comprises the whole Bothnian Bay surrounding the coastal zone, marking the presence of both land and maritime borders. At the institutional level, the Swedish and Finnish public actors are involved mainly through the Board of Directors and a Working Committee, which are elected during the planned annual meeting for the actors of the region. At the same time, the institution holds a stable Bureau Office led by a formally elected President (also known as the CEO). The Bothnian Arc, which is one of the Nordic Border Co-operation organizations implemented by the Nordic Council of Ministers, is an excellent example for deeper cooperation levels achieved by countries in the area.

Euroregional partnership



Priorities

- Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- ✓ Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- ✓ Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- ✓ Local Economic Development

ENERU Efficient Energy Management in Barents region

Period: 2013 - 2014
Main Theme: Research and Investigation
Web: http://eneru.eu

Leader: Lapland University of Applied Sciences (FI)

Project Description

The ENERU project is meant to strengthen cross-border cooperation in energy management among the Russian southern Kola region, the Finnish Lapland and the Swedish Norrbotten areas. It has a series of energy efficiency audits in pre-selected buildings from cities in Russian territories designed to adjust the participating actors' auditing method and action plan to renewable energies. The project also considers the potential increase in business cooperation spawning from such practices. At the same time, the project stimulates the creation of a stable cross-border network involving management companies, local authorities and educational/research organisations for the transfer of knowledge, methodology and practical knowhow.

Agents involved

Partners

FI: Iin Micropolis Oy, Bionova Ltd; Kemi-Tornionlaakso Municipal Education and Training Consortium Lappia

SE: Piteå municipality, Bothnian Arc ekonomisk förening

RU: The Union of the Cities of the South of Kola Peninsula

Resources

Budget: 944 324 Euros
EU Funds: 449 903 Euros
Own Funds: 494 421 Euros

Source: ENERU Project

Main Achievements

The project included several outputs affecting the involved area. First of all, it conducted a target study on energy consumption in the three regions. The study comprised special energy audits and the development of an adjusted methodology based on international practices, alongside an analysis on renewable energy in the southern Kola region. Consequently, the project developed a specific Action Plan for energy management processes in the project. The ENERU team also dealt with specific dissemination tasks, particularly focusing on spreading information about market conditions and commercial possibilities in the energy efficiency sector for the Barents region. Lastly, several funded seminars, expert exchanges and study visits were organised for relevant stakeholders in the area.

FinEst Link (Helsinki-Tallin)

General information

Date of creation: 1999 (2015)
Countries: FI / EE
Area: 13 901 km²
Population: 2 186 151

Headquarters: Helsinki (FI), Tallin (EE)
Cross-Border Programme (2007-2013):
Interreg Central Baltic

Website: http://www.finestlink.fi

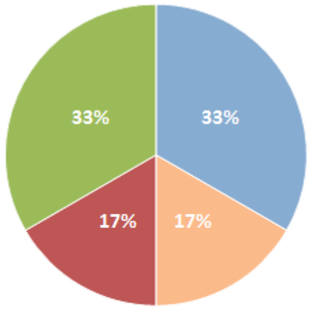
Governance

- EGTC
- EEIG
- LGTC
- Private Law Association
- Public Law Agreement
- ☑ Other

History

Formerly known as the Helsinki-Tallinn Euroregion up until 2013, this recently recreated cross-border initiative represents a fascinating case of Euroregion transformation according to the specific needs of a cross-border area. Having political cooperation on a multisector level reached an impasse between the two territories, the two cities decided to focus monothematically on the most important priority for their cross-border activities: accessibility and transportation. Due to the high mobility levels of commuters and tourists choosing to cross the 87 km of the Baltic strait separating Finland and Estonia, the FinEst Link Network aims to develop transport cooperation and improve existing transport links, managing integrated offers and electronic ticket services for joint mobility. At the same time, on a wider European strategy, the organisation also lobbies in favour of the construction of a future railway tunnel joining the regions. For the time being, the public actors involved have decided to sustain the organisation by framing it as a CBC project into the INTERREG Central Baltic programme, choosing an ad hoc steering committee instead of a stable secretariat.

Euroregional partnership



	FI	EE
Local	1	1
Supralocal		1
Regional	1	
National	1	1

Priorities

- ☑ Accessibility and Transportation
- Cohesion and Social Integration
- Education and Culture
- Governance
- Health
- Environment
- R&I
- Security
- Spatial Planinng
- Local Economic Development

Rail Baltica Growth Corridor

Period: 2010 - 2013
Main Theme: Accessibility and Transportation
Web: http://www.rbgc.eu/frontpage.html

Leader: City of Helsinki (FI)

Project Description

The Rail Baltica Growth Corridor (RBGC) project promoted transport policies for the development of multimodal logistics and modern railway infrastructure in the eastern Baltic Sea Region. The main objective was to improve passenger mobility and freight transportation inside and beyond the cross-border territory. In such a way, the project promoted multilevel dialogue on the transport policies of all Baltic countries. The general objective of the project was to improve the competitiveness and accessibility of Baltic cities and regions by increasing their interaction and collaboration. RBGC also aimed at creating a stable cooperation platform that observes the needs of the transport sector and its customers in line with green growth corridor principles.

Agents involved

Partners

FI: Aalto University Small Business Center; Lappeenranta University of Technology, Kouvola Unit; City of Vantaa; Uusimaa Regional Council; Regional Council of Häme

DE: Senate Department for Urban Development Berlin; Public Transport Authority Berlin-Brandenburg; Regional Planning Board Havelland-Flaeming

EE: City of Tallinn; Harju County Government

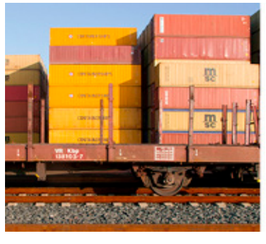
LV: Latvian Transport Development and Education Association (LaTDEA)

LT: Competence Centre of Intermodal Transport and Logistics of the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (CCITL VGTU); Kaunas City Municipal Administration

PL: City of Warsaw; City of Poznań; City of Łódź; Bialystok University of Technology; Self-government of the Mazovian Woivodshi; City of Bialystok; Marshal`s Office of the Lodz Voivodship

Resources

Budget: 3 587 090 Euros
EU Funds: 2 836 000 Euros
Own Funds: 751 090 Euros




Source: Rail Baltica Growth Corridor Project

Main Achievements

The project's research focused on a study that gathered data on public and private sector stakeholders and decision-makers in the field of transport and regional development. At the passenger level, an online platform incorporating connections from Europe with the East Baltic Region in terms of long-distance and local public transport provided free timetable information and with appropriate translation in the user's native language. Furthermore, it covered multimodal routes (road, rail, sea and air). At the stakeholders' level, the project realised a Logistics Pilot Model for the harmonisation of services and common interoperability between logistic centres in the wider region. Finally, the knowledge gained from the project was used to generate the Rail Baltica Growth Strategy policy document now applied in the whole eastern Baltic Sea Region.

Øresund Bridge

General information

Countries: DK / SE

Location: Malmö (SE)

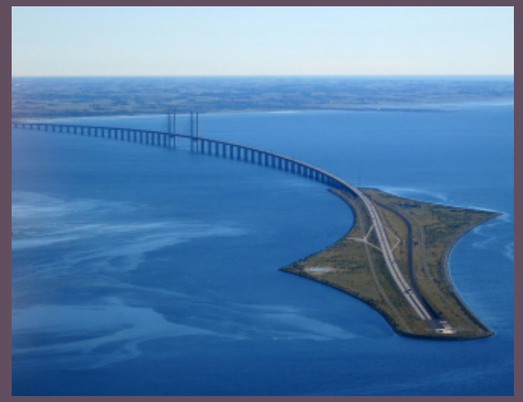
Date of creation: 1995

Length: 7.85 Km

Width: 23.5 m

Daily traffic: 19.000 road vehicles (2014)

Web: https://www.oresundsbron.com/en/
/node/6738ce.fr



Source: Wikipedia

Governance

- ○ EGTC
- ○ EEIG
- ○ LGTC
- ○ Private Law Association
- ○ Public Law Agreement
- ☑ Other

History & activities

The Oresund Bridge is the longest combined road and rail bridge in Europe. In terms of structure, it runs nearly 8 km from the Swedish coast to the artificial island Peberholm in the middle of the strait. The crossing is completed by the Drogden Tunnel stretching 4 km from Peberholm to the Danish island of Amager. The first idea of a bridge crossing the Oresund was presented in 1936 by a consortium of engineering firms. It kept being rejected for multiple reasons for several decades (i.e. WWII, the ensuing climate of distrust, economic crisis and political disagreements). The governments of Denmark and Sweden eventually signed an agreement to build a fixed link in 1973. However, that project was cancelled in 1978 due to the economic situation and growing environmental concerns. As the economic situation improved in the 1980s, interest continued and the governments signed a new agreement in 1991. The bridge was ultimately completed in 1999. Beyond the extensive traffic records registered, the Oresund Bridge has become part of the daily lives of the populations involved, also made popular through the criminal TV series (The Bridge), which is set there. Recently, it received new media coverage due to increasing concerns related to the immigration crisis (2016).

This Catalogue of Good Practices is dedicated to Euroregions, European organisations which are playing an influential role right on the borders of European countries and especially during a time when doubts continue to challenge the entire European integration process. In our view, Euroregions truly matter: they are a symbol of communal living across borders, which shape the diversity of the European continent. Therefore, we should provide every possible support in developing these structures as progressive indicators of cross-border activities that are fortunately spreading across internal (and some external) EU borders. With this Catalogue of Euroregional Good Practices, which was put together after four years of research, the COOP-RECOT II research team aims to provide a strong output for a revitalised debate on how to fully realise the potential of Euroregions. Therefore, we seek to provide a new tool in our quest for optimal solutions that could inspire a higher level of cross-border cohesion and favourable advancement of European Integration processes.

We intend to fulfil the aforementioned aims by introducing two separate sections in the Catalogue. In the first section, we begin by introducing contemporary theoretical contributions to CBC and Euroregions, including a comprehensive explanation of our working methodology throughout the research. By showing the process leading us to generate a global list as well as a specific selection for this catalogue, we aim to provide a solid quantitative analysis of our sample. In the second section, we present our research on 80 CB Euroregional structures selected in the form of data sheets that detail important information derived from our database. The technical data are also accompanied by a short description of the Euroregion as well as the features of the corresponding CBC project.