

Second Cross-Border Discussions

From INTERREG III to the European territorial cooperation objective: new context, new challenges, evolving professions

Kehl, 30th of November and 1st of December 2006

Background

With effect from 1 January 2007, the system of support for cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation actions in Europe will be modified profoundly. Whereas it was previously covered by a community initiative programme (INTERREG III) outside the three central objectives of the cohesion policy, in January it becomes a strategic objective in its own right, that of “European territorial cooperation”. This change clearly affirms the integration of cross-border procedures into an overall policy of “balanced, harmonious and sustainable development” of the European territory (Commission communication of 14 July 2004). This means that the implementation of new programmes and the eligibility of projects will be governed directly by overall development requirements, including through alignment with the Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives.

In other words, between INTERREG III and the European territorial cooperation objective there is not just a transition between two generations of a given programme, but a transformation with stakes going well beyond the change in wording: there is in fact a radically new context, responding to new issues and involving a thorough rethinking of the “professional activities” of cross-border cooperation.

Objectives

The overall objective of the conference is to record and disseminate knowledge of cross-border cooperation by comparing the points of view of researchers and practitioners. In this way it contributes to improving the professional practices of those involved in cross-border projects.

To accomplish this the participants will have to:

- question their practices
- compare their own experiences with those of the speakers and the other participants
- contribute actively to the discussion
- be aware of the new context of European structural funding in the areas of cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation
- assess the implications of this change in the field
- consider the effect of these changes on the training and the professional activities of cross-border project workers.

PROGRAMME

Thursday 30.11.06

From 12 p.m. Reception and registration of participants
Buffet

1.30 p.m. **Opening**
Presentation on the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) and on the importance of improving professional practice in the cross-border context
Jacques Houbart, Executive manager of the MOT, INTERFORM Lead Partner

Presentation on the INTERFORM project
Concetta Mundo-Atif, INTERFORM project leader, MOT

Presentation on the Euro-Institut and on the objectives of the second *Entretiens du Transfrontalier* conference
Dr. Joachim Beck, Director of the Euro-Institut

2.00 p.m. **Workshop 1 : What is the present context of cross-border cooperation and what will be the scope and the limits of the new strategic situation introduced by the European territorial cooperation objective?**
Chaired by **François Moullé**, Professor, University of Artois (France)

Through the framework, the examples and the topics for consideration proposed by the various communications, the discussions will be able to focus on the following issues:

Going beyond the affirmation of new objectives, does the actual situation of the territories concerned lend itself to a radical review of the principles that have governed the preparation and implementation of projects until now?

Will the change in the issues taken into account in community policies not inevitably come up against the inertia of realities in the field?

Does the potential distortion between the ambitions assigned to the new programmes and the capacity of projects to adapt not risk exacerbating the tensions observed in the past between programme principles and project principles?

Changes in cross-border cooperation since the introduction of the INTERREG programmes: an anachronism or the logical continuation for territorial cooperation in 2007. Historical analysis of the Upper Rhine as an example *(in French)*

Birte Wassenberg, Professor, Robert Schuman University (contemporary history of European integration), Strasbourg (France)

The Basel tri-national conurbation in the context of European cooperation *(in French)*

Martin Weber, Cross-border cooperation officer, Justizdepartement Basel-Stadt (Switzerland)
Frédéric Duvinage, General coordinator of the Basel Trinational Association (France)

Between community changes and local constants, a perspective on cross-border issues through the experience of the Pôle Européen de Développement (PED) *(in French)*

Christian Lamour, Research geographer at the CEPS/INSTEAD (Luxembourg)

The Educational co-operation as an answer to sustainable development : the example of France-Suriname co-operation *(in French)*

Isabelle Hidair, Social anthropologist and ethnologist, Institut Universitaire de la Formation des Maîtres (IUFM) (University institute for teacher training) of French Guiana (France)

Questions from the audience

4.00 p.m. **Break**

4.30 p.m. **Workshop 2 : What new opportunities do the changes in the community project support system offer to cross-border project workers? What constraints to they involve? What are the prospects for the future?**

Chaired by **Robert Botteghi**, Professor, University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis (France)

As formulated, the European territorial cooperation objective calls for a new linkage of cross-border projects with the general development policies of the territories concerned or adjacent territories. Does the significant increase in financial appropriations available for cross-border actions (beyond the mechanical effects of taking enlargement into account) really allow these new principles to be taken into consideration?

What are the advantages and the opportunities of the new situation with regard to the specific objectives of cross-border cooperation?

Is there not a risk of dilution of the specific nature of transnational cooperation in broader territorial policies? Does it still make sense to maintain a strict difference between cross-border cooperation and transnational cooperation?

The new Quadrilateral Maritime Cross-Border Cooperation Programme - for local cross-border cooperation?

Ron Moys, Policy Manager, Kent County Council (Great Britain)

The challenges of maritime cross-border cooperation after 2006 *(in French)*

Thibaut Lespagnol, Assistant to the Head of the Europe Department of the Seine-Maritime department (France)

Metamorphoses of territorial cooperation, from geographical proximity to digital spaces *(in French)*

Michel Casteigts, Associate professor, University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour (France)

'Knowledge territories', paradigms of cross-border cooperation *(in French)*

Andre Jean-Marc Loechel, Chairman of the European Network of Digital Cities

Questions from the audience

6.30 p.m. **End of day 1**

Friday 01.12.06

9.00 a.m. **Reception of participants**

9.30 p.m. **Workshop 3 : To what transformations of cross-border know-how and, eventually, professional activities are these changes leading?**

Chaired by **Dr. Joachim Beck**, Director of the Euro-Institut (Germany)

Is the traditional know-how applied to the design, setup and implementation of cross-border projects appropriate for this new situation? What enhancements are necessary in the knowledge and competencies of those involved in cross-border cooperation? What are the issues for initial and continuing training in cross-border cooperation? How do teaching approaches and methods need to be revised? What are the specific features of cross-border professional activities among all the activities of territorial development? How can they be recognized without isolating them?

What skills and knowledge will be needed to make future territorial co-operation a success?

Verena Hachmann, Research associate at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh (Great Britain)

New trends in the European territorial cooperation programme and consequences on professional categories in the German-Dutch border area *(in French)*

Erich Tilkorn, Director of the regional and economic planning department of the Regierungsbezirk of Münster, North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)

Training together modest but operational operational cross-border actors : the experience of common training sessions between the Technological College of Sarreguemines, France and the University of Applied Sciences of Saarbrücken, Germany *(in French)*

Jean-Marie Fèvre, Professor, IUT de Moselle-Est (Management Science), Sarreguemines (France)

Facing the new European programmes period : the rationalization of cross-border cooperation management in the public administrations *(in French)*

Saverio Catella, consultant, Imperia (Italy)

Questions from the audience

12.00 p.m. **Conference lunch**

1.30 p.m. **Round table and discussion:**

Synthesis of the workshops by the three workshop chairpersons

Chaired by **Michel Casteigts**, Associate Professor, University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour

2.40 p.m. The Territorial Agenda for the European Union

André Müller, Coordinator of the editorial group

3.00 p.m. **Conclusion and prospects**

Jacques Houbart, Executive manager of the MOT, INTERFORM Lead Partner

Michel Casteigts, Associate Professor, University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour

3.30 p.m. **End of the conference**