Cross-border cooperation
European Commission
State of play on the Regulations

• Discussion EC proposal in EP and Council
  • EP: negotiation position adopted on 15/1
  • Council: on-going, adoption common negotiation position expected June

• Key issues:
  • Architecture and strands
  • Maritime cooperation, Component 5 (interregional innovation), Urbact, Interreg Europe
  • Small Projects Fund
  • Budget for ETC.......: linked to MFF negotiations
Border Orientation Papers

Border needs in focus
CBC is wider than Interreg
EU-level data
Basis for discussion
Territorial dimension

• Different typologies of regions
• Concept of functional areas
• Use of ITI and CLLD as tools for joint territorial investments
• Embedding cooperation
  • Links with macro regional strategies
  • Links with mainstream IGJ programmes
Growth, competitiveness, connectivity

- Common elements and interests in smart specialisation strategies
- Support to internationalisation of SMEs
- E-government: cross border strategy and joint e-government services
- Connectivity: missing links and improved cross border public transport services
Greener, low carbon economy

• Climate change and risk management: cross border preventive measures and joint emergency services
• Biodiversity and joint management of nature protection
• Energy transition: potential for renewable energy
• Circular economy: shift towards recycling and preventive measures
Employment, education, health

• Very important- Direct impact on citizens in border regions
• Obstacles have big impact: potential remains unused
• Cross-border public services
• Explore potential of e-Health and e-Education
• Multilingualism
Geography of the programmes

- **Allocation area** = to calculate the ETC allocation per MS
- **Programme area** = NUTS 3 regions along border
- **Functional area** = most effective by policy field
- **Eligibility** = no limit if impact on programme area
- **Partnership** = MC members to be decided by partners
Better cooperation governance

Policy objective

• Reduce cross border obstacles
• Trust-building measures, especially for citizens
• Institutional capacity building

Focus on i.a.: catalyst via identifying obstacles/finding solutions

Activities: Studies, cross-border data, pilot projects, expertise, experience and staff exchange, training, P2P, meetings
Cross-border obstacles

« If 20% are removed, 2% additional growth for border regions »

Obstacles: legal, administrative, language, physical, lack of trust...

Overcoming obstacles = exploiting unused potential:
- More prosperity (e.g. bigger markets for enterprises)
- More opportunities (e.g. to find a job)
- More economies (e.g. saving through joint infrastructures)
- More territorial cohesion (i.e. people have a future in CB region)

Examples: Inventory in CB review, B-solutions, ECBM
Border obstacles examples

• Thermal water usage at ES-PT border
• Common bus station in Tornio-Haparanda at SE-FI border
• Water supply at PL-LT border
Small Projects Fund
« People should not have borders in their minds »

What?
• Local mainly people-to-people small projects
• Targeted groups (SMEs and micro-enterprises, NGOs...)

Why? Trust-building and visibility of EU among citizens

Small Projects Fund benefits:
– Reduce the administrative burden for final recipients and MA
– Dedicated body > more expertise, efficiency and visibility
– Cross-border body > ensure cross-border dimension
Embedding cooperation

« Cooperation is not the sole responsibility of Interreg »

- Many other funding sources
  - EU, National, regional, private, IFI
  - Grants, loans, capital (EIB)
- ERDF (indicate cooperation potential for each specific objective)
  - More funds
  - New partners
  - More ambitious projects
- Proactive coordination (overlaps, complementarities, synergies)
CB strategies

« With less budget, choices need to be made »

1) Analyse the CB region (SWOT, socio-economic, issues + needs)
   !!! Include all the existing strategies (regional, sectoral, etc.)
2) Consult stakeholders and civil society
3) Reflect together and make clear choices (priorities + resources)
4) Draft a clear document (including shorter for citizens)
5) Political support
Involve stakeholders and civil society

« Those who will benefit or implement need to have a say »

**Why?**
Complements know how/input public bodies; builds solid support basis for programming and implementation

**Who?**
Cities/ municipalities, associations/ NGOs, universities, enterprises, civil society, representative organisations,...

**What?**
Preparation and implementation of the programme (including in the Monitoring Committees)