

Proposal

for the establishment
of the CETC EGTC

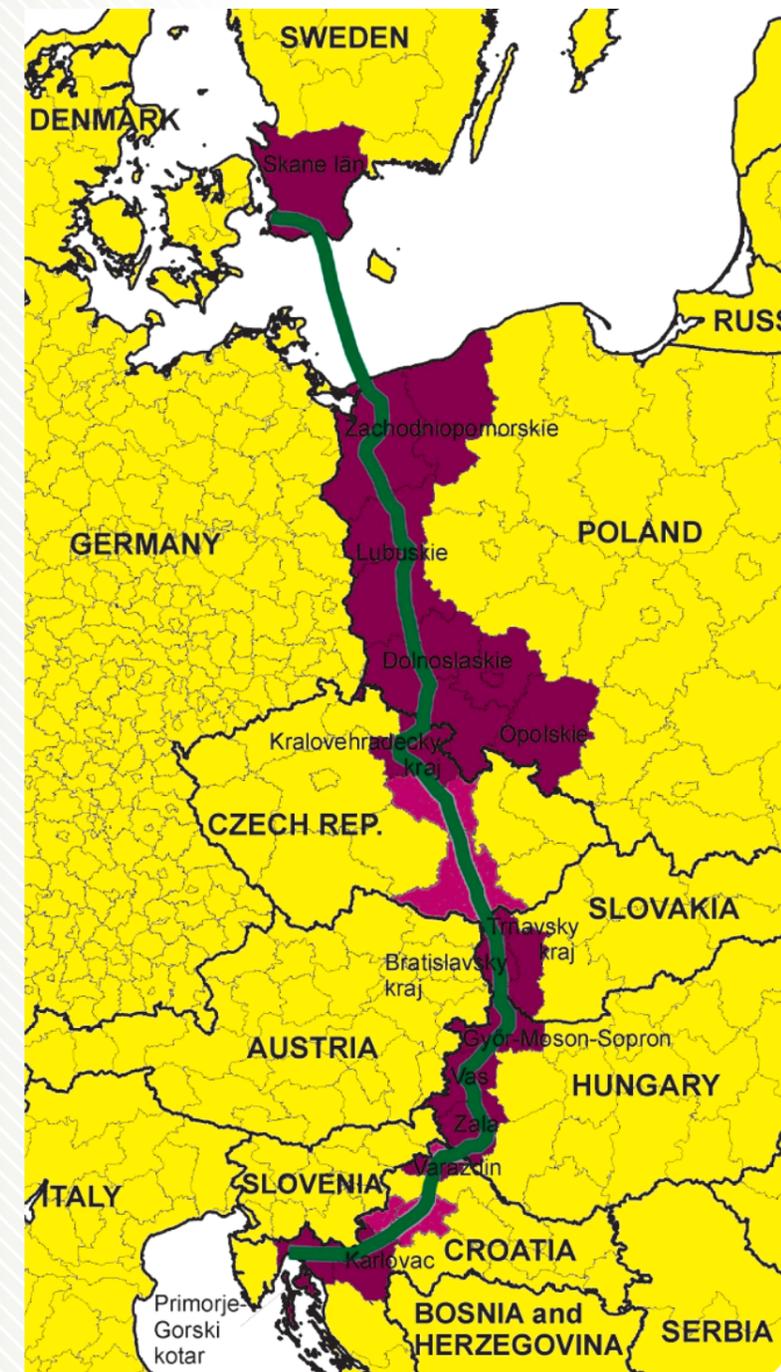




On the 26th May 2010, the Steering Committee of the CETC consortium in its meeting in Varaždin (Croatia) approved a letter of intent to establish a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). The Technical Secretariat of the consortium has charged the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI) with the preparation works of the organization. According to the proposal prepared by the CESCI the CETC EGTC might be established as a network EGTC.

Brief introduction to the CETC initiative

The CETC Initiative was established in April 2004 in Szczecin (Poland) by Swedish, Polish, Bohemian and Slovak regions after these regions had expressed their willingness to cooperate for the establishment and promotion of the Central European Transport Corridor in 2001. During 2007 the first Hungarian and Croatian counties joined the declaration. The axis of the Corridor is the international route E65, which starts in Malmö in Sweden and ends in Chaniá in Crete. The initiative plans to create a transport corridor between the Baltic Sea and the Adriatic Sea.



Aims of the CETC Initiative

- ▶ Striving for lasting regional cooperation within the Central European Transport Corridor (CETC-ROUTE65) as a means to revive economies of member regions, increase employment, improve the quality of the natural environment and living conditions of its inhabitants.
- ▶ Ensuring the compatibility of the transport infrastructure of the entire Corridor region in order to reduce development barriers to new transport technologies in various regions of the CETC-ROUTE65 area.
- ▶ Promotion and development of intermodal transport links as well as stimulating efforts to transfer freight from road to multi-modal, sea – land connections, which are more environment and people friendly.
- ▶ Increasing economic growth among Baltic countries by finding new markets and use of the shortest ferry connection across the Baltic Sea, linking Northern Europe with Southern Europe.



During the last meetings of the Steering Committee it has become clear that the CETC initiative in its recent operational structure had completed its mission. To step forward a new institutional form is desired.

The new organisation has to resolve the problems as follows:

- ▶ achieve deeper identification and involvement of the members,
- ▶ ensure permanent and independent operation of the organization at a professional and financial level,
- ▶ create clear circumstances of responsibilities within the structure,
- ▶ ensure the execution of the decisions at the level of the members,
- ▶ ensure the ability to react in a faster and flexible way to the changing needs and circumstances,
- ▶ make the initiative more visible on a Community level, thus further the success of lobbying activities,
- ▶ intensify the cooperation at the planning, strategic and project level.



Reflections on the network EGTCs

The Regulation 1082/2006/EC on a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union on 5 July 2006. According to the Regulation, EGTC has a legal personality in the relevant countries, it can hire own employees, start and lead institutions as well as enterprises in all member countries. The EGTC is a new legal and institutional instrument of the European Territorial Cooperation for managing programmes, projects and governing institutions created during the realization of the programme or project as well as within the frame of a more institutionalized cross-border, transnational or interregional cooperation. Up to the end of 2010, 16 EGTCs have been registered in the European Union. The operation of these EGTCs has already outgrown this classification as most of them fulfil governance duties as well.

The draft of the EGTC regulation was introduced in 2004 under the name of European Grouping of **Cross-border** Cooperation. It means that the initiators saw the target group as direct cross-border cooperation body. During the debate of the draft version the idea emerged that this new instrument might also be able to sustain common institutions in the nature of transnational and interregional cooperation. In this way, the name has been changed into European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation. Similarly, the content has

grown as well. Functionally, the established EGTCs can be divided into four types. Most of these EGTCs form the type of spatial development initiatives that follow former euroregions. They are geographically continuous cross-border development areas, generally reaching into the territory of two states. The aim of these EGTCs is to create and operate permanent common institutions. The Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai EGTC and the Ister-Granum EGTC can be the typical examples.

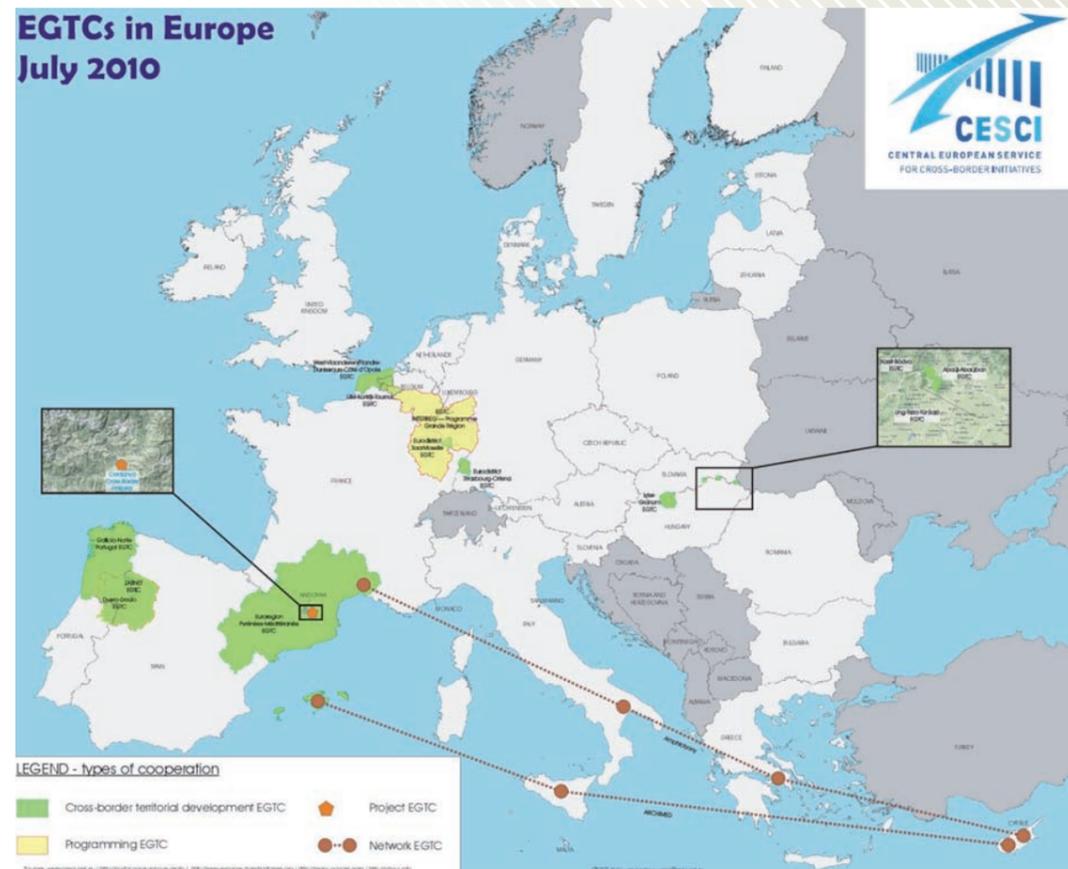
We can classify the EGTC as another group, the project EGTC. Only one single project EGTC has been established till now. The Pyrenees-Cerdagne EGTC's aim is to create a hospital service which will give medical treatment to patients from both sides of the French-Spanish border.



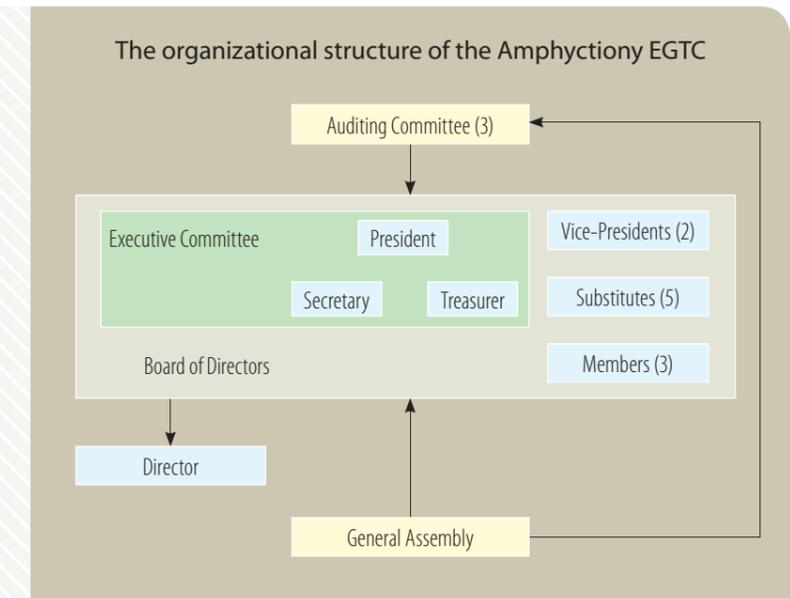
Similarly we know only one single example of a programming EGTC. The Grande Région has set that its aim is to manage the ETC CBC programme on the French-German-Belgian-Luxemburg border area.



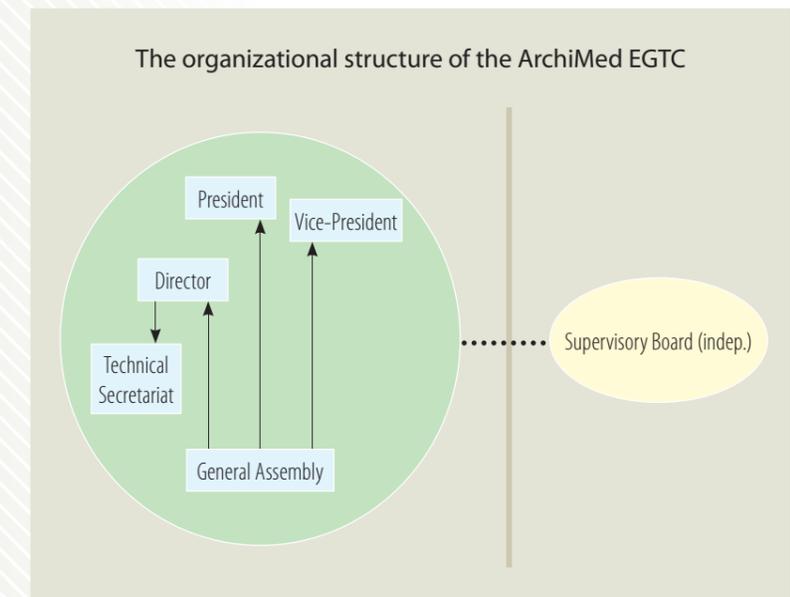
Finally, we can classify the EGTC as another group, the network EGTCs. This cooperation is not based on geographical but thematic "proximity" where the basis of cooperation is composed of certain themes; interests that unite the participants. Network EGTCs can also be built up at a transnational and inter-regional level.



The first two network EGTCs have been set up in the Mediterranean. **Amphyctiony** was established in 2008 by 53 (Greek, Cyprian, Italian and French) municipalities with a seat of Athens. The EGTC aims to realize mainly soft projects concerning the environment protection, human rights, culture, participation etc. The long running objective of the initiative is to unite all the nations around the Mediterranean.



ArchiMed was initiated by Sicily in 2009. The name (Arcipelago Mediterraneo) refers to islands situated in the Mediterranean basin, the organization unites the Balearic Islands, Sicily and Cyprus (3 members only). The fields of the cooperation also include transport.



In the case of the CETC the common field is a complex program management which contains planning, programming, project development, interest harmonizing, lobbying etc. activities. These activities compose such complex and multilevel group of functions that must be integrated within a steady legal entity. An EGTC is the proper institutional solution:

- to manage programmes of a larger programming area (including the preparation and the realization of the programme);

- to harmonize the different interests, planning methods and decision-making processes of the stakeholders;
- to use the capacities owned by the participants of the cooperation in a more integrated and economic way;
- to create a sustainable institutional background for a long-term development programme.

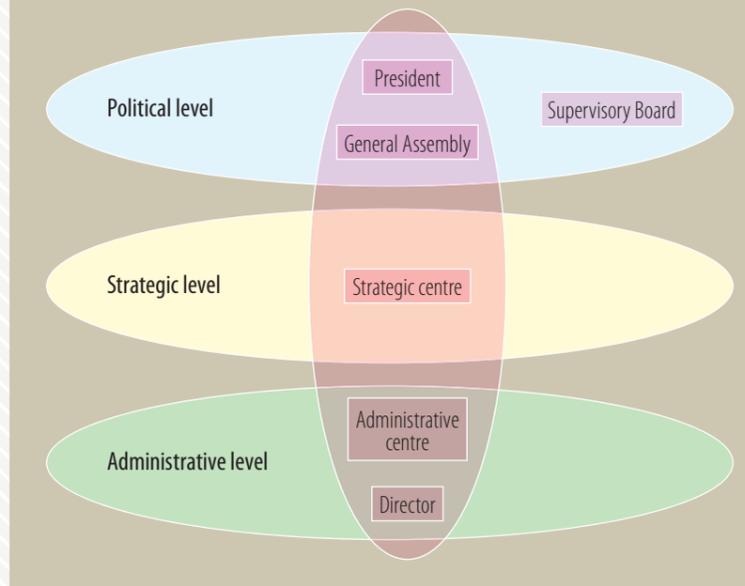
The potential tasks of the planned EGTC are the followings:

- ▶ **programme management:** management of the complex development programme of the "Green Corridor", representing and harmonizing the interests, strategies and planned projects of the members, creation of joint strategic documents;
- ▶ **political issues:** representation of the consortium in front of national authorities (lobbying for harmonizing the development plans, planning methods, provisions, standards of transportation of member states etc.) and EU institutions (lobbying for accrediting the CETC as a TEN-T corridor, managing the representation of the initiative at the European institutions etc.);
- ▶ **project management:** implementation and management of specific comprehensive (border crossing) projects;
- ▶ **ensuring the political operation:** prepare and execute the decisions, operate the bodies of the organization;
- ▶ **running the organization:** long-term operation of programmes and institutions, networks, workshops etc. established as a result of the projects (sustainability criterion);
- ▶ **PR activities:** ensure large publicity and a social awareness of the initiative (organizing conferences, operating a common web site in every member language, printing brochures, production and sharing of PR articles etc.);
- ▶ **establishment and operation of professional networks** and cooperation bodies within the development programme of the CETC initiative;
- ▶ **fulfilling daily functions** associated with the day to day operation of the EGTC (administration).

Based on this, the clearly distinctive task levels are as follows:

1. **political management:** decision making, management of the network, lobbying;
2. **strategic management:** programme management, project management, operation of professional networks and workshops;
3. **administrative management:** running the institution, preparation of decisions, carrying out daily operational tasks, PR.

Proposed organizational structure of the CETC EGTC



The national provisions

compared by the CESCO

Czech Republic

154 ZÁKON (ze dne 7. 7. května 2009) kterým se mění zákon č. 248/2000 Sb. o podpoře regionálního rozvoje, ve znění pozdějších předpisů, zákon č. 218/2000 Sb., o rozpočtových pravidlech a o změně některých souvisejících rozpočtových zákonů (rozpočtová pravidla), ve znění pozdějších předpisů, a zákon č. 89/1995 Sb., o státní statistické službě, ve znění pozdějších předpisů

Hungary

Act XCIX of 2007 on the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (The act came into force on 1 August 2007.)



Poland

Act 1390 of 7 November 2008 on the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (the act came into force on January 9, 2009.)

Slovakia

Act of 15 February 2008 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation and on the amendment of Act No 540/2001 Coll. on state statistics, as amended

Sweden

Multilevel regulation (law and government decree)

- ▶ Law of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (SFS 2009:704);
- ▶ Government decree amending the Regulation (2007:1110) with instructions for Bolagsverket (SFS 2009:706);
- ▶ Government decree on the register of European grouping of territorial cooperation (SFS 2009:705);
- ▶ Law amending the Audit Act (1999:1079), (SFS 2009:703);





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