



IMPLEMENTING THE NEW LEGISLATION ON EGTC

Dialogue with the national authorities

Proceedings of the workshop
held at the Committee of the Regions

Brussels, 10 July 2014
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Implementing the New Legislation on EGTC



Dialogue with the National Authorities

26 June 2014

Record of the proceedings

Drawn up by the Committee of the Regions of the European Union

Committee of the Regions of the European Union
Unit E.2 – Subsidiarity Network / Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform / Covenant of Mayors / EGTC
Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 99-101, Brussels
Room JDE 70, Listening room JDE 61

For more information about the EGTC: <http://www.cor.europa.eu/egtc>
Event website: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/Events/Pages/Implementing-the-new-legislation-on-EGTC.aspx>

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Implementing the new legislation on EGTC

Dialogue with the national authorities

On 26 June 2014, the Committee of the Regions and the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the European Union jointly organised a workshop aimed at strengthening the dialogue between EGTCs and national authorities with regard to the implementation of the new EGTC Regulation and the implementation of specific provisions of the new Cohesion Policy that are relevant to the EGTC.

The seminar was chaired by **Mr Herwig Van Staa** (AT/EPP), President of the Parliament of Tyrol and Coordinator of the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions. Keynote speeches were presented by **Mr Antonios Karvounis**, on behalf of the Hellenic Ministry of Interior and the Greek Presidency, by **Mr Joachim Zeller**, Member of the European Parliament and Rapporteur on the revision of the EGTC Regulation, as well as by **Mr Vassilis Xenos**, Director of the EGCT 'Amphyctiony'. The European Commission was represented by **Mr Dirk Peters**, representing the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy. Speakers also included **Dr Norbert Jankai**, Legal Director of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI), and **Mr Jens Gabbe**, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Association of European Borders Regions (AEBR).

About 80 participants took part in the event, representing EU institutions, EU Member States – including Greece, Cyprus, Spain, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Romania and France –, third countries, EGTCs, local and regional authorities, territorial associations, and experts.

The workshop took place from 14:30 pm to 17:30 pm at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. It was broadcast via web-streaming and tweeted with the hashtag #EGTC.

➤ Statements

Keynote speakers

Speaking on behalf of the Committee of the Regions, the Coordinator of the EGTC Platform **Mr Herwig Van Staa**, President of the Parliament of Tyrol, opened the meeting by giving an overview of recent developments concerning the EGTC.

Mr Van Staa presented the study on 'EGTC and the Single Market', commissioned by the CoR noting that this topic is of particular relevance, since overcoming market barriers has been identified as one of the tasks for the EGTC within the new EGTC Regulation.

Mr Van Staa reminded participants that, during the last annual meeting of the EGTC Platform in February, the President of the Committee of the Regions, Mr Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, had expressed clear support to the EGTC. Mr Van Staa underlined the need to pursue the successful cooperation of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Member States represented in the Council and the Committee of the Regions, in order to jointly tackle the current challenges confronted by the EGTC and ultimately be successful in integrating Europe across borders and bringing its citizens closer together.

Before giving the floor to the keynote speakers, Mr Van Staa expressed his satisfaction about the large number of Member States participating in the workshop, as well as his hope that even more Member States and EGTC would participate in similar events in the future.

Mr Antonios Karvounis, representing the Hellenic Ministry of Interior and the Greek Presidency, recalled the priorities of the Presidency which focused on needs of citizens and included boosting growth, jobs, and job-creating investments. He underlined that EGTC are called upon to play a more active role in the new programming period by implementing programmes and new instruments such as Joint Action Plans (JAP) and Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI), contributing their knowledge and orientation to the development of the macro-regional strategies, and consolidating cooperation with non-EU countries. These developments are welcomed by the Hellenic Ministry of Interior. Mr Karvounis further explained that his Ministry had set up flexible and effective procedures for authorizing new EGTC and was engaged in regular and constructive cooperation with the Greek EGTC through initiatives such as the creation of a national register and the implementation of networking activities with national and European stakeholders. He closed by identifying the need to further increase awareness of the added value of the EGTC at political level as one of the main challenges to be addressed through events such as the present workshop.

Mr Joachim Zeller pointed out that there was still a lack of understanding about the potential of the EGTC as an instrument opening up new opportunities of territorial and cross-border cooperation, which can complement and reinforce existing instruments and procedures. He expressed his optimism that this legal instrument of territorial cooperation was going to further assert itself, noting that there was an increased awareness among citizens about the fact that many challenges confronted by border

regions can be better overcome jointly than at national level. He also pointed out that cross-border regions with a common identity, which had been separated by national borders during the last 200 years, were exploring new possibilities of cooperation through the EGTC. Mr Zeller stated that the new EGTC regulation had created the legal basis for realising these opportunities, and that further efforts were now necessary in order to provide relevant information to the parties concerned and to overcome initial mistrust towards the new instrument where necessary. Mr Zeller concluded by stating that he and his colleagues within the REGI Committee of the European Parliament were ready to act as partners contributing to the success of the EGTC Regulation and to work together with the Commission and the Committee of the Regions in developing this legal instrument as a means to furthering cross-border cooperation both within the EU and reaching beyond the borders of the European Union.

Mr Vassilis Xenos, Director of the EGTC 'Amphictiony' agreed that the changes in the EGTC Regulation were indeed going in the right direction. He raised the question how the actual practical implementation would progress now that the Regulation had entered into force and to what extent the political will manifested by the EU institutions that had adopted the Regulation also existed in the Member States. He further asked whether the EGTC were actually being perceived as partners or rather as obstacles by some Member States and whether there had been a sufficiently developed information campaign about the EGTC directed at local and regional authorities. The question of the legal basis of the EGTC, their participation in territorial and social cohesion programmes, the possibility to manage programmes, and their participation in macro-regions were some of the current challenges identified by Mr Xenos. Pointing out that once a commune or local council was involved in certain types of activities, the EGTC couldn't get involved, Mr Xenos called for an immediate implementation of the EGTC Regulation in the Member States and for the creation of an institutionalised dialogue between the EGTC and the national authorities. In conclusion, Mr Xenos stated that the EGTC Amphictiony, established in 2008 but with a long previous experience under a different legal personality, had followed the development of the EGTC from the very beginning, and that he was convinced that the EGTC community was composed of people who want to do something, rather than just to be someone, in the words of Jean Monnet.

Following the keynote speeches, the workshop continued with two round table discussions.

Roundtable 1: The implementation of the EGTC Regulation

The first roundtable discussion addressed the implementation of the new EGTC Regulation in the Member States.

Mr Dirk Peters, representing the European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy, opened the roundtable discussion by presenting the new EGTC Regulation, recalling Member States' obligations to adopt amended rules and summarizing the principal new elements of the Regulation with regard to EGTC membership, approval procedures, applicable law and other aspects.

Mr Eleftherios Stavropoulos, representing the Permanent Representation of Greece to the European Union and the Greek Presidency, reassured the participants that putting the Regulation into practice was clearly the will of the Member States and that the presence of representatives of many Member States at the present workshop was a clear demonstration of their commitment to implement the Regulation.

Mr Nikolaos Krimianiotis, General Manager of the EGTC Efxini Poli – Solidarity Network, addressed a point related to staff, raising the question of the applicable law in the Greek context. He pointed out that, in Greece, EGTC are currently treated as public bodies by the Greek authorities, which entailed the necessity to conform to specific hiring procedures. **Mr Peters** clarified that the Regulation did not specify the public or private status of the EGTC; however, the national implementing rules could determine this status in different ways. **Mr Antonious Karvounis** confirmed that the specific procedures applied in Greece may require considerable time and give rise to a number of obstacles to the movement of staff, which is why a Parliamentary Committee is currently looking into the question. **Mr Herwig van Staa** contributed the experience of the EGTC Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino, where staff seconded by the participating regions is employed under the public law of their countries of origin, while the EGTC is also able to hire staff directly under private law. **Mr Karvounis** added that good practices from EGTCs in other Member States can indeed help to find answers to such questions and that the CoR fulfilled a crucial role in disseminating these practices. **Mr Krimianiotis** clarified that it was in particular the hiring of staff charged with the implementation of a cooperation programme, such as experts, that could result in lengthy procedures.

Mrs Honorine Schwarz, taking the floor on behalf of the EGTC Pyrenees-Mediterranean, addressed the issue that, in France, EGTC were assimilated to structures already existing under French law, and that as a result, French public law was applied in terms of staff and financial management. She questioned the validity of this construction that gave priority to the national law and raised the question whether the new regulation would address this problem. **Mr Peters** reacted voicing his concern about the implementation of the Regulation in France, with staff being one of the big issues: as EGTC are assimilated to the existing French structure of *syndicat mixte* in France, French public law has been applied to their staff, even if the latter is neither of French nationality nor working on the French territory. Therefore the possible choices related to staff have been clarified in the new

Regulation. Mr Peters concluded by reminding participants that, should there be doubts about the correct implementation of the Regulation in a Member State, this should be signalled to the Commission. **Mr Zeller** noted that there was often significant resistance from the Member States to concrete initiatives such as the revision of the EGTC Regulation, which may require relegating national interests in favour of better cooperation. He expressed the view that long-term efforts were still going to be necessary until the choice of the applicable rules on cooperation initiatives was indeed left to the cooperating partners where possible. **Mr Van Staa** assured participants that the EU institutions were aware of the problem raised and explored possible approaches to finding a solution.

Mr Alfonso Alcolea, Administrator in charge of the EGTC Platform within the Secretariat-General of the Committee of the Regions, pointed out that while, in theory, Member States should authorize exceptions related to staff, procurement, taxation, applicable rules etc., the questionnaires circulated in preparation of the meeting illustrated how these aspects may create barriers for the establishment of an EGTC, in particular due to the reluctance of other Ministries and departments less familiar with the EGTC. Thus, one major challenge consists in overcoming these barriers. In this regard, **Mr Peters** referred to the recently adopted Directive 2014/24/EU on Public Procurement, which explicitly mentions the EGTC. Thus even authorities dealing with procurement that were so far not involved in the EGTC will be obligated to familiarize themselves with them. **Dr Nőra Ivády**, Head of Department at the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary, summarized Hungary's position and pointed out that EGTCs usually tend to choose the simpler solution, corresponding to the law of the country where they have their seat. She emphasized that the Hungarian authorities were quite flexible in authorising these solutions and supportive of the EGTC.

Mr Jens Gabbe, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), expressed his view that increasing the pressure on Member States may sometimes be the only solution ensuring a successful practical implementation of initiatives of cross-border cooperation in spite of resistance from the national level.

Dr Norbert Jankai, Legal Director of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI), concluded the first roundtable discussion by underlining the fact that cooperation in the form of an EGTC still remains an innovative concept with which prospective EGTC members are not yet sufficiently familiar. Therefore, members with a history of cooperation can sometimes be reluctant to extend their geographic area of operation, even if that could mean greater efficiency. He further underlined the fact that the establishment of an EGTC requires serious development planning and consideration of financial sustainability. He advised the Committee of the Regions to give even more attention to presenting the role of the EGTC in the EU and called for an involvement of EGTC in the planning of operational programmes. Mr Jankai also appealed to the approval authorities to facilitate and speed up the approval procedures and pointed out cases of interpretation problems and non-compliance with the EGTC Regulation. These could be solved if the approval authorities issued transparent, plain-language interpretations of their own national legislation regarding the EGTC, which could then be made available on the CoR website.

Roundtable 2: The implementation of specific Cohesion Policy provisions related to the EGTC

The second roundtable discussion focused on the implementation of specific provisions of the new Cohesion Policy that are related to the EGTC.

In opening the discussion, **Mr Herwig van Staa** recalled the results of the seminar organised by the Committee of the Regions and the Association of European Border Regions in November 2013, which had called for involving the EGTC in the preparation of the Operational Programmes.

Mr Dirk Peters, speaking on behalf European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy, gave an overview of the implementation of specific Cohesion Policy provisions on EGTC. He recalled that EGTC can carry out specific actions of territorial cooperation, such as managing ETC programmes, implementing a group of operations (such as an Integrated Territorial Investment), implementing ETC or other EU projects, and benefiting from a Joint Action Plan.

Mrs Sandra Sodini, Director of the EGTC Euro-GO, conceded that neither Member States nor regions had tried to boost the involvement of EGTC in the new Cohesion Policy. However, she pointed out that awareness about the EGTC is starting to emerge not only at the local, but also at regional and national level, and emphasized that continuous efforts were necessary to move forward with the EGTC.

Mr Nikolaos Krimnianiotis raised the question of the participation of the EGTC in decision-making within the context of European Territorial Cohesion projects, suggesting that the EGTC should officially be invited to participate in the deliberations. **Mr Antonious Karvounis** answered that programmes and initiatives linked to territorial cooperation do need to have EGTC participation, but that it is within the remit of the specific Ministries concerned by a particular project to invite the EGTC. **Mr Herwig Van Staa** reminded participants that the Charter for Multi-Level Governance launched by the CoR explicitly included the possibility of EGTCs participating in all areas, and specifically in the implementation of macro-regional strategies, which are of particular importance for the EGTC in the Adriatic-Ionian region. **Mr Karvounis** added that, in addition to the Common Provisions Regulation, stipulating the compulsory participation of all representative stakeholders in consultations related to European Structural and Investment Funds, the Code of Conduct provided specific details about representative bodies whose participation is obligatory. Thus, the Member States had to concentrate on the representative bodies from the socio-economic spectrum in line with these documents, before involving the EGTC. Therefore the EGTC should actively approach the authorities.

Mr Krimnianiotis stated that an EGTC should be able to make proposals for all members participating in the EGTC, rather than having to establish partnerships with other bodies outside the EGTC. **Mr Peters** confirmed that an EGTC can apply for support under ETC programmes as sole

beneficiary, but that it also had to have the right composition and include the right members for a given programme.

Mr Peters also reminded participants that there were going to be 300 regional programmes and 28 partnership agreements in the new programming period. He singled out the example of the draft programme of Rhône-Alpes, which did not address interregional cooperation or mention the EGTC at all, and emphasized the fact that awareness about territorial cooperation still had to be further increased in regional and national administrations.

Dr Nőra Ivády, Head of Department at the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary, stated that during the planning period for the Danube transnational programme, Member States initially intended to set up an EGTC. While they finally chose the more conventional solution of operating through an independent agency, part of the programme between Hungary and Slovakia can be expected to be managed by two EGTCs. However, Integrated Territorial Investments are not going to be used in this context due to complex rules and lack of resources.

Mr Jens Gabbe, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Association of European Border Regions, concluded the discussion by pointing out that the EGTC is a unified legal instrument to which its members could delegate tasks while keeping the relevant competences and which provided a clear legal framework for cross-border cooperation. He pointed out the added value of EGTC for a range of tasks and emphasized the necessity to involve all partners, including national authorities, from the beginning when creating an EGTC. In particular, local, regional and national politicians had to be involved to ensure the necessary support.

Closing of the meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, **Ms Sandra Sodini** proposed that the closing of the action plan of the Adriatic Union in November could also be an occasion for further involvement of the EGTC.

Mr Alfonso Alcolea, Administrator in charge of the EGTC Platform at the Secretariat-General of the Committee of the Regions, thanked the Greek Presidency and all participants on behalf of the Committee of the Regions and expressed his hope for a continuing process allowing the emergence of a new generation of EGTC both on the regulatory and on the operational level.

The meeting was closed the meeting by announcing the upcoming activities of the EGTC Platform, notably the foreseen Open Days workshop of the EGTC Platform focusing on EGTC in the long distance in the framework of the Interreg Europe programme, as well as selected Open Days workshops on cross-border cooperation that may be of particular interest to the EGTC.

Appendix I. Poster for the meeting



Appendix II. Agenda



Workshop 'Implementing the new legislation on EGTC - Dialogue with the national authorities'



Brussels, 26 June 2014, 14:30-17:30
Committee of the Regions of the European Union
Rue Belliard 99-101, B-1040 Brussels – Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/IopeI>
Room JDE 70 - listening room JDE 60

Interpretation available in EN, FR, DE, ES, HU, EL, IT

AGENDA

Chair: Mr Herwig Van Staa (AT/EPP) President of the Parliament of Tirol and Coordinator of the EGTC Platform

14:30 Opening of the meeting

Mr Herwig Van Staa (AT/EPP) President of the Parliament of Tirol and Coordinator of the EGTC Platform

14:40 Keynote speeches

- Mr Antonios Karvounis, EGTC National Authority Contact Point, Ministry of Interior of the Hellenic Republic. Presidency of the Council of the EU
- Mr Joachim Zeller, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur on the revision of the EGTC Regulation
- Mr Vassilis Xenos, director of the EGTC 'Amphyctyon'

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15:00 Roundtable 1: The implementation of the EGTC Regulation

- Introduction by Mr Dirk Peters, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy, team leader – legal officer
- Open floor discussion between representatives of Member States and of the EGTCs
- Conclusions by Dr Norbert Jankai, Legal Director of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives - CESCI

16:00 Coffee break

16:15 Roundtable 2: The implementation of specific Cohesion Policy provisions related to the EGTC

- Introduction by Mr Dirk Peters, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy, team leader – legal officer
- Open floor discussion between representatives of the Member States and of the EGTCs
- Conclusions by Mr Jens Gabbe, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Association of European Border Regions - AEBR

17:15 Conclusions

Mr Antonios Karvounis, EGTC National Authority Contact Point. Presidency of the Council of the EU

Mr Herwig Van Staa (AT/EPP) Coordinator of the EGTC Platform

17:30 Closing of the meeting

17:30 Networking cocktail

Prior to the meeting, two questionnaires are available online:

Questionnaire for national authorities / authorities in charge of implementing the Regulation:
<http://selectsurvey-gen.cor.europa.eu/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=884Knp7>

Questionnaire for EGTCs and local and regional authorities:
<http://selectsurvey-gen.cor.europa.eu/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=884Kmp7>

Follow the meeting online:

On facebook: [EGTC Platform](#)

Via Twitter: [@EGTCplatform](#) hashtag #EGTC

Webstreaming: <http://new.livestream.com/corlive1/events/3087024>

Info & registration: www.cor.europa.eu/egtc

Contact: egtc@cor.europa.eu

Appendix III. List of participants

Members of the Committee of the Regions

- ❖ Herwig Van Staa (EPP/AT), President of the Parliament of the Land Tyrol and Political coordinator of the EGTC Platform of the CoR
- ❖ Esteban Mas, CoR member, EU Balearic Islands Government Delegate, Balearic Islands Government

European Parliament

- ❖ Joachim Zeller, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur on the revision of the EGTC Regulation

European Commission

- ❖ Dirk Peters, Directorate General of Regional and Urban Policy
- ❖ José Antonio Ruiz de Casas, Directorate General of Regional and Urban Policy
- ❖ Jelena Peranic, Directorate General of Regional and Urban Policy

National representations

- ❖ Dr Antonios Karvounis, Hellenic Republic, Ministry of Interior
- ❖ Anca Simion, Counsellor, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Romania
- ❖ Constantia Constantinou, Planning Officer, Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development, Cyprus
- ❖ Eleftherios Stavropoulos, Permanent Representation of Greece to the European Union, Presidency-in-turn of the Council of the EU
- ❖ Natalia Las Heras, Deputy Director of Institutional Relations, Ministry of Finance and Public Administration, Spain
- ❖ Joanna Held, Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU
- ❖ Dr Nóra Ivády, Head of department, Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary
- ❖ Miran Vatovec, Counsellor - Regional Policy, Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU
- ❖ Filip Chybalski, Expert, Ministry of Infrastructure and Development of Poland
- ❖ Anastasia Evangelidou, MS, Managing Authority for ETC Programmes for Greece
- ❖ Róża Karlikowska, Specialist , Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
- ❖ Jean-Claude Sinner, Conseiller de Gouvernement 1ère classe, Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures, Luxembourg
- ❖ Zuzana Hofericova, Programmer manager, Government Office of the Slovak Republic
- ❖ Valentina Vidovi, Legal Expert, Serbian European Integration Office
- ❖ Natasa Milosavljevic, Financial Expert for IPA II Component, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Serbian European Integration Office

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- ❖ Serguey Sainko. Counselor, Mission of Ukraine to the EU

European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation, EGTC under constitution and Euroregions

- ❖ Vassilis Xenos, Director EGTC 'Amphyctiony'
- ❖ Sandra Sodini, Director, Euro-GO EGTC
- ❖ Julianna Orban Mate, Director of the Via Carpatia EGTC Via Carpatia EGTC
- ❖ Honorine Schwarz, Policy Officer, Midi-Pyrénées Europe on behalf of the EGCT Pyrénées-Méditerranée
- ❖ Dorothee Habay-Le, Director, GECT Alzette Belval
- ❖ Nikolaos Krimnianiotis, General Manager, EGTC Efxini Poli - Solidarity Network
- ❖ Nikolaos Tampakidis, Scientific Advisor, EGTC Efxini Poli - Solidarity Network
- ❖ Vassilis Xenos-Gavrielis, Director, EGTC AMPHICTYONY
- ❖ Francesco Attaguile, Director, Gect Archimed
- ❖ Jean-Baptiste Schiber, European Affairs Officer, Communauté urbaine de Strasbourg
- ❖ Sara Solazzo, Policy Officer Les CCI ALPMED asbl
- ❖ Ferenc Keser, Representant, Durabo EGTC
- ❖ Bela Kiss, Director, Trahus EGTC

Local and regional authorities

- ❖ Michele Petracca, Regione Molise-Representative Office in Brussels
- ❖ Raffaella Viviani, Regione autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia
- ❖ Bernardo Notarangelo, Director, Region Puglia - Mediterranean Department
- ❖ Paweł Kurant, Head of International Programmes and Projects, Marshal's Office of Lower Silesia
- ❖ Justyna Gajzler, Chief Specialist in the Unit for International Cooperation and Projects, Marshal's Office of Lower Silesia
- ❖ Vesna Caminades, Head of Brussels Office, Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen South Tyrol
- ❖ Karin Oliver, Policy officer, Balearic Islands Government
- ❖ Pavla Nejedla, trainee, South Bohemia and Hradec Králové EU Representation
Veronika Meyer, Civil Servant, Autonomous Province of Bolzano
- ❖ Robin Vogel, Policy Assistant, European Office of Saxon Local Authorities
- ❖ Oriano Otočan, Head of Department for International Cooperation and European Affairs, Region of Istria
- ❖ Luisa Poclen, Head of the Brussels Office of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region
- ❖ Sonja Haertel, Desk Officer, Berlin Office
- ❖ René Príhoda, Head, South Bohemia Region and Hradec Králové, European Office
- ❖ Melanie Fessler, Assistant to the director, EU-Representation Office of Carinthia
- ❖ Marco Boscolo, Brussels Office Coordinator, Unioncamere Veneto
- ❖ Ingrid Schwab-Matkovits, Head of the office of european affairs, Office of State Government of Land Burgenland,
- ❖ Vasilina Krasichenka, Intern, Representation of South Bohemia and Kralovehradecky Region
- ❖ Ms. Martina Rattinger, Director EU-Representation Office of Carinthia Brussels
- ❖ Florent Martiche, Responsable Pôle Europe - Affaires transfrontalières, Conseil Général des Pyrénées-Orientales

Associations and support organisations

- ❖ Jens Gabbe, Chair of the AEBR Advisory Committee, AEBR
- ❖ Dr Norbert Jankai, Legal Director of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives – CESCI
- ❖ Katerina Karavola, Head of Brussels Office, Central Union of Municipalities of Greece/ Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government
- ❖ Valérie Biot, ESPON contact point, Université Libre de Bruxelles/IGEAT
- ❖ Jonathan Boudry, Policy Officer, MOT
- ❖ Regine Kramer, Director for lobbying and partnership, AER

Experts and researchers

- ❖ Dr Marcin Krzymuski, EGTC Centre of Excellence
- ❖ Peter Ulrich, Research Associate, EGTC Center of Excellence
- ❖ Dino Salamanna, Consulente Sportello Europa, Comune di Galatone (LE)

Committee of the Regions – Secretariat

- ❖ Gianluca Spinaci, Committee of the Regions
- ❖ Christian Gsodam, Committee of the Regions
- ❖ Thomas Wobben, Committee of the Regions
- ❖ Bert Kuby, Committee of the Regions
- ❖ Alfonso Alcolea Martinez, Committee of the Regions
- ❖ Marc Kiwitt, Committee of the Regions
- ❖ Nicolás Sánchez, Committee of the Regions
- ❖ Nicolas White, Committee of the Regions
- ❖ Pauline Broqué, Trainee, Committee of the Regions
- ❖ Jose Antonio Pinto, Trainee, Committee of the Regions

Other participants

- ❖ Gabriela Ruseva, Telecentre Europe
- ❖ Valentina Patetta, Student, University of Trento

Appendix IV. Photo gallery



Mr Herwig Van Staa, Political coordinator of the EGTC Platform, opening the workshop



*Keynote speech by Mr Antonios Karvounis, Ministry of Interior
of the Hellenic Republic, Presidency of the Council of the EU*

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*Keynote speech by Mr Joachim Zeller, Member of the European Parliament,
Rapporteur on the revision of the EGTC Regulation*



Keynote speech by Mr Vassilis Xenos, Director of the EGTC 'Amphyctiony'

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Mr Dirk Peters, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy, opening the roundtable discussion on the implementation of the new EGTC Regulation



Mr Nikolaos Krimnianiotis, General Manager, EGTC Efxini Poli - Solidarcity Network, taking part in the discussion on implementing the new Regulation



Dr Norbert Jankai, Legal Director of the Central European Service for Crossborder Initiatives – CESCI, closing the first roundtable discussion



*Ms Sandra Sodini, Director of the EGTC Euro-GO, taking part in the second roundtable discussion
on implementing specific provisions of Cohesion Policy*

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Dr Nőra Ivády, Head of department at the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary referring to the situation of the EGTCs in Hungary



Mr Jens Gabbe, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Association of European Border Regions, concluding the second roundtable discussion on implementing specific Cohesion Policy provisions

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A large number of Member States were represented in the workshop



Participants followed the meeting on site as well as through Twitter and via web-streaming.