



**European Committee
of the Regions**

**Commission for
Territorial Cohesion Policy
and EU Budget**

COTER

EGTC monitoring report 2018-2019

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List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full term
AEBR	Association of European Border Regions
BSR	Interreg VB Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020
CEF	Connecting Europe Facility
COFUND	Co-Funding of regional, national and international programmes under Horizon2020
CoR	European Committee of the Regions
CPS	Cross-border public services
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
EU	European Union
EURES	European Employment Services
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ITI	Integrated Territorial Investment
IVY	Interreg Volunteer Youth
MA	Managing Authority
MC	Monitoring Committee
MD	Mediterranean Diet
MS	Member State
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
POCTEFA	Interreg Programme VA Spain-France-Andorra
POCTEP	Interreg Programme VA Spain-Portugal
RAR	Risk Assessment Report
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SPF	Small Project Fund
SUDOE	Interreg Programme VB Southwest Europe
RIS3	Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Network
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

List of EGTC acronyms and abbreviations

Note to the reader: For improved legibility, the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs) are referred to by their official acronyms as detailed in the EGTC register of the CoR¹. If there is no official acronym, either the English name (if listed in the register) or the name in the local language of the registered office country is used. In all cases, the language abbreviation of ‘EGTC’ is translated into English to avoid confusion. The following list gives an overview of the abbreviations with their number in the CoR register. Dissolved EGTCs are identified by a crossed-out number.

No	Acronym/ Abbreviation	Full name (in English or local language of the registered office country)
1	Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai	Eurométropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai
2	Ister-Granum	Ister-Granum European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation Ltd
3	GNP	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Galicia – Norte de Portugal
4	Amphictyony	EGTC Amphictyony of Twinned Cities and Areas of the Mediterranean
5	UTTS	Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó (Hernád-Bódva-Szinva) Limited Liability EGTC
6	Karst-Bodva	Limited liability European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Karst-Bodva
7	Duero-Douro	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Duero-Douro
8	Flandre-Dunkerque- Côte d'Opale	Groupement Européen de Coopération Territoriale West Vlaanderen/Flandre- Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale
9	ArchiMed	GECT ArchiMed
10	Pyrénées-Méditerranée	GECT Pyrénées-Méditerranée
11	Eurodistrict Strasbourg- Ortenau	GECT Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau
12	ZASNET	Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Territorial ZASNET, AECT
13	HC	Agrupació Europea de Cooperació Territorial Hospital de Cerdanya
14	Grande Région	GECT INTERREG ‘Programme Grande Région’
15	SaarMoselle	Eurodistrict Saarmoselle

¹ <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/CoRAactivities/Pages/welcome.aspx>

16	ABAÚJ - ABAÚJBAN	ABAÚJ - ABAÚJBAN European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation Ltd
17	Pons Danubii	Pons Danubii EGTC
18	BTC EGTC	Bánát - Triplex Confinium Limited Liability EGTC ²
19	Arrabona	Arrabona Korlátolt Felelősségű Európai Területi Együtműködési Közhasznú Csoportosulás
20	Linieland van Waas en Hulst	‘Linieland van Waas en Hulst’ Europese Groepering voor Territoriale Samenwerking
21	Euregio Tirolo - Alto Adige - Trentino	GECT Euregio Tirolo - Alto Adige - Trentino
22	GO	Territorio dei comuni: Comune di Gorizia (I), Mestna Občina Nova Gorica (Slo) e Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba (Slo)
23	Pirineus - Cerdanya	GECT Pirineus – Cerdanya
24	Espacio Portalet	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial ‘Espacio Portalet’
25	RDV	Rába-Duna-Vág European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability
26	Eurorégion Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre	GECT Eurorégion Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre
27	Poarta Europa GECT	Gruparea Europeană de Cooperare Teritorială Poarta Europa cu Răspundere Limitata (Poarta Europa GECT)
28	BODROGKÖZI	BODROGKÖZI Korlátolt Felelősségű Európai Területi Együtműködési Közhasznú Csoportosulás
29	Novohrad-Nógrád	Novohrad-Nógrád European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability
30	Pannon	Pannon European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Ltd.
31	Efxini Poli – SolidarCity Network	EGTC EFXINI POLI - Network of European Cities for Sustainable Development
32	EUKN	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation European Urban Knowledge Network Limited
33	Euregio Senza Confini	GECT ‘Euregio Senza Confini r.l.’
34	TRITIA	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation TRITIA limited

² The abbreviation has been changed by adding ‘EGTC’ by request of EGTC.

35	Sajó-Rima / Slaná-Rimava	Sajó - Rima / Slaná - Rimava European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability
36	Via Carpatia	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Via Carpatia Limited
37	Parc européen Alpi Marittime – Mercantour	Parc européen / Parco europeo Alpi Marittime - Mercantour
38	P.M.I.B.B.	Gruppo Europeo di Cooperazione Territoriale (G.E.C.T) Parco Marino Internazionale delle Bocche di Bonifacio (P.M.I.B.B)
39	Secrétariat du Sommet de la Grande Région	GECT ‘Secrétariat du Sommet de la Grande Région’
40	TATRY	EGTC TATRY Ltd.
41	Spoločný región	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Spoločný región limited
42	Torysa	Torysa European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
43	Svinka	Svinka European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
44	Alzette Belval	GECT Alzette Belval
45	AEuCC	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Ciudades de la Cerámica, AECT limitada
46	Eurocity of Chaves-Verín	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Eurocity of Chaves-Verín
47	European Common Future Building	European Common Future Building European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability
48	CETC-EGTC	Central European Transport Corridor Limited Liability European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
49	HP-HP	Huesca Pirineos – Hautes Pyrénées
50	AECT-FPI	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Faja Pirítica Ibérica
51	European Border Cities	European Border Cities European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited Liability
52	ESPON	ESPON EGTC – European Node for Territorial Evidence
53	PAHT	GECT Pays d'Art et d'Histoire Transfrontalier Les Vallées Catalanes du Tech et du Ter
54	Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor	Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC

55	MASH	MASH European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
56	Mura Region	Mura Region European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited Liability
57	Tisza	Tisza European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited Liability
58	INTERREG Grande Région	GECT-Autorité de gestion programme INTERREG V A Grande Région
59	NOVUM	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation NOVUM Limited
60	León-Bragança	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial León-Bragança
61	PONTIBUS	PONTIBUS European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited Liability
62	EUCOR – The European Campus	Eucor – The European Campus
63	EMI	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation ‘European Mycological Institute’
64	PROUD	Eisenbahnneubaustrecke Dresden Prag EVTZ
65	Eurodistrict PAMINA	Groupement Européen de Coopération Territoriale Eurodistrict PAMINA
66	Ipoly-völgye	Ipoly-valley European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability
67	DIETAMED	DIETA MED EGTC
68	HELICAS	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation HELICAS
69	MURABA	MURABA European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited
70	INTERPAL – MEDIO TEJO	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial InterPal-MedioTejo
71	EUROCIUDAD DEL GUADIANA	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Eurociudad Ayamonte-Castro Marim-Vila Real de Santo Antonio-Eurociudad del Guadiana
72	RIO MINHO	EGTC MINHO RIVER
73	CITTASLOW	CITTASLOW European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
74	Euregio Meuse-Rhine	EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine
75	GEOPARK KARAWANKEN	EVTZ Geopark Karawanken m.b.H. – EZTS Geopark Karavanke z.o.o.

List of Countries

Abbreviation	Full term
AT	Austria
AL	Albania
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CY	Cyprus
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FI	Finland
FR	France
HR	Croatia
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
LV	Latvia
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxemburg
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
PL	Poland
PS	Palestine
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SE	Sweden
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
UA	Ukraine
UK	United Kingdom

Executive Summary

This European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) monitoring report is part of regular European Committee of the Regions (CoR) monitoring on the annual progress and development of the EGTC instrument. This 2018-2019 report gives an overview of the state of play at the end of 2019 and development during 2018 and 2019.

A review of national legislation shows that all Member States (MS) have adopted the European Union (EU) EGTC regulation in national law, but only a few have incorporated the EGTC regulation amendment of 2013. The last national updates were implemented in 2019, few more changes are planned. MS where authorities participate in several EGTCs or where EGTCs have their registered office are especially active contributors to facilitating knowledge exchange and creation among stakeholders. Information and support are provided in very different ways. The range and intensity of communication and knowledge exchange about the EGTC instrument is similar to 2017.

One EGTC was dissolved but is not yet de-registered and six were founded during 2018/19, this means 75 EGTC were registered at the end of the year. For some EGTCs no activities could be identified, implying they may not be operational. The newly founded EGTCs are described in terms of their main features, governance structures, etc. For other EGTCs short stories illustrate their activities based on projects. These show that EGTCs contribute towards better access to public services including healthcare, emergency and transport services. They also support nature disaster prevention, environmental protection and economic development related to tourism, competitiveness, jobs, education and culture. In addition, they contribute to implementing programmes and raising EU funding.

The geographic location, players involved, topics covered and tasks have further increased. However, EGTCs remain fairly concentrated in specific European border areas, with a few MS not involved in any. There are few EGTCs with members from non-EU countries which has not changed in the past two years.

The membership of some EGTCs has changed since the last monitoring report, with a few losing members and more gaining members. Members of EGTCs founded in 2018 and 2019 are local and regional authorities. All new EGTCs have a cross-thematic focus on territorial development, although starting from different perspectives.

Compared with previous years, average staff and budgets remain relatively unchanged with an overall increase due to the new EGTCs. European Territorial

Cooperation (ETC) has become a more important funding source though EGTCs also benefit from other European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), Horizon 2020, Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), Erasmus+ and B-Solutions.

ETC is the most widely used European funding for EGTCs, by projects from a variety of programmes. Nevertheless, only a few EGTCs are more directly involved in implementing programmes and parts of programmes. In 2018 and 2019, 40 EGTCs said they had implemented ETC projects, in many cases more than one, with many more implemented in 2018 and 2019 than previously. More EGTCs are now sole beneficiaries of ETC projects. Beyond being a partner or lead partner in an ETC project, EGTCs also contribute indirectly to ETC through capacity building, support for programmes and membership in Monitoring Committees. EGTCs plan further ETC activities in the remaining 2014-2020 programming period with more project proposals and decisions on submitted project applications.

Application of the EGTC instrument is very dynamic and this grows every year. At the end of 2019, about 25 EGTCs were under construction, several are awaiting approval and two have been turned down. The majority are at different stages of preparation and few are just an idea being discussed by stakeholders. There are prospective EGTC members all across the EU which can contribute to further widening the fields of action and regions involved. Some EGTCs previously identified as 'under construction' have stopped their foundation activities. This is partly due to obstacles in developing statutes and conventions, the complexity of setting up an EGTC or difficulties when seeking support from national authorities. Other reasons for stopping or delaying an EGTC are external, including administrative reforms or changing political representatives. One EGTC was dissolved after a lengthy procedure but is still registered. Further dissolutions are expected in 2020 and 2021.

1 Introduction

EGTC monitoring reports are part of regular CoR monitoring on the annual progress and development of the EGTC instrument. The 2018-2019 monitoring report gives an overview of the current state of play, focusing on the activities and development of the current 75 EGTCs.

The 2018-2019 EGTC monitoring report begins with an analysis of national legislation implementing the amended EGTC Regulation (EU) No 1302/2013 to provide an update on the legal basis for EGTCs (Chapter 2).

New EGTCs are presented in Chapter 3. Aims, structures and recent accomplishments are highlighted to introduce the main features of the six newly founded EGTCs.

An overview of EGTC activities and state of play follows in Chapter 4. Expanding on previous monitoring reports, this includes short stories and illustrations of successful project activities. The sections show diverse activities, illustrating how EGTCs overcome obstacles and achieve European added value with their outcomes. The chapter concludes with a quantitative overview of all EGTCs and their activities (Section 4.2). This includes an analysis of activities across all EGTCs, which highlights their involvement in cohesion policy and planned actions.

A special chapter is devoted to EGTCs awaiting approval, in preparation, or just an idea (Chapter 5). This reviews progress toward finalising their foundation, as well as potential new foundation processes. It also includes an overview of EGTCs that have been or were being closed in 2018-2019.

2 Comparative analysis of national provisions

All MS have adopted EGTC (Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006, n.d.) as outlined in Annex 1 which lists the provisions and authorities as well as updates of national / regional provisions. In principle, all MS have fulfilled their obligation to adopt the EGTC Regulation. This chapter scrutinises additional national provisions especially related to the amended EGTC Regulation (Section 2.1) and efforts made by MS to support implementation of the EGTC instrument (Section 2.2).

2.1 National legislation to implement the EGTC regulation

By December 2019, 25 of 57 approval authorities³ had adopted the amended EGTC Regulation (EU) 1302/2013, as shown in Table 1. Annex 1 provides a more detailed overview with individual dates, authorities and MS which have adopted the amended regulation since the last monitoring report.

The first to adopt new provisions relating to the amended regulation were mainly MS and regions with several EGTCs (see Table 1) especially Greece, Romania, Slovakia and Spain. In 2018/2019, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Saxony and Slovakia adopted new provisions. The extent however differs with Bulgaria, Estonia and Slovakia making smaller changes, while Hungary and Saxony adopted new laws. The adopted revision by Latvia dates to 2015 but has not been reported earlier.

So far, most MS have not adopted new provisions and have no intention of doing so, including Belgian and most German regions as well as Luxembourg and Sweden. The status of Cyprus and Estonia changed from ‘not yet drafted but planned’ to ‘no intention’ although there were some smaller changes in Estonia. These however are not related to the 2013 EGTC regulation but reflect reforms of the administrative system (termination of county governments as of January 2018). The status of the UK changed from ‘no intention’ to ‘new provisions adopted’.

Finally, it is important to highlight that eight approval authorities have not responded to requests for information (highlighted in orange) so their details refer

³ This includes the 28 MS and 29 regional authorities in Austria (9), Belgium (4) and Germany (16) where competence is delegated to the regional level. Previous monitoring reports mention 54 approval authorities. For the first time, the 2018-2019 monitoring report explicitly mentions the federal level as the approval authority in Austria, Belgium and Germany. This is mainly due to uncertainties on which level would be responsible if a national player wanted to establish a new EGTC or join an existing EGTC in these countries.

to the 2017 monitoring report or, where countries did not response to previous requests, even to 2015/2016 reports. Hence, no update is available for Ireland or Styria over the past two years. Most authorities that did not reply to the request for information have limited or even no experience with the EGTC instrument. It is therefore unlikely that they have adopted new provisions or plan to do so. They may see no need for new provisions as they consider existing provisions are sufficient, are not interested in the EGTC instrument or even are not aware of the instrument's existence.

**Table 1: Updated national/regional provision – state and intentions
(29 January 2020)**

Member State	New provisions adopted	New provisions drafted, but not adopted	Provisions not yet drafted but planned	No intention to draft and adopt new provisions
AT - federal level		<i>No national implementation law</i>		
AT - Burgenland	x			
AT - Carinthia	x			
AT - Lower Austria	x			
AT - Salzburg	x			
AT - Styria			x (for 2017)	
AT - Tyrol	x			
AT - Upper Austria	x			
AT - Vienna	x			
AT - Vorarlberg	x			
BE - federal level		<i>No national implementation law</i>		
BE - Brussels Capital				x
BE - Flanders Region				x
BE - German-Speaking Community				x
BE - Walloon Region				
BG	x			
CY				x
CZ	x			
DE - federal level		<i>No national implementation law</i>		
DE - Baden-Württemberg	x			
DE - Bavaria	x			
DE - Berlin				x
DE - Brandenburg				x
DE - Bremen				x
DE - Hamburg				x

DE - Hesse		x
DE - Mecklenburg Western Pomerania		x
DE - Lower Saxony		x
DE - North-Rhine Westphalia		x
DE - Rhineland- Palatinate		x
DE - Saarland		x
DE - Saxony	x	
DE - Saxony-Anhalt		x
DE - Schleswig- Holstein		x
DE - Thuringia		x
DK	x	
EE		x
EL	x	
ES	x	
FI	x	
FR		x
HR	x	
HU	x	
IE		x (need assessment)
IT		x
LT		
LU		x
LV	x	
MT		
NL		x
PL	x	
PT	x	
RO	x	
SE		x
SI	x	
SK	x	
UK	x	

Answer still pending

Source: Spatial Foresight, based on information from responsible authorities.

2.2 Member State activities to improve coordination and transparency in EGTC activities

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed that they would undertake efforts inside European institutions and MS to support the use of the EGTC instrument. This inter-institutional statement is part of the annex to the amended EGTC Regulation (EU) No 1302/2013. It aims for coordination to raise awareness and improve visibility of the EGTC instrument and asks MS to undertake their own coordination and communication to smooth authorisations for new EGTCs.

Joint statement of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission relating to awareness raising and Article 4 and 4a of the EGTC Regulation*

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agree to undertake better coordinated efforts for awareness raising among and inside the institutions and Member States in order to improve the visibility of the possibilities to use EGTCs as an optional instrument available for territorial cooperation in all EU policy areas.

In this context, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission invite Member States in particular to undertake appropriate actions of coordination and communication among national authorities and between authorities of different Member States in order to ensure clear, efficient and transparent procedures of authorisation of new EGTCs within the time limits fixed.

* EGTC Regulation (EU) No 1302/2013, Annex, 17 December 2013

MS promote the EGTC instrument as a tool for territorial cooperation and foster communication and coordination among and between authorities in different ways. However, such activities have not changed considerably compared to previous EGTC monitoring reports.

Still, many approval authorities provide information online, ranging from basic information about EGTCs and contact details to offering national and European guidance documents and entire books (e.g. two books published by the Greek approval authority; about 600 pages). In addition to this information, authorities also communicate with individual interested players both orally and in writing.

To ensure they are updated on recent developments, informally exchange experiences as well as present and discuss the EGTC instrument and its opportunities representatives participate in events organised by institutions and ministries in their own as well as in other countries. These events include transnational and cross-border cooperation programme meetings, meetings to set-up a specific EGTC or the CoR EGTC platform.

In France, for coordination and communication between national, regional and local authorities each *Préfet de Région* now has a directly assigned advisor from the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs who is based at regional level. Via

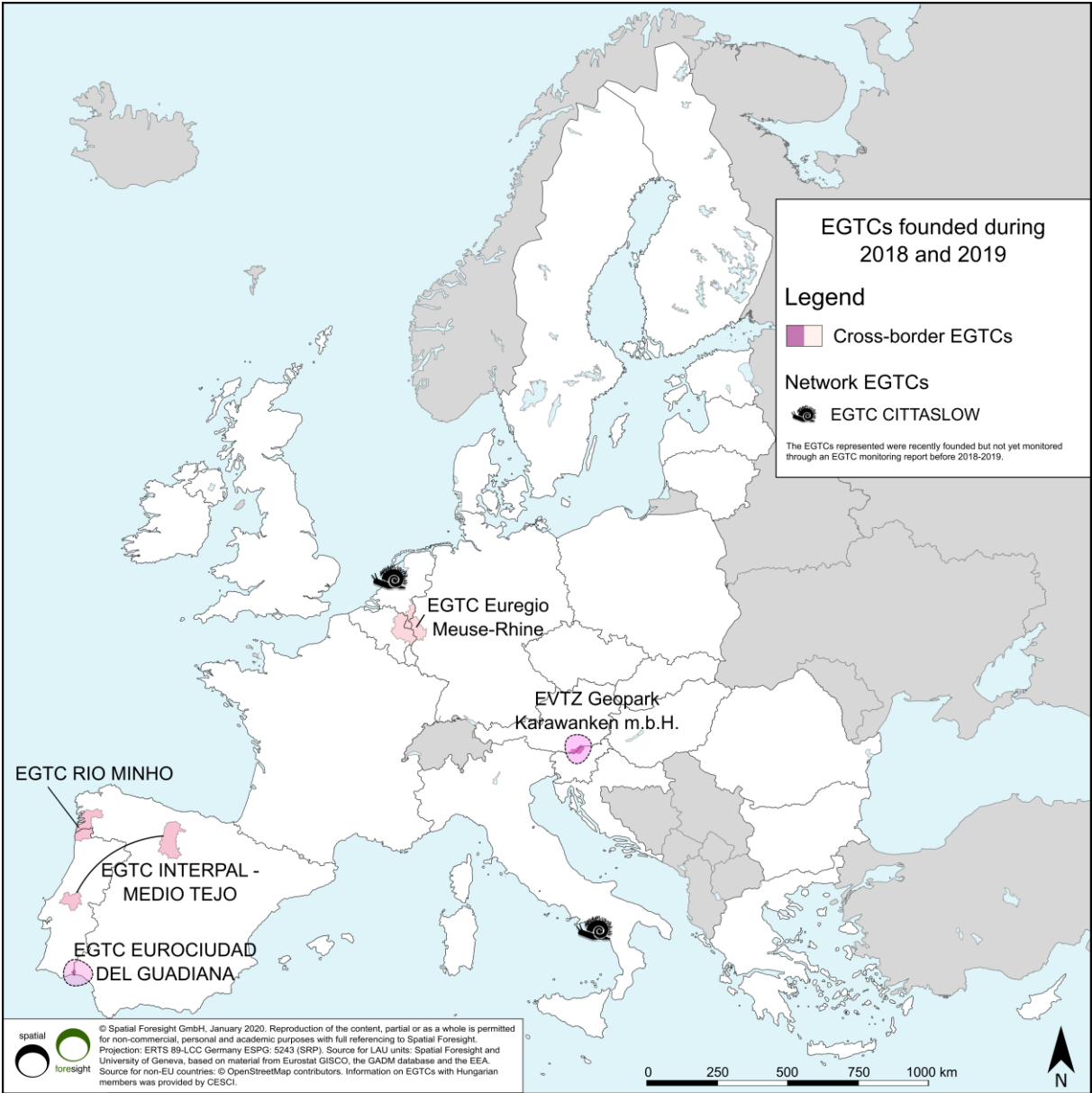
the *Préfecture*, local authorities can ask a legal advisor at the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion and Relations for advice.

Only a few MS organise own events with a specific focus on the EGTC instrument. Germany, Hungary and Greece hold seminars, conferences and training sessions, each of which addresses different target groups. These include approval authorities, existing EGTCs, EGTCs being set up and interested players. By far the most active authority is in Hungary which organises annual events for national EGTCs as well as all EU national and regional approval authorities.

3 New EGTCs

In 2018 and 2019 six new EGTCs were founded. Their territorial dimension and location is highlighted in Map 1. The main features of five of the six new EGTCs is below. EGTC INTERPAL – MEDIO TEJO did not provide the information.

Map 1: Territorial dimension and location of EGTCs founded in 2018-2019



Source: Spatial Foresight, based on data collected from EGTCs.

3.1 EGTC EUROCIUDAD DEL GUADIANA

Name of the EGTC	Foundation date	Member states involved / Office location
EGTC EUROCIUDAD DEL GUADIANA	07.02.2018	Spain and Portugal / registered office in Spain & operational offices in both countries. Members: Ayuntamiento de Ayamonte, Câmara Municipal de Castro Marim and Câmara Municipal de Vila Real de Santo António.

The foundation process

Founding the EGTC took 58 months from the first idea until the first draft of the convention was agreed. From then, it took another 24 months until the EGTC was registered. The main obstacle was the change in European regulation for creating an EGTC, which took a long time for national authorities to transpose into national legislation. Without this transposition, the EGTC could not draft the convention. The EGTC was approved by the Spanish government just before the government collapsed, which could have resulted in another extension of the foundation process.



Presentation of the project ‘EuroGuadiana2020’

© EGTC EUROCIUDAD DEL GUADIANA

What the EGTC is about

The EGTC Eurocity of Guadiana aims to facilitate and promote territorial cooperation, as well as strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion among its members. The specific cooperation objectives of the EGTC Eurocity of Guadiana are to (a) work together developing actions to promote investments in the territory, commercial and tourist opportunities, (b) strengthen social cohesion, (c) promote the valorisation of human resources at various levels of training and learning, (d) promote the valorisation of natural and cultural heritage, (e) consolidate and develop the

local business fabric, (f) integrate and promote the logistics sector, (g) carry out sports activities through common infrastructures (h) jointly promote cultural actions, (i) make entities’ actions dynamic, based on existing infrastructure and equipment, (j) plan in a coordinated way new equipment and future actions and (k) develop initiatives that improve the quality of life for citizens and strengthen relationships.

At a glance – the EGTC structure

The three EGTC members are the municipalities of Ayamonte (ES), Castro Marim and Vila Real de Santo António (both PT). The EGTC is the outcome of successful cooperation in the Alentejo-Algarve-Andalusia Euroregion, which was founded in 2010. In 2013, with the aid of the Euroregion, a cooperation agreement on joint interests between the municipalities was signed, leading to the EGTC.

The EGTC is a liaison between Spanish and Portuguese authorities in Ayamonte, Castro Marim and Vila Real de Santo António and involves national governments from both countries, based on the principles of partnership and subsidiarity. More specifically, the EGTC has four governance bodies: a general assembly, a director, a steering committee and a technical department.

The EGTC **general assembly** is the highest authority and has a president, two vice presidents and two representatives of each municipality. The general assembly is responsible for the approval of business conduct, the annual budget and programme of activities as well as the activity report and the general

accounts. The **director** is elected by the assembly for four years and mainly to administer, direct and manage issues that concern the EGTC Eurocity of Guadiana, ensuring the satisfaction of the public, with full accordance with European, MS and regulatory standards of the EGTC, as well as to execute the agreements of the assembly. The **steering committee** includes the director and a representative of each municipality. It prepares and develops the plan of activities for the EGTC Eurocity of Guadiana, promotes operation of the headquarters and delegations and coordinates actions with inhabitants, guaranteeing their knowledge of the objectives, purposes and actions of the EGTC. It also coordinates and articulates the municipal actions in the initiatives necessary to achieve the EGTC objectives. **The technical department** of the EGTC Eurocity of Guadiana, has a technical director, two vice-directors and staff. It performs all technical work to achieve the EGTC objectives.

For public participation, the steering committee coordinates relationships with inhabitants of the territory, guaranteeing they are informed of the EGTC objectives, purposes and measures. Broader participation is planned through print and electronic media as well as participation in events.

The EGTC budget includes obligations and objectives for the upcoming year to contribute to accountability and transparency. The budget must be prepared following Spanish law and is subject to an external audit appointed by the general assembly. The Spanish Public Administration is responsible for financial control and auditing of the public sector.

EU projects, Cohesion Policy and reflections for the future

Before the EGTC was established in 2018, administrative cooperation between local municipalities was already under way and extended to other entities of the territory. The municipalities had an optimal proximity relationship, organising joint events targeted at cultural diversification and enrichment.

Today, the EGTC contributes to cross-border cooperation and citizenship promotion. A principal objective is to develop a shared work strategy for the three municipalities, including citizen involvement. Founding the EGTC is seen as a first step to coordinating political and technical managers in the three municipalities. Within the EGTC, thematic working groups develop common strategies and instruments to deal with economic transformation in the area. This way, EGTC projects take advantage of the cross-border synergies, transforming historical border difficulties into opportunities.

In 2018, the EGTC Eurocity of Guadiana participated in two projects co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Interreg VA Spain-Portugal Programme (POCTEP) 2014-2020. These were **Sabor Sur**, a gastronomic laboratory, and **Destino Frontera**, a cross-border tourism project. Within these projects, EGTC members were represented by the municipalities of Ayamonte and Castro Marim. Other cooperation projects have also been developed with regional entities in Andalusia and Algarve, as well as with associations and other cross-border cooperation entities. Many regional players, Andalusia and Algarve municipalities, nearby municipalities, business associations, youth groups and a broad representation of associations have actively promoted a permanent social, cultural, sports and business exchange that enhances mutual knowledge and fosters closer relations between the territories.

The EGTC is now also developing the **‘EuroGuadiana2020’** project, through the Interreg Programme VA Spain-Portugal (POCTEP) 2014-2020. This should be the first permanent cross-border governance laboratory in the Alentejo-Algarve-Andalusian Euroregion. This structure should help address new territorial challenges, jointly explore methodologies and design strategies according to the new European regulations. In future, the **‘EuroGuadiana2020’** project will lead to cross-border planning instruments and improve economic development, combat depopulation, and enhance innovation and revitalisation of populations. This is in accordance with the operational programme objectives and the development objectives for each of the partners.

The EGTC plans to remain active in the 2014-2020 programming period, through ‘Europe for Citizens’ and Erasmus+ actions. The EGTC contributes to cross-border cooperation by communicating about ETC projects and calls, managing cross-border infrastructure, organising workshops to discuss problems and

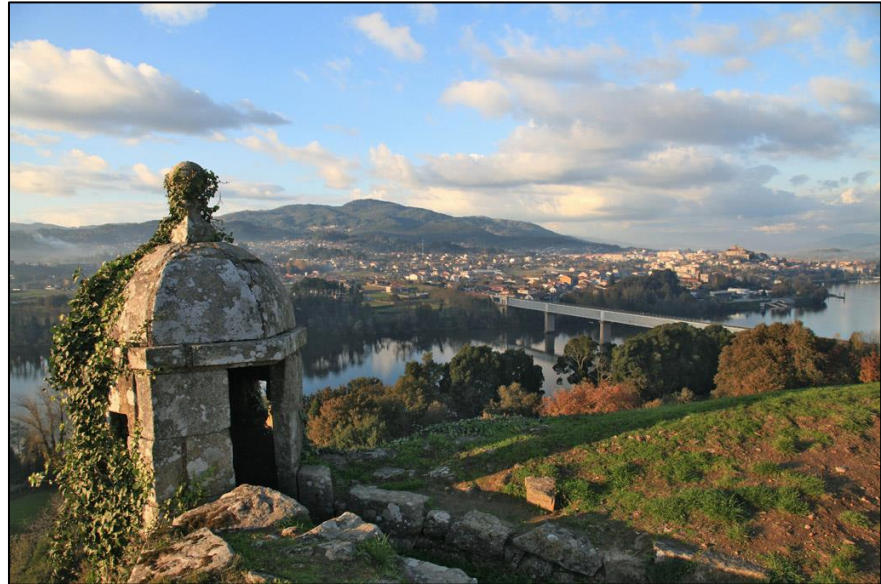
funding opportunities, acting as project facilitator, manager and co-financer, enabling cross-border work of civil society groups or public administrations and also by organising cooperation networks.

3.2 EGTC RIO MINHO

Name of the EGTC	Foundation date	Member States involved / Office location
EGTC RIO MINHO	20.02.2018	Portugal and Spain / Portugal. Members: Intermunicipality of Alto Minho from Portugal and the Provincial council of Pontevedra

The foundation process

Founding the EGTC took nine months from the first idea until the first draft of the convention was agreed. From then, it took 18 months until the EGTC was finally registered. The delay in authorising the EGTC at the national level can be explained by the different legal frameworks in Portugal and Spain for labour, public administration and tax.



Valença Tui Minho River centenary bridge

© EGTC Rio Minho

What the EGTC is about

The EGTC Rio Minho tasks are to coordinate development in the cross-border territory and to promote cooperation between the authorities administering the two municipalities. This way, the EGTC contributes to increasing the cohesion between institutions and citizens as well as the municipalities by means of spatial planning. The EGTC also promotes cross-border valorisation of local cultural and natural heritage and promotes the work of the

EGTC and its territory abroad. This fosters the Minho river as a trademark to increase the value of tourism in the cross-border territory.

At a glance – the EGTC structure

The EGTC Rio Minho has two municipal members, the Intermunicipality of Alto Minho from Portugal and the Provincial council of Pontevedra from Spain. When the EGTC was founded in 2018, the two members already had a long track record of cross-border cooperation. Their first cross-border cooperation structure Uniminho - Associação do Vale do Minho Transfronteiriço was established in 2005 under the 2003 Valencia Cross-border convention between Portugal and Spain. This association was superseded by the EGTC.

The EGTC **general assembly** has ten members from each partner who decide on the priorities. The EGTC is led by a **director**, in charge of implementing the EGTC work programme who can rely on the advice of an **executive council**. Financial control is guaranteed by a **financial control board**.

In addition, a **consultative board** of 24 public and private members from the cross-border territory and beyond advises the EGTC on specific questions. This multi-level governance body includes other local, regional and national institutions from Spain and Portugal.

For public participation, the EGTC Rio Minho has implemented a bottom-up approach, structuring the work of the cross-border cooperation body. It promoted public participation within development of one of its projects, the Cross-Border River Minho strategy 2030. For this and to collect ideas, the EGTC organised two forums, five focus groups, one virtual public participation forum as well as a public inquiry about local territorial issues.

For accountability of EGTC activities, there is a financial control board with representatives from the two EGTC members. The annual financial report is subject to an external audit. Political accountability is ensured by the structure of the general assembly and the consultative board, which has (political) representatives from the partner authorities and beyond. All EGTC decisions are published on the official website.

EU projects, Cohesion Policy and reflections for the future

The EGTC is currently implementing four EU-funded projects: (1) to promote tourism and environmental preservation of the Minho River, (2) strategic actions on joint spatial planning and cultural heritage preservation, (3) promoting the local cross-border governance network and (4) overcoming obstacles in a cross-border public transport system. The first three projects were funded under the Interreg VA Portugal-Spain Operational Programme. The last project was funded under B-Solutions.

For the rest of the 2014-2020 programming period, the EGTC plans to continue to implement cross-border projects. In October 2019, it applied to the Interreg VB SUDOE Programme to fund a partnership focused on promoting intangible cultural heritage.

The EGTC also contributes to EU Cohesion Policy by communicating about ETC projects and calls, organising workshops to discuss problems and funding opportunities, acting as project facilitator, manager and co-financer, enabling cross-border work of civil society groups or public administrations and by organising cooperation networks.

The EGTC is also actively contributing to EU Cohesion Policy by identifying legal and structural obstacles and encouraging institutional cooperation, including for health services, education, transport and environmental management, where the jurisdiction is embedded into national and regional frameworks beyond the scope of individual EGTC members.

3.3 EGTC CITTASLOW

Name of the EGTC	Foundation date	Member States involved / Office location
CITTASLOW European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation	21.02.2019	Netherlands and Italy / Italy. Members: municipality of Pollica and the municipality of Midden-Delfland

The foundation process

Founding the EGTC took 24 months from the first idea until the first draft of the convention was agreed. From then, it took another 24 months until the EGTC was registered. A main obstacle during the foundation process was the difficult bureaucracy within the Italian administration which can also be linked to three government changes during the approval period. Consequently, the EGTC had to submit the application three times, also to different sector ministries in Italy.



Cittaslow Presidential Committee

© Cittaslow International

At a glance – the EGTC structure

EGTC CITTASLOW has two members, the municipalities of Pollica in Italy and Midden-Delfland in the Netherlands. Cittaslow International, the umbrella network exists since 1999 and networks more than 250 cities from 30 countries around the world. EGTC CITTASLOW is a spin-off of this cooperation.

The functioning of the EGTC is ensured by several executive bodies including the **Assembly**, which ensures effective representation of the interests of members and relevant decision-making procedures.

The **President** is elected for two years and comes from one of the participating members. He/she is elected by the Assembly according to article 10, paragraph 2 of the EGTCs' charter.

The **Director** of the EGTC is responsible for implementation of assembly resolutions and supports and collaborates with the EGTC President. The Director chairs and coordinates the Technical Secretariat. He also oversees the proper functioning of CITTASLOW EGTC. The Director is accountable to the President for the drafts of the financial statements, the joint programme of activities, reports on results and for liaising with and making use of the Technical Secretariat in preparation and production of projects.

The **Technical and Scientific Secretariat** is the general and scientific body of the EGTC. It has one representative from each of the members of CITTASLOW EGTC. The Secretariat is in charge of drafting and proposing a three-year and an annual work programme including ex-post assessment, financial planning and the assessment and evaluation of results.

The governing bodies of the umbrella network organisation Cittaslow International together with the mayors of all the cities associated with Cittaslow have the right to participate in collective decisions on projects that the EGTC executive bodies propose and develop.

Political accountability and control of the EGTC is ensured through the membership of elected officials in the governance structure (see above). Also, the charter of the EGTC has mechanisms allowing for control by its members. General accountability will be ensured by co-responsibility through joint implementation of EGTC projects.

What the EGTC is about

The overarching objective of the EGTC is to use territorial cooperation to develop the 'slow life' model to enhance economic and social cohesion. In accordance with this, specific objectives have been defined that structure EGTC interventions towards developing joint initiatives following the Cittaslow identity: Cittaslow Education, Cittaslow Tourism, Cittaslow Doing, Cittaslow Urban Planning, Cittaslow Agriculture and Cittaslow Market. Within these fields, the EGTC intends to plan and implement joint projects.

The activities of the EGTC CITTASLOW will be promoted through the Cittaslow International network at the global level (members come from over 30 countries including non-EU MS such as Australia, Canada and China). At each umbrella organisation event, EGTC activities will be promoted including at public venues, forums and meetings which are part of the network activities.

EU projects, Cohesion Policy and reflections for the future

The EGTC has not yet implemented any EU projects. This is due to the long approval procedure which impacted the EGTC operational capacity. The EGTC did not indicate whether it plans on becoming active in this programming period.

However, it contributes in other ways to EU Cohesion Policy, namely through informing and communicating about ETC projects and calls, organising workshops to discuss problems and funding opportunities, acting as project facilitator, manager and co-financer, enabling cross-border work for civil society groups or public administrations and through organising cooperation networks.

3.4 EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine

Name of the EGTC	Foundation date	Member States involved / Office location
EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine	14.03.2019	Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany / Belgium. Members: Dutch Provincie Limburg, Belgian Provincie Limburg, Belgian Province de Liège, German Region Aachen-Zweckverband and the German-speaking Community of Belgium.

The foundation process

Founding the EGTC took 14 months from the first idea until the first draft of the convention was agreed. From then, it took only two months until the EGTC was registered. However, the partner regions and MS were reluctant to change the status from a Foundation to an EGTC. A lot of discussion and explanations were needed to convince the partners to undertake this step, guaranteeing that there will be no impact on the structure and emphasising the benefits of relying on a European legal personality. Founding an EGTC has helped in solving the complexity around the status of a Dutch Foundation based in Belgium. In order to better understand the practical implementation of becoming an EGTC, EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine visited EGTC PAMINA.



Logo of the EGTC

© Euregio Meuse-Rhine

What the EGTC is about

The main mission of EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine is to facilitate and enhance cooperation between its partner regions for balanced and sustainable development in its territory without internal borders, as well as to ease the daily life of its citizens. EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine considers itself a platform for functioning as an intermediary to foster social, economic and territorial

cohesion, without aiming to replace existing governance authorities. EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine is qualified to develop activities, set up and implement programmes and projects as well as to apply for funding.

At a glance – the EGTC structure

The EGTC consists of five partner regions: Dutch Provincie Limburg, Belgian Provincie Limburg, Belgian Province de Liège, German Region Aachen-Zweckverband and the German-speaking Community of Belgium.

The EGTC was preceded by two collaborative structures. The first was founded as an ‘Arbeitsgemeinschaft’ (German for ‘working group’) in 1976, which transformed into a Dutch ‘Stichting’ (Dutch for ‘Foundation’) in 1991. The preceding structures were already active in promoting cross-border cooperation and implementing shared projects.

The EGTC functions through three main bodies. The **assembly** decides the annual budget, defines the annual financial contributions from the members, the working programme and the statutes, adopts internal regulations, approves new members and is in charge of legal proceedings. It also functions as a platform for discussions, debate and approval of decisions taken by the EGTC board. The assembly has five voting and two non-voting members from each partner region (a total of 35 voting and ten non-voting members).

The EGTC **Board** sets the annual budget and work plan. It controls the budget and initiates activities and projects to be implemented by the office. The board has two representatives of each partner region (a total of ten members), being the highest political authorities in these regions. The **chair** of the board is from a partner region and sets the priorities of the EGTC, changing every three years.

The **EGTC office** implements the decisions taken in the board and approved in the assembly.

Through the management of the micro-project fund ‘People to People’, the EGTC Meuse-Rhine interacts with local stakeholders who enhance cross-border cooperation among citizens. Also, the governance structure of the EGTC allows for citizen participation as among the non-voting assembly members are several citizen and civil society representatives. They raise citizen concerns in debate and discussion within the decision-making process.

For political accountability, the MS where the EGTC office is registered (Belgium) guaranteed general accountability of the structure.

EU projects, Cohesion Policy and reflections for the future

Functioning as a structure for institutional cross-border cooperation between the partner regions, the EGTC and its preceding structure have set-up many projects and activities covering security (cooperation between national police, criminal judges, rescue operators), mobility (public transport operators), labour (relevant public stakeholders), health, culture, tourism, spatial planning, the environment, etc. The focus of the EGTC lies in bringing together partners to set up common projects responding to specific cross-border needs identified in the area.

As the EGTC Meuse-Rhine is a structure for institutional cross-border cooperation, it needs to be understood as a platform where partners from both sides of the border meet and work together. These partners are sometimes organised in thematic cross-border networks or services directly implementing and establishing projects with direct contact to citizens, promoting European citizenship. Besides these activities, other EGTC promotional activities enhance the European sense of identity.

The EGTC is currently implementing eight EU-funded projects with most being carried over from the preceding structure.

The EGTC has several project ideas in the pipeline. However, stakeholders first need to be mobilised and the projects elaborated. This means that future EGTC activities implementing EU-funded projects are likely to fall into the upcoming programming period 2021-2027. Some other projects are awaiting approval (e.g. under HORIZON 2020).

Currently, the EGTC contributes to cross-border cooperation also through informing and communicating about ETC projects and calls, organising workshops to discuss problems and funding opportunities. It also acts as project facilitator, manager and co-financer, enabling cross-border work for civil society groups or public administrations and is organising cooperation networks.

3.5 EGTC Geopark Karawanken

Name of the EGTC	Foundation date	Member States involved / Office location
EGTC Geopark Karawanken-Karavanke m.b.H. / z.o.o.	27.11.2019	Austria and Slovenia / Eisenkappel (Austria). Members: 14 municipalities from both sides, for detailed membership structure, please see Map 2.

The foundation process

The process took nearly four years, of which three were required to develop the draft convention and statutes of the EGTC. About nine months were required after submission of the first draft until registration of the EGTC in November 2019. Convention and statute development were prolonged due to coordination of several regional and national perspectives and needs. This included, inter alia, different views at regional and national levels concerning the legal possibility to allow 14 municipalities to cooperate in the frame of the EGTC. These different views seem to relate to missing links between national authorities and EU legislation.



Cross-border meeting on the top of mountain Petzen

© Urosh Grabner

as well as the European and Global Geoparks Network.

What the EGTC is about

The EGTC Geopark Karawanken / Karavanke has cross-thematic objectives, aiming at conservation of the geological and natural resources and cultural and natural heritage in the territory of its members. This includes supporting the economic development of the Geopark, with sustainable tourism and cross-border cooperation, local political coordination and the representation of interests of the entire region for a sustainable regional policy. It shall also foster awareness, information and education about the Geopark

At a glance – the EGTC structure

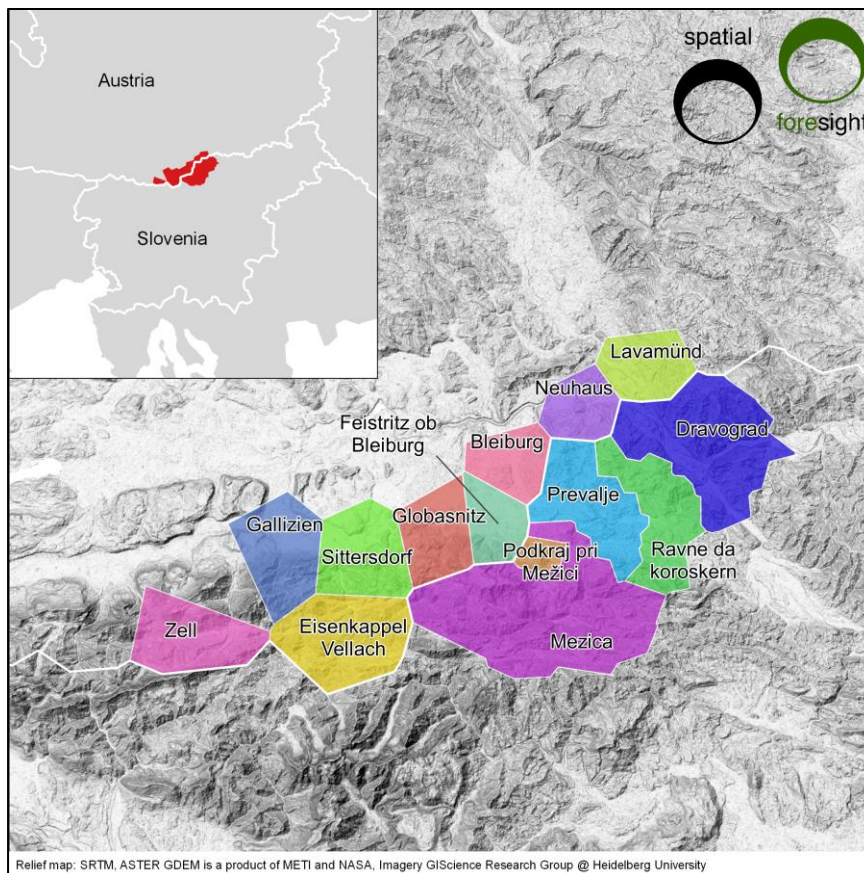
Fourteen municipalities constitute the membership of the EGTC. Nine are located on the Austrian side and five on the Slovenian side of the UNESCO Global Geopark. The Geopark territory is defined by the administrative borders of its members (see Map 2).

With this membership the EGTC builds on the preceding cross-border working group, which managed and organised the cross-border Geopark territory without a legal personality. The EGTC has four bodies. The **assembly** represents the members, the **executive board** is responsible for management and preparing assembly meetings, the **chairman**, who is the highest representative of the EGTC and the

director who is responsible for the daily management of the EGTC and who supports all the above bodies.

These bodies are complemented by additional action groups and an expert group on multi-level governance facilitating the tasks of the EGTC. These groups build on the preceding cooperation and include regional and national representatives of nature conservation, geology, culture and tourism to support the cross-thematic integrated and multi-level governance approaches of the EGTC.

Public participation was already ensured during strategy development and the implementation of action groups. This involved various regional public target groups, which also actively participate in projects (previously implemented by the cross-border working group). Overall, the general public is invited, involved and actively participating in various projects implemented by the Geopark.



Map 2: Map of the EGTCs' territory

Source: Spatial Foresight, 2020

develop the Geopark strategy and the transition into an EGTC.

The EGTC builds on existing acknowledgement as a UNESCO Global Geopark. It has already established a regional cross-border identity through various activities. Among these are the organisation of events, presentations and educational materials to promote the Geopark as a 'European chance for successful regional development'. Being part of the European and global UNESCO Global Geopark association allows a European and international brand to be attached to the Geopark and citizens in the territory. The promotion of European citizenship is also fostered through various activities in schools and kindergartens. This shows, inter alia, the common geological, natural and cultural heritage across the Austrian-Slovenian border and informs about cross-border cooperation, European approaches and chances.

Political accountability goes beyond the 14 member municipalities, represented by their elected mayors. The EGTC is controlled by the regional government of the Austrian federal state of Kärnten, where the registered office is located. Additional accountability is through external financial control and a supervisory board.

EU projects, Cohesion Policy and reflections for the future

The EGTC was founded at the end of 2019 and has not yet implemented any EU funded projects. Through its members, the Geopark previously implemented projects of the cross-border

Slovenian-Austrian Interreg programme, which was also used to

For the remaining 2014-2020 programming period the EGTC envisages participation in Horizon2020 projects. Such projects will focus on disaster management and prevention and the development of professional systems for rural food marketing. Beyond these projects the EGTC will contribute to EU Cohesion Policy through activities including information on ETC, the facilitation of cross-border cooperation and the organisation of cooperation networks.

4 Overview of the state of play of EGTCs

In contrast to previous EGTC monitoring reports the 2018-2019 report focuses less on formal EGTC presentations and more on their activities. For this report, all EGTCs were contacted with a questionnaire to gather information in a structured way. Information was requested for an overview of the development of budgets, staff and the implementation of EU projects. This overview is detailed in section 4.2.

A few EGTCs did not answer repeated requests, were not willing to provide information or are no longer performing any activities. These are therefore not included in the overview of section 4.2. There are more of these EGTCs than in previous monitoring reports despite considerable efforts to contact all EGTCs. This rise is partly due to an increasing number of inactive EGTCs:

EGTC Number	Name	Reason
5	UTTS EGTC	The EGTC is not active. Closure shall be initiated.
6	Karst-Bodva EGTC	The EGTC is closed but still registered.
23	Pirineus – Cerdanya	The EGTC did not reply.
26	Eurorégion Aquitaine-Euskadi	The EGTC did not reply.
29	Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC	No contact information available. The EGTC seems to be inactive.
31	Efxini Poli - SolidarCity Network	Reply outstanding
42	Torysa	The EGTC seems to be inactive.
43	Svinka	The EGTC seems to be inactive.
50	Faja Pirítica Ibérica	Reply outstanding
55	Mash EGTC	The EGTC is not active. Closure shall be initiated.
70	EGTC INTERPAL – MEDIO TEJO	The EGTC did not reply.

Very limited or no activities reported by some EGTCs for 2018-2019 suggest that not all EGTCs are still active. For some EGTCs founded several years ago, this might indicate that the initial ambitions have not been achieved and they may no longer possess an effective governance structure. For a few EGTCs there is evidence that they are ‘not fulfilling their mission set by their funding documents’⁴. This applies to EGTCs UTTS, Novohrad-Nógrád, Torysa, Svinka and Mash.⁵ Based on a lack of fulfilling its mission, the EGTC Karst-Bodva was dissolved in 2017. The state of dissolution of some of these EGTCs is discussed in section 5.3.

⁴ (2018 pp. 63) {Citation}; Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2019).

⁵ Ibid and research of the current EGTC monitoring report.

The following section 4.1 provides more in-depth insights into selected project activities of the EGTCs. EGTCs could freely select up to two projects they considered worthwhile to show the EU added value of their activities. By highlighting also obstacles and solutions in implementing these projects, these examples serve as inspiration for other EGTCs.

The good practice examples presented below differentiate 13 themes of activity. This illustrates the wide variety of activities implemented by EGTCs and benefits of the EGTC instrument.

The Map in Annex 2 gives an overview of the location of all 75 EGTCs at the end of 2019.

4.1 Good practices

This section differentiates 13 themes of EGTC activities, highlighting good practice examples of their projects. These examples illustrate the strengths of the EGTC instrument. It can be used to address various aspects of territorial development, create sustainable structures for communication across borders and can be flexibly adjusted to the needs of EGTC members.

Several good practice examples could be assigned to different themes, being in one sub-section may not exclude their relevance for other themes.

4.1.1 Cross-border healthcare and emergency services

Apart from the well-known Hospital de la Cerdanya, involvement of EGTCs in cross-border healthcare and emergency services is still limited. Nevertheless, the cross-border hospital in Cerdanya is further improving its cross-border healthcare services through individual projects. EGTC Novum illustrates how EGTCs may contribute to enhancing cross-border emergency provisions by tackling legal obstacles apparent along many EU borders.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Cross-border functional unit for paediatric care in Cerdanya	Since 2018 (ongoing)	AECT HC

The Agrupació Europea de Cooperació Territorial Hospital de la Cerdanya - AECT HC EGTC implements the ‘Cross-border functional unit for paediatric care in Cerdanya’ project to further improve the hospital’s specialisation in outpatient paediatrics consultation, hospitalisation and emergencies.

Cerdanya is a historical region in the eastern Pyrenees divided between France and Spain. It is difficult to attract and retain paediatric medicine professionals. Thus, the hospital started the project to create a bi-national Paediatric Care Functional Unit. A functional plan was devised to ensure cooperation between University Hospital in Barcelona and three local healthcare institutions, one from France and two from Spain. This cooperation aims to provide consulting services and professionals to reinforce on-call doctors and human resources in Cerdanya region healthcare institutions.



Cross-border paediatrics service in Cerdanya
© AECT-HC/GECT-HC

The main obstacles for cooperation have been the length of negotiations and the process of obtaining authorisations from the governing bodies of all the partners. This was due to unbalanced salaries between doctors in France and Spain generated financing problems. Another difficulty was the difference between French and Spanish regulating bodies which hindered validation of professional certifications.

To overcome these obstacles, negotiations on resources and organisation of services have been set up. Furthermore, the procedures for implementing a quick solution for validating medical certifications, have been the object of a study that was granted European aid via the B-Solutions programme. The study is ‘When emergencies erase borders’, in which AECT HC is a partner.

These obstacles are currently reduced as this cooperation will guarantee enough paediatricians in the mountain region of Cerdanya. Nowadays, unnecessary transfers to other hospitals for pathologies that would usually be treated locally have ceased, and this has sharply improved the

healthcare experience for children and their families. The next step will be to make a number of specialist treatments available to Spanish patients, such as children’s respiratory and allergy services, that are provided by the French centres, but not usually provided by small, local hospitals in Spain.

Since it is the only binational hospital in Europe, this experience would not have a direct application to other EGTCs. However, the pooling of resources through a permanent agreement, is transferable.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
How do your emergency services work?	Since 2018 (ongoing)	NOVUM

The project ‘How do your emergency services work?’ covers the entire area of NOVUM. It is funded under priority axis 4 ‘Cooperation between institutions and communities’ of the Interreg VA Czech Republic-Poland programme and aims to strengthen cooperation between paramedics from Poland and the Czech Republic.

The main obstacle to implementing this project is the lack of intergovernmental agreement regarding cooperation of emergency services from the Czech Republic and Poland in the border area. This challenge is tackled by the EGTC NOVUM (together with its members) and project partners who take steps appropriate to alleviate the impact of cross-border obstacles. Due to the EGTC, the process for intergovernmental agreement was accelerated. Also, an exchange between first responders from both countries was organised, resulting in study visits to get to know the procedures and how emergency services function in the neighbouring country.

The project has illustrated the need for cross-border cooperation for emergency services. It shows that solving these obstacles is important to individuals and rescue organisations in the area. Paramedics should have permission to provide first aid in the neighbouring country. This is crucial and truly important in mountainous border regions as accessibility to some areas might be limited or slow for national emergency services and easier for emergency services from the neighbouring country. People visiting the neighbouring country prefer medical assistance from their home region.

The project made people in the programme area more familiar with the rescue system on the other side of the border. Within the project, they could take part in internships across the border and participate in events such as joint exercises and training.



Polish-Czech training exercise

© Project Jak ratujecie u Was?

The project has been widely shared in social media resulting in positive reactions from the public. A recent live performance with the contribution of all rescue services (medical, fire brigades, etc.) took place in Jelenia Góra and was broadcast by all local and regional media channels. Even national public television programmes from Poland communicated about this event.

This project may be an example for other EGTCs as it shows the significance of emergency service cooperation between countries. Medical assistance should be as fast as possible, no matter whether provided domestically or from abroad.

4.1.2 Cross-border nature disaster prevention and solidarity

The examples below deal with different aspects of nature disaster prevention but both address climate change effects. The first deals with water management and the second shows how road management can be improved.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Mageteaux	2016 – 2022	Flandre – Dunkerque – Côte d'Opale

The Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale EGTC is a partner of the 'Mageteaux' project, funded under the ERDF Interreg V France-Wallonie-Flanders cross-border programme. The project focuses on cross-border nature disaster prevention and solidarity.

The project is the outcome of successful cooperation between water supply companies improving water management and preventing flooding. Climate change is forcing local stakeholders to mobilise and rethink the existing water drainage system. During severe floods, water drainage infrastructure at the sea in Dunkirk and Nieuport is reaching its limits, with floods in the transboundary coastal area and more particularly in the marsh region of Les Moères.

The Mageteaux project aims to limit flooding by improving drainage at high water. This includes limiting overflows by setting up a temporarily shared drainage system for the Canal de Furnes. The project is implementing an emergency pumping station in Flanders, which will pump part of the Moères waters towards the Canal de Furne and a valve at Dunkirk, creating an additional exit from the Canal de Furne to the sea. At the same time, the project aims at making the inhabitants and actors of the Franco-Flemish region aware of the risk of flooding and predictable consequences of climate change. Implementation of the project has required revision to the international convention of 1890 on water management and its amendment in 1968, between France and Belgium. Water management authorities from both sides of the border have established a detailed protocol of shared solutions for cross-border water management.

Long lasting cooperation experiences between stakeholders in the area have sped up the process of collecting and exchanging information about the changed competences of authorities and any consequent implications. For this purpose, the stakeholders are working together to prepare a draft proposal for a new cross-border water management protocol to submit to the authorities in charge on both sides of the border. The project experience could be replicated by other EGTCs since it represents an example of successful multi-level governance.



Mageteaux press conference

© Flandre – Dunkerque – Côte d'Opale EGTC 2018

Water management issues are well known by the people in the area. Communication about project activities has been very effective. In June 2018, a successful conference was organised to inform the press and public which was covered by local TV and newspapers.

Mageteaux is the result of cross-border cooperation to limit flooding. It has involved French and Flemish water managers and experts within the EGTCs' water working group. The solution proposed by the project was assessed through a cross-border feasibility study, the results of which were approved by the cross-border partnership. Its implementation depends on the participation of French and Flemish partners at different levels.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
INTURPYR (Tourist innovation for a unique destination in the heart of the Pyrenees) project	2017 – 2019	Espacio Portalet

In 2017 the Espacio Portalet EGTC started implementing the INTURPYR project funded under priority axis 3 (Conserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency) of the Interreg Programme VA Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA). The project, which ended in 2019, addressed cross-border nature disaster prevention and solidarity.

The general objective of the project was to construct a unique cross-border destination in the heart of the Pyrenees, through public and private cross-border cooperation, tourism revitalisation and the promotion of tourism innovation and research. The project enhanced the tourist destination of the Pyrenees, by promoting sports and nature activities. It also facilitated exchanges between tourism professionals and strengthened cooperation among operators to achieve international visibility using the Pyrenees image. For instance, the project helped raise awareness of canyon guides and users about safety, as well as create joint promotion and commercialisation of the transboundary network of canyons.



Equipment and services installed for monitoring water flow

© EGTC Espacio Portalet

No major difficulty affected project implementation though some obstacles (especially administrative and legal constraints) slowed down the process. These difficulties have been overcome thanks to deeper cooperation between EGTC Espacio Portalet partners and canyoning⁶ actors.

Project partner cooperation and strong involvement of the canyoning actors ensured the success of the project. The project has helped promote ad hoc touristic itineraries in canyons, involving professional guides that are essential for safety.

Also, the project ensured that dangerous installations were secured (removing sharp metal edges and wood blocking river courses) and wireless equipment was installed to monitor water flow. As results, safety has been improved and environmental sustainability enhanced.

Results of this project activities have been communicated through the website and press releases. The website was launched in September 2019 and shows views from many webcams installed along the canyons to better understand the volatility of flows, which is a very interesting novelty for users.

In this project, common issues from French and Spanish sides related to personnel, logistics and material as well as good practices and training, has given project partners the opportunity to provide shared innovative solutions. The whole experience can be transferred through exchange days and field visits to see the actions and results, as well as by publishing related documentation.

⁶ Canyoning is a sport that involves jumping into a fast-flowing mountain stream and being carried down the stream while floating on the back.

4.1.3 Cross-border nature protection and preservation of environment

Nature protection is a theme frequently addressed by EGTCs. This includes EGTCs with a clear focus on nature and those with Euro-regional cross-thematic objectives. Four of the six following examples illustrate cross-thematic nature protection. They range from a booklet on more environmentally friendly daily life to combining tourism and safety objectives with river protection, from reducing air pollution to overcoming risks from salt mine contamination of ground and surface water. The example of the Parc européen Alpi Maritime – Mercantour focuses on protection measures in a nature and national park area. The last example focuses on energy.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Climate saving booklet: a cross-border guide for daily climate protection	Since 2019 (ongoing)	Eurodistrict Strasbourg – Ortenau

Climate protection is an important policy issue that requires joint international responsibility and shared commitment across national borders. Especially in border regions, there is a need for joint initiatives that are close to citizens and allow citizen involvement. Being a European laboratory region, the Eurodistrict Strasbourg Ortenau initiated the Climate Saving Booklet which is a cross-border guide for climate protection. It is available in a printed version and online. It has a guidebook with recommendations for climate protection in everyday life covering nutrition, consumption, mobility and housing. It also includes local and regional contacts and initiatives, and has 36 vouchers from shops, initiatives and associations. These are incentives to purchase climate-friendly local and regional goods and services, including fair trade shops, carsharing and repair cafés. The final version of the Climate Saving Booklet was presented at a press conference. Its innovative character and practical relevance attracted public interest and led to strong demand. The booklet is now distributed by the project partners directly but also at trade fairs, information events and online (www.eurodistrict.eu).



The Eurodistrict's Climate Saving Booklet: a cross-border guide for daily climate protection

© Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau

There were two main challenges for the project; the contents and the process of drafting and developing the booklet. Content-wise, the main challenge is that all players are used to thinking about climate protection within their own national boundaries. Many players lack knowledge and information about climate protection on the other side of the border, including local and regional contacts, responsibilities and competences, policies and legal frameworks. Coordination as well as technical and linguistic support provided by the EGTC enabled representatives from German and

French municipalities and technical experts to exchange information and jointly develop a cross-border approach.

Developing the booklet was labour intensive, from the conceptual framework and collection of content to editing, layout and printing. Smaller municipalities could not conduct such a project on their own and produce high-quality information. The same holds for the printed edition, which would have been too expensive for single municipalities. Combining interested municipalities in the Eurodistrict reduced printing costs and allowed smaller municipalities and their citizens to benefit from the outcome.

The project has strong European and local dimensions because, for the first time, members of the Eurodistrict worked together on climate protection. It promoted an exchange of knowledge and information about good practices as well as local and regional initiatives, improving the visibility of local and regional initiatives and activities in both countries. As the project is driven by local and regional players with an outcome that directly benefits citizens, it could be of added value and interest for other EGTCs and border regions across the EU while also addressing EU wide political objectives.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
SECURUS	Since 2016 (ongoing)	Espacio Portalet

In 2016 Espacio Portalet EGTC started implementing the SECURUS project funded under priority axis 2 (Promoting climate change adaptation) of the Interreg VA Spain-France-Andorra Programme (POCTEFA). The scope of the project is to increase awareness of natural hazards and improve the ability to deal with natural risks. By June 2019, various actions had protected and prevented risks from avalanches, landslides, erosion and thunderstorms. Information for road users and managers has also been enhanced and Intervention and Safety Plans are going to be developed and updated.

The project has a cross-thematic approach combining cross-border nature disaster prevention and solidarity, cross-border transport and cooperation in spatial planning. The EGTC decided to participate in the project because of a special interest in improving security against natural risks for the cross-border Laruns - Biescas road passing through the Portalet. The project will end in 2020.

During project implementation, the EGTC encountered administrative, legal, governance and technical obstacles related to implementing road safety measures. Some of these obstacles led to delays in project deadlines. Overall, solutions were found thanks to the efforts of EGTC members and SECURUS project partners.

The project progress has been disseminated mainly through the website, social media and press releases.



Installation securing a road from landslides

© EGTC Espacio Portalet

The number of visits to the Espacio Portalet website sharply increased from about 10 – 15,000 visits in 2015, to more than 200,000 visits in 2019. This was mainly due to the quality of information on the state of the roads. Webcams and complementary information mean users now have updated information on the state of the roads, their practicability and expected weather conditions.

The EU added value mainly relies on the implementation of joint measures to improve the safety of citizens crossing the border within the EGTC territory. Transferability of the project is ensured since the approach could be replicated for similar cross-border roads.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Uniform approach to air pollution management for functional urban areas in Tritia region (AIR TRITIA)	Since 2018 (ongoing)	TRITIA

AIR TRITIA addresses the management and improvement of air quality and is funded under the priority ‘Cooperating on natural and cultural resources for sustainable growth’ of the transnational Central Europe programme. Low air quality in the Tritia region is a major environmental concern as the Polish - Czech - Slovak border area is dominated by industrial and coal activities.

The project has three types of outputs to address air quality in the region: analysis, tools and strategies. Analysis and databases are combined in a unified spatial information database, which is the basis for developing a common air quality management strategy in the region and for strategies in the involved cities. One objective of this project is to create tools for efficient and transparent air quality management



Air quality monitoring Žilina, SK

© AIR TRITIA

in accordance with evidence-based decision support. The tools are the Air Quality Management System and Prediction Warning System for decision makers and citizens. These tools are currently in the testing phase and will help air quality management by public authorities. The most important output of the project is going to be a common air quality management strategy for all regions in Tritia and individually for the four member regions of the EGTC. In addition, five strategies for the functional urban areas Opole, Rybnik, Opava, Ostrava and Žilina are being developed. Strategies are aimed at increasing the capacities of public administration for decision making and solving the air pollution problem.

To ensuring media coverage, AIR TRITIA was presented at ‘Healthy Air Info Days’. These events were in towns such as Ostrava, Žilina, Katowice, Opava or Rybnik. For pupils and students there is an animated film in the languages of the three countries. These films are available on [YouTube](#). Furthermore, several news- and info letters have been published and conferences with experts, TV and radio reporters held.

One obstacle was that regional and local authorities did not recognise the added value of the EGTC in approaches to improve air quality in the region. Consequently, there was no financial support from public funds. The EGTC became a project partner in AIR TRITIA so the project could be funded by an EU programme through Interreg. Another difficulty was finding professional and legislative partners due to insufficient staff capacities in the countries. The EGTC and the project initiator, the Technical University of Ostrava, started negotiations with local and regional authorities, universities and research organisations to obtain the relevant resources. It took a year and a half to create a working group. The problem with the capacity issue could not be permanently removed.

Partners from three neighbouring countries combined forces to improve air environmental management in the border area. The EGTC is a natural partner in such projects since environmental protection activities deal with issues that are ignorant of borders. The methodologies can be easily transferred, such as a review of current studies, projects and legislation, socioeconomic and epidemiology studies, creating spatial databases, gathering information from the three countries, processing spatial data (GIS), mathematical models, traffic measurement, isotope measurement and moss analysis. The next tools, like the air quality management system and the Prediction Warning System, can be useful for other regions in the EU.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
REVITAL I	Since 2019 (ongoing)	Tisza EGTC

In December 2010, both the Transcarpathian Regional Administration and the Ministry of Emergency Situations in Ukraine declared an environmental emergency because of a salt mine in Solotvyno, Ukraine. This was a consequence of ground and surface water pollution of the River Tisza caused by salt contamination as well as collapsing mine galleries which could eventually lead to damage to surface infrastructure and endanger human lives. A first risk assessment of the area and its surroundings was conducted by an EU Civil Protection Team in 2016. The resultant Risk Assessment Report (RAR), includes different scenarios and eight recommendation packages outlining steps to address the imminent dangers. REVITAL I is the first action to implement the RAR proposals.

This project is funded under priority 6.1 ‘Sustainable use of the environment in the cross-border area – preservation of natural resources, actions to reduce GHG emission and pollution of river’ under the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI cross-border cooperation programme and co-funded by ERDF and ENI funds. The project involves six partners from Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine and Romania with Tisza EGTC leading the implementation.



Salt mine area in Solotvyno, Ukraine

© Tisza EGTC

REVITAL I aims to initiate revitalisation around the mine and its surrounding areas including the Tisza river area.

During implementation, the obstacles were mainly administrative. The project area includes Ukraine which has a different legislative system to EU countries. These difficulties still exist, but experience has shown that they can be overcome with the help of supportive local and national authorities.

As the project started recently, no concrete outcomes are yet visible. Nevertheless, the project proposal approaches the revitalisation process through three specific objectives. The first is to evaluate the current environmental state of the salt mine and its surroundings. This includes geological,

geomorphological, structural, hydrogeological and hydrological factors. The project also aims at establishing a robust monitoring system that integrates into the wider regional framework. This should track changes of surface and near subsurface water as well as soil movements. REVITAL I will also raise awareness and highlight the results of this cross-border cooperation to the broader public. As a next step, a strategic concept note will include analysis and recommendations for further interventions and will suggest different activities for stakeholders in the territory at all decision-making levels.

This project uses an innovative autonomous and multi-sensor robot to explore and 3D-map tunnels and galleries of the flooded salt mine. It can also take samples to gather geological information.

An initial conference was held in the regional council of Zakarpattia (Ukraine). REVITAL I was also presented at the Ukrainian Ministry of Agricultural Policy and Food. The project is not only important for the Solotvyno region and its population, but due to the nature of the problem, also for settlements along the border and the River Tisza. The experience of the project can thus be transferred to border areas with similar problems.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Study of the diversity of bees in the territory and impact on pollination	2017 – 2019	Parc européen Alpi Marittime – Mercantour

In 2017, the Parc européen Alpi Marittime – Mercantour EGTC implemented the project ‘Study of the diversity of bees in the territory and impact on pollination’, focusing on cross-border nature protection and preservation of the environment. The EGTC opted for this project funded by Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco and the government of the Principality of Monaco because of the cross-border dimension of the study.

Project partners, along with the EGTC, are Parc Mercantour and Parc Alpi Maritime. The project aimed to define the diversity of wild bees within the cross-border territory of Alpi Marittime Mercantour and to better understand the interactions between grasslands (which are diminishing rapidly in these territories) and wild bees. It demonstrated that cut grasslands are favourable habitats for wild bees, which could in turn guarantee pollination, and therefore contribute to conservation.



An Andrena bee at the mountain ‘Tête de Valplane’

© Parc européen Alpi Marittime – Mercantour

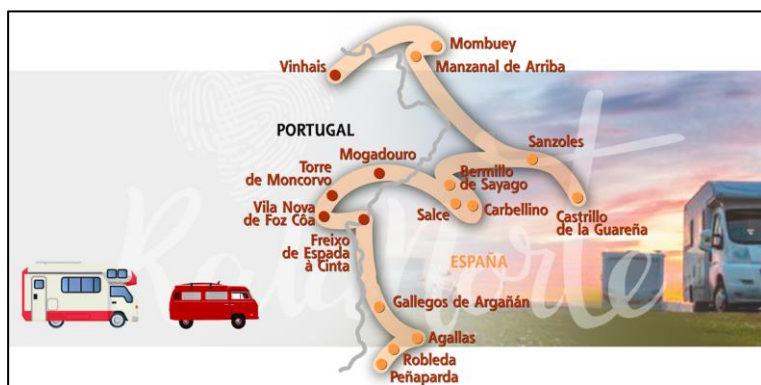
During project implementation, the EGTC faced different cultural and administrative barriers related to public procurement and working schedules. Italian and French regulations differ in many aspects related to expenditure certifications, administrative procedures, etc. Nevertheless, these issues were solved by enhancing internal dialogue between stakeholders. The project ended in December 2019 and was considered to be successful. It allowed stakeholders of Parcs Alpi Maritime and Mercantour to acquire scientific knowledge on wild pollinators in the Mediterranean Alps and their interactions with mountain pastures. The project also engaged the cross-border territories in promoting economic practices respecting fodder resources (breeding, beekeeping). The inventory of wild bees within the cross-border territory of Alps Maritime Mercantour could be a very first step to a deeper understanding of links between biodiversity and the natural environment in the territory. Project research activities will be further exploited and investigated in future projects. The project could not have existed in its cross-border dimension without the EGTC being a recognised legal body on both sides of the border.

Local press has been the main information channel to promote the activities. The project experience as well as the EGTC’s role in administering the nature parks can be replicated in similar cross-border contexts. In Spring 2019 the EGTC was contacted by managers of protected areas in Northern France who are looking at creating an EGTC and would like to learn from the experiences of Parc européen Alpi Marittime – Mercantour.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
EfiDuero	Since 2018 (ongoing)	Duero-Douro

The EfiDuero project aims at energy independence and autonomy for the Duero-Douro area. It is a new Sustainable Energy Model business model guaranteeing a competitive electricity supply. It builds on a transparent European Cooperative to socially benefit the community, seeking user satisfaction by offering trust, security and active participation. Through this project the EGTC contributes to cohesion in the territory.

Large power companies make large profits from their business activity. EfiDuero Energy buys energy on the market in the same way as other providers but has a different management system that benefits cooperative members rather than maximising profits. The cooperative faces obstacles due to the opposition of large energy companies with monopolistic or oligopolistic power. This is reinforced by public administration favouring large enterprises and delaying development of an energy cooperative. The cooperative could be developed with legal support and members of the EGTC Duero-Douro, which include about 200 municipalities.



The long implementation process means results mainly relate to establishing the cooperative, which is the 1st cooperative selling energy. EfiDuero started managing energy supply in Duero-Douro to develop medium term regional energy autonomy. It targets all players in the area, including individuals as well as public and private legal entities.

EFIDUERO Energy – The Market created by our our city council

© AECT Duero-Douro 2019

territories. Methodology and objectives can be shared with other EGTCs aiming to contribute to cohesion in their territory in the field of energy.

The EGTC instrument plays a crucial role in this by involving different public entities and

4.1.4 Cross-border access to public services and European citizenship

So far, few EGTCs explicitly focus on improving cross-border public service access. Most frequently this is related to transport (see also sub-section 4.1.6) and sometimes to healthcare (see sub-section 4.1.1 above). The following examples include the transport related Eurocity Chaves-Verín and the childcare example of SaarMoselle that have an explicit focus on enhancing European citizenship. The example of MURABA EGTC illustrates a starting point for enhancing European citizenship based on a common cultural background. The study launched by the ESPON EGTC has a cross-sectoral perspective on improving cross-border access to public services.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Launch of regular passenger transport with cabotage between Chaves and Verín	2019	Eurocity of Chaves-Verín

The launch of regular passenger transport with cabotage between Chaves and Verín project has been funded under the B-solutions initiative that tackles legal and administrative border obstacles/difficulties along EU internal borders. Eurocity understood that this initiative was a good opportunity to overcome the lack of regular passenger transport between Chaves and Verín. In parallel, in August 2019 the Eurocity launched an occasional passenger transport cross-border service between Chaves and Verín, free of charge, during major cultural events and weekly fairs to meet the needs of the local population.



Cross-border BUS for Eurocitizens Chaves-Verín

© Eurocity Chaves-Verín EGTC

and low use of cross-border transport networks and insufficient knowledge of the administrations. The legal obstacles relate to the absence of a specific European regime for cross-border transport services.

Following the conclusion of the project in October, the Eurocity met with transport authorities on both sides of the border to define and formalise a common agreement to implement regular transport between Chaves-Verín.

The occasional passenger transport service was presented to the public on August 8 and the B-solutions initiative project was presented at the European conference ‘Boosting Cross-Border Regions through better Transport!’ in Brussels. Since the launch of the occasional service, every week notices are published in the regional newspapers of Galicia and national newspapers of Portugal. This media coverage helps improve the occasional service and the number of passengers has increased gradually. The Eurocity communication office has taken advantage of strong media coverage of this initiative to also publicise the project approved by B-solutions initiative and the steps taken to create a regular line.

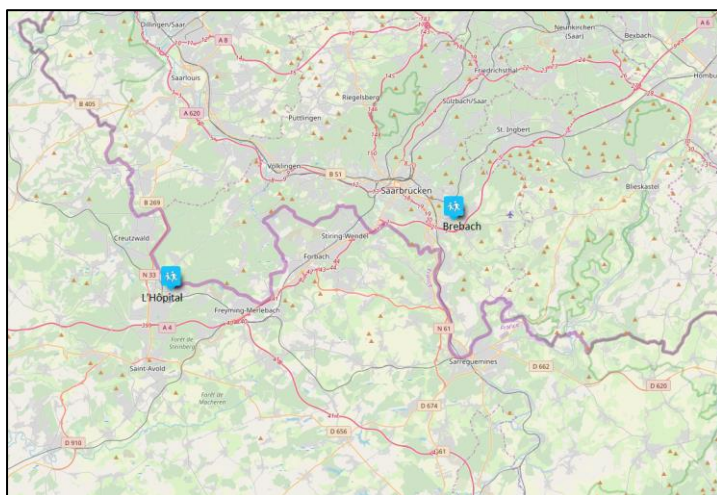
Project results may be transferred to other cross-border regions of Portugal-Spain. This can create EU added value by increasing cross-border labour mobility, improving access to healthcare in the border area and consolidating tourist destinations by facilitating cross-border tourist flows.

Implementing a regular service faces various legal and administrative obstacles. Rather than overcoming the obstacles, the aim of the project was firstly to clarify them and secondly to define a roadmap towards solutions indicating which entities need to be involved.

Administrative obstacles occur because of different transport responsibilities of several public administrations other than the promoters of the cross-border project. There was no cross-border coordination in planning and providing passenger transport services, due to unequal coverage

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Babylingua – Cross-border childcare facilities	2017 – 2021	Saarmoselle

Eurodistrict SaarMoselle aims to respond to daily concerns of inhabitants by helping to create a genuine cross-border conurbation within the territory. The cross-border creche project is fully in line with this context. It addresses the common need of local authorities for additional collective childcare places for children until they enter nursery school and is driven by a political will to create cross-border creches. These common facilities will have a truly cross-border identity because of their unique educational concept for young children. The project is funded under the Interreg programme VA Grande Région with the EGTC as lead partner.



Map of the cross-border creches on the territory of the Eurodistrict SaarMoselle

© Eurodistrict SaarMoselle

according to the German law on VAT (Umsatzsteuergesetz 2018). Since the same construction would be exempted from VAT in France, this leads to additional costs of 19% for the French partner. Thirdly, is the procedure for equivalence recognition where people with French non-academic qualifications as child carers or educators require mandatory additional training in methodology and didactics for employment in Germany. Finally, French public health law includes stricter rules on vaccination requirements than in Germany.

For the first obstacle, arrangements were found between the regional and national cofinancing partners. Since two crèches will be built on both sides of the border under the Interreg scheme, the project partners will share responsibilities and costs accordingly. A special regime for cross-border institutions can be introduced regarding the payment of PSU. However, this special regime can only be applied for five years.

For the other obstacles, the Eurodistrict contacted legal experts and applied for an AEBR B-Solutions project. In this framework, the Eurodistrict received support from a EuroInstitut expert, who outlined solutions that follow Art. 13 (2) of the Franco-German Treaty of Aachen. These could help solve the VAT implications as it allows both MS to introduce new legislation in border regions and apply specific derogations when necessary. In this case, an exemption could be introduced to avoid VAT payment by the French partner. The European Cross-Border Mechanism (ECBM) can be an additional solution to optimise regulation of co-financing standards and harmonise differences in the tax legislations in the cross-border region. For the recognition of staff qualifications, Article 3 (2) of the Saarland Childcare and Education Act stipulates that the body responsible for the day care centre is in charge of designing and implementing the educational mission. This means that the body managing the creche can implement a common design. Local medical/public health authorities should be consulted on the

The project faces several obstacles due to different national legal frameworks. Firstly, payment schemes differ. The French Family Allowance Fund (CAF) pays for creches in France the PSU (Prestation de service Unique, *operating aid to crèches*) according to the number of places available. These are allocated according to the ‘principle of optimisation’ (e.g. one child attending early in the morning and leaving at 12, another arrives only for the afternoon). In Germany this practice does not apply and consequently the PSU cannot be paid to the creche in Saarbrücken even if French children attend. Secondly, VAT rules differ and VAT is part of the construction and equipment costs. So, the French partner will have to pay it

differences in childhood vaccination requirements to see if both regulations can co-exist, while a compromise within the current legal scope should be found for safety equipment. Cooperation with the local fire department is considered essential, which suggests applying local standards on fire protection. The variety of obstacles and individual solutions mean they need to be tested and lasting solutions developed.

The project can only succeed with EU financial support. This is, however, useful for other EGTCs to a certain extent. B-solutions project solutions will be applicable to many situations where a shared Franco-German cross-border public service is needed, regardless of whether this is based on the French or German side. This can be transferred to many sectors including public transport, health, economic development, etc. Due to differences with other MS legal systems solutions cannot be directly transferred to other borders. However, the topics enabling a cross-border public service with shared facilities will be similar for other border areas, so the methodology to find solutions can be applied across Europe.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Sweet streets	2019	MURABA EGTC

The relatively newly founded EGTC MURABA initiated its first project ‘Sweet streets’ aiming to involve citizens and initiate cooperation with potential partner organisations. The project connects the twin cities of Lendava and Szentgotthárd and engages their citizens. The centres of these cities were reproduced in gingerbread made and decorated by local people at home and at joint events. The newly founded EGTC became better known to citizens and local institutions, which is a precondition for future cooperation.



Sweet streets in the form of gingerbread

© MURABA EGTC

The EGTC experienced language barriers and prejudices during the project. For example, people in different countries differ significantly and consider themselves as competitors rather than collaborators. The project showed how successes can result from cooperation. Changing mindsets is a long process and the EGTC hopes to promote this in the right way, especially encouraging future projects with citizen involvement.

This project helped people to realise that borders mainly exist in their heads. The EU and open borders are drivers for future cooperation. Social and local media were the main communication channels.

The project illustrates a useful approach to starting an EGTC, introducing the EGTC as a cooperation body. It offers a possibility to create awareness and include citizens, although it is highly labour-intensive and without direct financial gain. The project is easily transferable to other cross-border regions and fits perfectly into the pre-Christmas period.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
CPS - Cross-border Public Services in Europe - Targeted analysis	2017 – 2019	ESPON EGTC

The ESPON EGTC is the sole beneficiary of the ESPON Programme. Its main task is to deliver the content envisaged by the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. The CPS ‘Cross-border Public Services in Europe - Targeted analysis’ project proposal was submitted by ten representatives of border regions (all members of the Association of European Border Regions) to be implemented as a Specific Objective 2 activity of the ESPON Programme. Following a procedure organised by ESPON EGTC, the application was selected to be implemented. ToR were developed by the ESPON EGTC in close cooperation with the stakeholders to ensure that stakeholder needs were reflected in the document and that the expected outcomes would be useful.

The project focused on cross-border access to public services and European citizenship. It produced a first comprehensive overview of cross-border public services across Europe, exploring territorial patterns of service provision and highlighting the main features of good practices.

Ten case study areas on cross-border public services and their future perspectives have been analysed in-depth. These have been fundamental to providing a better understanding of the legal basis, governance models, infrastructure use, needs addressed and tasks of cross-border public services.

579 cross-border public services have been identified along European borders. Most deal with environmental protection, civil protection, disaster management and transport. In future, cross-border public service development is expected especially for spatial planning, economic development, tourism, and culture. Many regions also explored possibilities to establish cross-border public services dealing with health care and labour market challenges.



Policy Brief CPS: Cross-border Public Services in Europe
© ESPON 2019

Project implementation was straightforward, and no major have hampered the results. The only weakness was probably related to a lack of resources for translations that would have certainly provided a bigger impact for project results and activities. However, it is worth noting that the ESPON contact point network supported the translation activities. Stakeholders also reported that the lack of a pan-European contacts database hampered the impact of the European wide survey launched by the project to complete the desk research.

Despite these weaknesses, outcomes of the project include the scientific report providing a pan-European overview of cross-border public service implementation and potential, the ESPON CPS practical guidance for regional operators and policy makers as well as best practices to provide inspiring examples.

The Practical Guide for CPS development provides hints on how to implement cross-border public services and overcome potential obstacles. This helps cross-border institutions, border regions and public service providers to explore cross-border public service development possibilities. The results of the project were discussed and presented at various events in Iasi and Brussels and through webinars.

The main project added value is a reduction of negative cross-border effects, supporting cross-border mobility of people and contributing to raising awareness of cross-border possibilities. The project also provided a more effective way of sharing common problems.

4.1.5 Cross-border investment projects

Few EGTCs engage in cross-border investments. Apart from EGTCs that build their activity on a large investment (e.g. EGTC HC) or whose principal objective is to develop an investment project (e.g. EGTC PROUD), few EGTCs have corresponding projects. The three following examples illustrate smaller investment activities undertaken by EGTCs. The first two focus on different cycling infrastructures and the third on a new ferry connection.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Historical, cultural and natural cycling route around the Tatra Mountains	2017 – 2019	TATRY

‘The Cycling route around the Tatra Mountains’ is a strategic trademark project of the Polish-Slovak ‘Tatry’ Euroregion. After the EGTC was established as a joint Polish-Slovak legal entity, it immediately became manager and then lead partner of the project co-funded by the Interreg VA Poland – Slovakia programme. It aims to capitalise and promote regional cultural heritage.

The EGTC faced difficulties such as the need for increased coordination between numerous entities and complicated procedures for project realisation and accounting. There were also differences in the legal rules and administrative practices between Polish and Slovak partners (local governments) including building laws and tendering procedures. Due to its legal personality, the EGTC could facilitate the preparation and implementation of this project. It has Polish and Slovak personnel, who are familiar with the legal rules and procedures. It is also possible to respond rapidly to problems or needs of project partners. Project implementation and accounting are quicker and simpler, because there is one, cross-border entity responsible for all items in the project. This management mode for strategic cross-border projects with multiple partners has proved effective.

As a result of the project activities, residents and tourists get a cross-border product enabling them to travel safely by bike in the borderland and, at the same time, come to know previously inaccessible places with unique cultural, historical and natural attractions. It significantly enhances the attractiveness of this region and provides a response to current needs relating to developing alternative, pro-ecological forms of travel and family recreation. Due to the interest in new cycling paths and cycling tourism, local business is developing near the Tatra Route. In the longer term, support for economic development in the region is expected through increased revenues from business activities including rentals, bike/cross-country ski servicing facilities, food, accommodation and guides.



Cycling route around the Tatras

© EGTC TATRY

Under the project the official homepage of this route has been extended. Maps and guidebooks and cultural attractions of the region were issued in traditional form and as e-books. The project is promoted during tourist fairs. There was an information campaign in Polish and Slovak media and on the internet. In spring 2019, outdoor events and a study visit were organised for representatives of the authorities and organisations engaged in bike tourism from the entire borderland area, as well as workshops on the development of cycling infrastructure in the borderland. The project

participates in the programme ‘The Polish Tourism Brand’ implemented by the Ministry of Sport and Tourism.

This project encourages residents and tourists to come to know the Polish-Slovak borderland, its unique places and cultural attractions while travelling by bike. To give people the possibility to get to know these places and objects of cultural and historical heritage, a network of cycling paths is being set up which are accessible to everyone. Bike tourism is becoming increasingly popular and does not require high outlays or costs and has been used in the project to promote the cultural and historical heritage of the Polish-Slovak borderland. The Route around the Tatras is an alternative to motorised sightseeing and travel. EGTCs are ideal to manage such strategic territorial cooperation projects.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
KOMBI - Cross-border integrated bike sharing system	Since 2018 (ongoing)	Pons Danubii

The project KOMBI aims at improving bike access between Komarno (SK) and Komarom (HU) and is funded under the Slovakia-Hungary VA Interreg programme. EGTC Pons Danubii is leading project implementation in cooperation with two regional beneficiaries.

Cars are the dominant means of transport between the two cities across the Danube river. At the same time, there are few border-crossings per inhabitant despite the proximity of the two centres. Especially for cyclists, the main challenge is access to infrastructure. Recent years have seen many new bike roads and green paths in the broader Komarno-Komarom cross-border region. However, there is still demand for further development of the bicycle network. New bicycle roads need to be built, existing ones maintained and improved, and bike lanes must be marked on roads.

To facilitate modal split for inhabitants crossing the border, project KOMBI is implementing an integrated cross-border bike sharing system. A total of 13 bike sharing stations are being installed in nine settlements across the border. When fully implemented, the KOMBI system will offer affordable, quality and green rental bikes to use on the cross-border routes. The project is aimed at inhabitants who cross the border regularly including workers, students, entrepreneurs and inhabitants who would like to use services on the other side of the border. Another target group is visitors from outside the local area, including tourists from foreign countries, especially from the Netherlands, Germany and Austria. The project also raises awareness of regular and safe bike use in families and children.

During implementation, funding was a major obstacle. There was no certainty of a financial contribution from the Slovakian state to start the project. The EGTC therefore had to pre-finance its own contribution through a bank loan. Furthermore, ex-ante control of public procurement was delayed due to unplanned circumstances which delayed implementation.



Publicity for bike activities of the EGTC
© Pons Danubii EGTC

So far, several press releases about the KOMBI project have been published in local online and offline newspapers.

Implementing such projects, Pons Danubii EGTC plays a crucial role in regional development in the Slovakian-Hungarian border area. It is a 'liaising' institution with contacts to national and regional authorities on both sides of the border. It is also well aware of regional development objectives in the two border

regions as well as opportunities to support them with cross-border cooperation. Therefore, the EGTC instrument is deemed useful in implementing cross-border activity projects.

The KOMBI project would not have been implemented without pre-financing through the bank loan. Overall, the project helps to tackle climate change by offering a more climate-friendly means of transport.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Building a cross-border ferry connection with infrastructure between Neszmély and Radvaň nad Dunajom	Since 2018 (ongoing)	Ister-Granum

Ister-Granum EGTC has been involved in setting up a new cross-border ferry connection between Neszmély and Radvaň nad Dunajom since 2018. The EGTC is a partner in the project funded by the Interreg VA Slovakia-Hungary Programme under priority axis 2 ‘Enhancing Mobility’. In contrast to the member municipalities, the EGTC has the capacity to apply for pre-funding under the Interreg programme.



Press conference for the start of the project

© Ister-Granum EGTC

So far there are only two border crossing possibilities in the Ister-Granum area. A third border crossing on the river Danube will improve accessibility. The new ferry will reduce the distance between crossing points from 45 km to 22 km. In the 1970s a small ferry served industrial companies on the Hungarian side and offered transport for Slovakian commuters. The ferry stopped in 1982 but citizens asked for a renewed connection. Local people and media perceive the initiative very positively and as favourable for regional development.

The new ferry will be able to carry ten cars plus bikes and pedestrians and will link the EuroVelo6 routes on both sides of the Danube. Family connections on both sides of the river as well as cultural and tourism activities in the Ister-Granum area can be reinforced and local producers can access new markets with up to 50 km saved on journeys.

Being a Hungarian legal entity the EGTC faces obstacles to representing Slovak partners as well and to ensuring funding for the Slovak municipality Radvaň. It was important to adhere to public procurement legislation for investment on the Slovak side. Other challenges concern purchasing land, obtaining licences and administering assets. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Hungary and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Slovak Republic helped to overcome these obstacles. The European Commission and CoR provided information for public procurement processes as well as support related to Natura2000 activities and financial issues. The European representatives always found the right directive, institution, person, time and place to remove obstacles. However, the EGTC is in the process of public procurement and expects further obstacles due to a lack of offers or an increased cost for the work.

The EGTC plays a key role in implementing such investments and the ferry connection would not be implemented without it. Without the EGTC and the passion of some national and European level participants, the region would miss development chances and initiatives that improve peoples’ lives.

4.1.6 Transport infrastructure and soft transport projects

Transport is frequently addressed by EGTCs with different perspectives and objectives. Examples cover territorial levels from urban (e.g. EGTC GO) to transnational connections (e.g. CETC-EGTC). The project implemented by the Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor shows how these different levels may even be covered within one project. The EGTC PROUD example illustrates how to approach links between transport and spatial development. Other examples show how EGTCs can improve mobility access (e.g. Eurodistrict PAMINA) and how multi-modality can be enhanced (e.g. Euregio Senza Confini). Often different aspects of transport issues are combined.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Cross-Border Public Urban Mobility Plan (CB PUMP)	2017 – 2021	GO

CB PUMP is a pilot project of the EGTC GO, funded under the B-solutions Initiative. This initiative is promoted by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and managed by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR). The Cross-Border Public Urban Mobility Plan is looking to create a joint cross-border public transport system in the EGTC area. The EGTC participated in the B-Solutions initiative tender proposing an in-depth study of existing barriers to urban public transport, identifying possible solutions that could enable a cross-border urban public transport system.

Obstacles hindering a single and integrated transport system are the different tariff systems (in Gorizia tickets are needed, while in Nova Gorica and Šempeter-Vrtojba urban public transport is free) and a lack of information and signage in both languages. The main obstacle is the limitations in the EC Regulation 1073/2009 on ‘Common standards for access to the international market for transport services performed by bus’. A local technical committee, composed of the two current urban transport operators (APT and

NOMAGO), the EGTC GO and GOLEA, the Goriska Energy Agency of Nova Gorica, has been established to overcome these difficulties and harmonise the tariff systems. Furthermore, the project also carried out an in-depth study of mobility flows and cross-border citizenship needs, to obtain useful information for a future service, meeting the needs of the population while respecting a cost-benefit logic (thus estimating the benefits, strengths, weaknesses and costs of a single and integrated transport system). The study is the basis for establishing a negotiating table between institutions on both sides of the border. These include the Italian Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Slovenia.



Cycle and pedestrian walkway on the Isonzo-Soča river

© Mateja Pelikan

the geographical cross-border area where restrictions on boarding and disembarking for passenger transport (Articles 8.4e and 15c of the EC Regulation n.1073 / 2009) are no longer applicable. This should aid implementation of Article 25 of the Regulation⁷. EU added value of the project will be a common tariff system relevant for cross-border transport in twin city areas.

⁷ Regulation (EC) No 1073/2009 – Art. 25 ‘Member States may conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements on the further liberalisation of the services covered by this Regulation, in particular as regards the authorisation system and the simplification or abolition of control documents, especially in border regions.’

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
TENTacle – Capitalising on TEN-T core network corridors for prosperity, growth and cohesion	2016 – 2019	CETC-EGTC

CETC-EGTC Ltd. joined the project as an associated partner to review and adopt the key results of project actions taken by Skåne and Westpomeranian Regions. The project funded under the Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2014-2020 programme (BSR) aimed to stimulate land and sea transport, develop and integrate nodes, improve transport links of the Baltic-Adriatic Corridor, develop logistics and encourage socioeconomic growth in CETC regions. Regional and local authorities involved in the EGTC will implement solutions developed under the project. These will enhance multilateral cooperation in effective transport and mobility management policies along the Baltic – Adriatic Corridor and its functional extension to Sweden.



Szczecin - urban node in the TEN-T Baltic-Adriatic Corridor

© Royal Pictures

Skåne Region and Westpomerania Region utilised the EGTC tool to streamline interests of public and private players and to ensure more durability for the project’s outputs and results. The EGTC was also seen as an innovative mechanism for managing transport in Europe, which was a great opportunity to promote it among a wider group of transport stakeholders.

The main output of the CETC-EGTC project is the Baltic-Adriatic corridor freight transport logistics action plan. This has two groups of actions. Firstly, horizontal actions to establish an organisational structure enabling direct

actions. Secondly, direct actions that contribute to improving the attractiveness and competitiveness of the Baltic – Adriatic Corridor.

EGTC regional and local authorities will implement solutions developed under the project to enhance multilateral cooperation in effective transport and mobility management policies along the Baltic – Adriatic Corridor and its functional extension to Sweden (Baltic Area). The action plan and regional reports emphasise that the most advantageous model of cooperation between the Region Skåne and the Westpomeranian Voivodship for developing the Baltic – Adriatic Corridor is the CETC-EGTC. Westpomerania and Skåne Regions carried out tasks for the EGTC. Their experience in implementing BSR projects contributed to realising expected results and involving all relevant stakeholders. Therefore, no substantial obstacles were experienced.

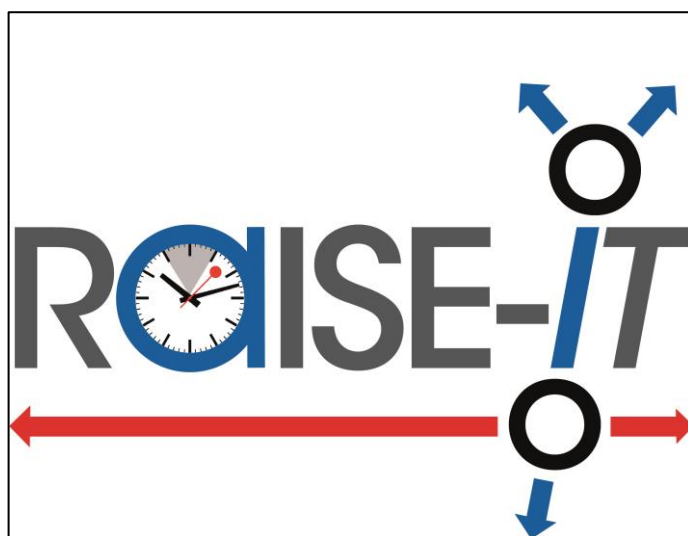
A stakeholder network was formed as part of the project. This network can be mobilised for similar initiatives, improving the transferability of project outputs. A broad range of stakeholders should be involved in a joint action to remove physical, technical, operational and administrative bottlenecks along the TEN-T core network corridors by the year 2030. Implementation of the three core network corridors (Scan-Med, North Sea-Baltic and Baltic-Adriatic) have a large, but untapped potential to stimulate positive effects in the BSR beyond the transport sector and beyond the immediate geographical areas they cross.

Media coverage was an important element in raising stakeholder awareness in the BSR. The project was promoted through brochures, leaflets, a website, international events, project meetings, publications in the press and newsletters in Sweden, Finland, Norway, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Germany.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
RAISE-IT	2017 – 2019	Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor

The RAISE-IT project funded by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) aimed at increasing accessibility by high-speed rail along the Rhine-Alpine corridor. Instead of concentrating on maximum speed, RAISE-IT explored integrating rail transport and reduced travel time through multi-scale accessibility distinguishing urban nodes from regional and corridor-wide accessibility.

For urban nodes, the focus was on the accessibility of railway stations for arriving and leaving. The topics of wayfinding, information and walkability were of utmost importance. These refer to the location of stations for other transport modes with facilities and signposts around and in the stations, analysing the walkability revealed that different obstacles prevent fast and convenient access for pedestrians including crossing main roads or cycling paths and waiting time at traffic lights. Guidelines were developed on how to improve the accessibility of central train stations.



RAISE-IT project logo

© Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor

Regional level accessibility addressed the integration between long-distance rail services with local and regional transport in three city regions along the corridor (Arnhem, Mannheim, Milano). The current status was analysed, a vision developed, the gap between the current status and an ideal future identified. Strategies and action plans were developed jointly with local and regional stakeholders to bridge this gap and improve integrated regional accessibility.

At corridor-wide scale the analysis focused on assessing the level of interconnectivity and attractiveness of connections between the main nodes along the corridor. An additional potential demand of 60% by 2035 was identified.

The objective is not for trains running from the Netherlands to Italy but reducing the number and times of transfers could increase attractiveness and encourage seamless travel chains. This includes synchronising timetables, overcoming bottlenecks at border sections and increasing capacities at key urban nodes. Many measures can only be implemented in the long term, so a common vision is needed to guide stepwise implementation.

The approach and results of the RAISE-IT project cannot be easily transferred to other EGTCs. They are mainly interesting for players along other TEN-T core network corridors that want to improve accessibility and contribute to integrated transport and spatial development. Through its multi-scale approach, the project shows that a one-sided focus on speed is not a viable solution. It emphasises the need for a stronger focus on improving accessibility at different scales and developing seamless travel chains. Such an approach is more suited to generating benefits from infrastructure development for as many people and places along densely populated corridor axes in Europe as possible.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
CORCAP – Capitalising TEN-T corridors for regional development and logistics	2019 – 2022	PROUD

CORCAP is supported by the transnational Interreg Central Europe Programme 2014-2020 under priority 4 ‘Transport and Mobility’. The main objective of the project is to enhance connectivity along the Orient/East-Med core net corridor between German seaports and Hungary. The project addresses the Dresden-Prague section which is a crucial bottleneck of increasing relevance. Improving connectivity by addressing spatial, transport and logistic aspects in this part of the Orient/East-Med corridor will create major benefits for inhabitants and the economy.



Cross-border geological excursion Ore Mountain September 2019 with partners of Saxony and Czech Republic

© S. Kulikov, LfULG 09/2019, INTERREG VA project

Economy, Labour and Transport representing Saxony in the EGTC. To become a project partner the EGTC had to obtain resources from the Ministry and convince Ministry representatives that the EGTC is a more suitable project partner in this case than the Ministry itself. These internal clarification processes prolonged the application process and were finally solved by involving the lead partner, the Saxony State Ministry of the Interior.

Since the project started only in Spring 2019, the outcomes remain to be seen while public reception and media coverage are not yet in full swing. ‘Corridor Capitalisation Plans’ will be developed to facilitate the interaction of regional and transport infrastructure development in the participating regions. This will contribute to more efficient freight transport along this part of the corridor.

The EU added value lies in territorial focus on a TEN-T core net corridor and its wider perspective combining transport and spatial development issues. The TEN-T programme usually focuses on transport without directly addressing spatial planning. This may lead to investments beneficial for transport but with ambiguous effects for the public. CORCAP addresses this through a view on a transnational part of the corridor with cross-border sections.

Transferability of the experience will become clear at the end of the project. However, the project already shows that direct conversation with neighbours helps to overcome obstacles and find solutions.

Cross-border issues and cooperation are the focus for partners from the Baltic Sea to Hungary. CORCAP builds on a Czech-German Interreg VA project, which is in its final phase. EGTC PROUD’s objective is to develop a new railway line to overcome the bottleneck between Saxony (Germany) and the Czech Republic. Thus, the EGTC participates as a project partner in CORCAP.

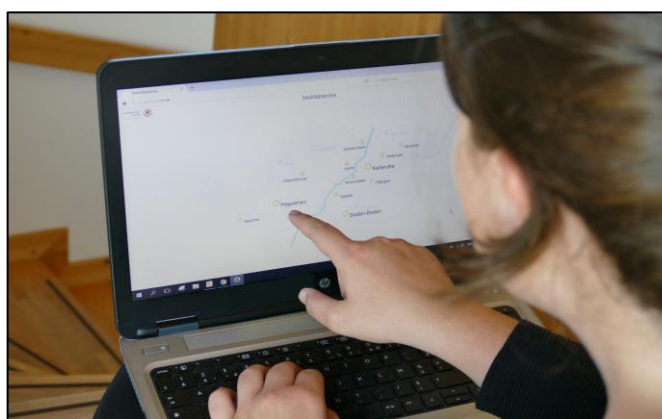
EGTC PROUD encountered obstacles in its attempt to become a partner of CORCAP. The EGTC is attached to the Saxony State Ministry of

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Cross-border mobility platform with live-data	2017 – 2019	PAMINA

The cross-border mobility platform is one of some 20 projects under the PAMINA Mobility Action Plan, adopted in 2016. All these projects aim at improving cross-border mobility short-, medium- or long-term. The mobility platform was funded by PAMINA members which are districts (Landkreise) and large cities on the German side, Département du Bas-Rhin, cities (Communauté d’agglomération) and other intermunicipal cooperation bodies on the French side.

The mobility platform uses traffic data from two data systems to provide live information on traffic in the cross-border region. It was initially developed for the City of Karlsruhe (Germany), the largest city in the EGTC territory. As a member of the EGTC, the city offered to cover the whole cross-border region, including the city of Haguenau (France). The platform already had high local usage but lacked a cross-border dimension. The role of EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA was to gain political support on the French side, create a strong and reliable partnership and to organise technical meetings at different administrative levels to solve data formatting problems. As a result, the platform has paved the way for future digitalisation projects in the transport sector.

The first challenge to creating the platform was to raise political interest for cooperation and to set-up the structure which could exchange data between the two major transport authorities (the City of Karlsruhe and the Département du Bas-Rhin). The Action Plan PAMINA provided a new impetus. The Département du Bas-Rhin joined the TechnologieRegion Karlsruhe GmbH which then became a cross-border limited company, ready to organise data exchange. The stakeholders then implemented a secure IT connection between the databases of Département du Bas-Rhin and the City of Karlsruhe. At the moment, although there is a secure IT connection, transmission of data is still manual. Pending issues include harmonised data, standardised geographical coordinates and automatic integration of data from decentralised structures (bike lanes, car sharing, e-mobility sharing stations).



A cross-border mobility platform with live-data

© EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA

People in the EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA now benefit from a one-stop-shop app for questions linked to mobility in the cross-border region. The app can be used for any trip in the region, whether crossing the border or not. It shows traffic jams and construction sites as well as e-car charging and bike-sharing points, which is extremely valuable in a region with many cross-border commuters.

The EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA organised a press conference with the mayors and/or presidents of all partner institutions which led to wide media coverage. As the platform already existed before it became a cross-border project, it is beyond the starting phase and the number of users is growing.

The project contributes to better cohesion in the border region by providing an app as well as by promoting ownership of the border region. Such a platform can be implemented in other cross-border territories, in particular those with many commuters. Stakeholders found solutions for cross-border IT connections at a regional and local level that can inspire other cross-border regions. For this project, the EGTC served mostly as a mediator and facilitator by connecting partners and gaining political support for the project.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Eco&soft MObility Through Innovative and Optimized network of cross-border Natural and cultural Ways (EMOTIONWay)	2018 – 2020	Euregio Senza Confini

Euregio Senza Confini EGTC is implementing the project EMOTIONWay under priority axis 2 ‘Nature and Culture’ of the Interreg VA Italy-Austria Cooperation Programme. The project addresses cross-border transport and cooperation with a focus on integrated tourist offers and has a budget of € 1,586,250.

The objective is to improve cross-border accessibility between Italy and Austria, by implementing multimodal services (bike-bus, bike-train mobility but also new cross-border local public transport services) to close missing connections and, at the same time, foster environmentally sustainable transport. Further, the project aims at presenting the network as a cross-border tourism product, promoted as part of the tourism strategies of the regions.

More specifically, the project is expected to improve the accessibility of heritage through better integrated intermodal services and also increase tourism flow by improving the quality of services and visibility of heritage. At the same time the project should reduce the environmental impact of tourism and related traffic. The project enables a cross-border network of cycling routes and paths for tourists in areas that otherwise would be difficult to reach. The main deliverable of the project is a ‘Geographic Information System’ (GIS) platform, providing a cross-regional database of cycling routes and paths in the area between Carinthia, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto and South Tirol, with georeferenced data. The platform shows the accessibility of each cycling path/route and identifies the intermodal services needed to connect existing cycling routes in the regions. Additionally, during 2018-2019, the EGTC implemented several experimental intermodal service pilot projects connecting cycling routes (bike plus bus) as well as natural and cultural heritage sites (e.g. heritage trains or shuttle buses). Activation of these services connected cycling routes and paths with each other and with natural/cultural heritage sites which are otherwise difficult to reach.



Major administrative and technical obstacles hindered the geo-referenced cross-regional database of cycling routes and paths as data from each project partner were stored with different degrees of detail and formats. The efforts of each project partner enabled a thorough integration and harmonisation of the data on cycling routes and paths. The main EU added value lies in exchanging and harmonising methodologies and criteria for data processing across borders.

EMOTIONWay Pilot bike&bus FVG-Carinthia

© EGTC Euregio Senza Confini

existing businesses to improve services for cycle tourists and hikers as well as fostering new businesses that could offer services currently not available in the area, the new tourism product will be promoted to the target groups. In 2020, many events to launch pilot services will be organised and promote the project. Moreover, transforming the database into a web GIS format will enable users to access data and information collected under the project and create their own itinerary on cycling routes and paths in the three regions. This will also ensure the sustainability of project results. Experiences gained in this project can easily be transferred to similar examples where authorities are facing similar issues.

After thorough participatory planning with the involved areas, training

4.1.7 Cooperation in integrated tourism

Some EGTC projects aim at integrated tourism offers that focus on local territorial specifics. This may be the visibility of regional products as illustrated by Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau and HP-HP or taking advantage of geographic conditions as in the Mura Region. Indeed, EGTCs support different types of water tourism activities (e.g. Mura and Pontibus). Other examples illustrate the relation to nature preservation (e.g. Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai) as well as cultural and natural heritage in general (e.g. ZASNET).

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Vélo Gourmand (cross-border bicycle tour with tasting of local products)	Since 2017 (ongoing)	Eurodistrict Strasbourg – Ortenau

Developing and deepening a joint identity for its citizens is paramount for the Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau. A ‘feeling of belonging’ and emotional attachment can best be promoted by events that are close to citizens and cover the entire territory. Combining outdoor activities using the diverse landscape of vineyards, orchards, landmarks and other points of interest, with cultural elements like regional cuisine are a good starting point for creating such experiences and promoting a sense of shared identity based on unique regional characteristics.



The ‘Vélo Gourmand’ 2019 of the Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau

© Aurélien Ebel

rarely take account of the other side of the border. In addition, small municipalities often lack the language and technical capacities to organise large-scale events for a German-French target group.

Against this background, the EGTC organises an annual cross-border cycling tour to enjoy regional food. This brings together tourism, culture, agriculture and sustainable mobility and attracts about 7,000 cyclists per year. The event offers an opportunity to meet neighbours from across the border and discover the common territory. Although tourism and mobility are relevant for all municipalities on both sides of the border, their cross-border dimension is still weak. Respective offers around local specialities and food producers, points of interest and cycle paths

The EGTC developed a cycling event and offers this once a year with a focus on one part of the common territory. EGTC is responsible for the overall organisation, the main topic, the cycling route, coordination and communication with local and regional partners. Local producers and associations develop their own programmes around local products and specialities. The route enables people to individually ‘hop on’ and ‘hop off’. Every 5-7 km, local associations and producers offer local products for tasting. Music, animation for children and visits to local points of interests like natural or cultural landmarks complement the cheerful get-together and make it a cross-border experience and friendship festival. Once the concept was developed and implemented in one part of the Eurodistrict, it could be used in other parts of the region. After the Vélo Gourmand 2018 edition, for example, local partners

decided to continue their cooperation and organise a 2019 edition in their region without further support from the EGTC and outside the framework of the Vélo Gourmand.

Covering cross-border culture, tourism, citizenship, nature and mobility, Vélo Gourmand implements the European idea at a local level close to citizens. Being co-financed by the cross-border Interreg programme for the Upper Rhine, it also contributes to increasing the visibility of the added value of EU funding and its benefits at local level. As shared identity and emotional attachment to the joint territory is important for cross-border integration, the idea is well suited to be adopted and adjusted to other border regions.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
INSPYR – Made in the Pyrenees	2016 – 2019	HP-HP Huesca Pirineos – Hautes Pyrénées

The Huesca Pirineos – Hautes Pyrénées (HP-HP) EGTC implemented ‘INSPYR Made in the Pyrenees’, a project under the Interreg VA Spain-France-Andorre Programme. The project has a total budget of € 1,385,300 and the EGTC was the lead partner. The activities focused on developing an integrated tourist offer.

The HP-HP EGTC decided to participate in this project to promote knowledge of local (artisan) agri-food products on both sides of the central Pyrenees and their consumption through a gastronomy and restaurant cross-border network. Its scope is also to make local products and gastronomy a reference for tourism in the central Pyrenees. The project addresses the general public and restaurants.



Project implementation was sometimes hampered by difficulties related to regulations for producers selling their products to final consumers in agri-food street markets. For instance, French producers were not allowed to sell fresh products in Spanish agri-food street markets. However, there was no specific regulation for products that do not require special treatment (such as wines or jams). An additional difficulty was related to documentation on licenses, insurance and permissions required for food handlers

2nd congress on local food and products from the Pyrenees

© Javier Blasco, owner: EGTC HP-HP

provided by French producers. Difficulties were solved by simply not providing products covered by veterinary controls and by the goodwill of Spanish veterinary services, that authorised sales on the Spanish side.

Thanks to the project, markets could be held in 12 locations. Indeed, the project realised two events for Pyrenean products and gastronomy, three visits to French markets and a distribution system to provide agri-food products to collective dining rooms. Also, the project supported a new network of restaurants on both sides of the border, implementation of a model for valorising local agri-food products and a marketing study to deliver Pyrenean products to large cities.

There was wide media coverage of the project activities with more than 2,000 reviews leading to significant public attendance at the markets and events. The EU added value lies in the development of a cross-border economy by contributing to social and environmental maintenance of the area, boosting

the economics of proximity and contributing to changing consumption habits with less displacement of products as well as a fairer and healthier society.

The models of production and market distribution for local agri-food products developed during the project can be consulted and could be replicated in similar projects.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Two rivers, one goal	2017 – 2019	Mura Region

The ‘Two rivers, one goal’ project supports cross-border tourism development along the Mura and Drava rivers. In line with the regional development plan, a joint water-tourism development project was drawn up. The EGTC represents the Hungarian and Croatian sides of the rivers. Before the accession of Croatia to the EU, the River Mura could not be used for sport as it was a border zone. Therefore, this project marks the beginning of water tourism in the region.

The obstacles during project implementation were mainly administrative. More specifically, finalising and signing the financing contract was a very lengthy process. However, active involvement of the joint secretariat helped overcome this obstacle.



Logo of the EGTC Mura Region

© Mura region

There have been several outcomes of the project. These include financing the construction of four mobile piers on the river Mura and three on the river Drava. In addition, boats, ships, and motorboats were procured. Two tourist visitor centres (Molnári, Gorican) and a water tourist resting place in Murakeresztúr were constructed. Additionally, an exhibition on the tradition of gold panning, where gold is extracted from a river using a flat pan, was completed in Donji Vidovec.

Public reception for the project has been positive. The media presented the results as a success and a novel tourism product. Many young visitors and families with children have used the tourism offer already. A new association based in Molnár, Hungary organises guided tour

programmes. A website (www.muradrava.eu) has been created and tours can also be booked on the EGTCs’ website. In six cities along the border info kiosks provide tourist information that can be downloaded with QR codes.

Local governments in both countries have a strong interest in exploiting opportunities created by the EGTC. Without the Hungary-Croatia VA Interreg Programme, such a complex project would not be possible as settlements could not carry out the project on their own. As a cross-border body, the Mura Region EGTC can coordinate the tourism package as a portfolio.

An important lesson is that implementation of a successful tourism product is based on good personal contact between political representatives and decision-makers in the municipalities. Regular meetings and cross-border events as well as the involvement of NGOs were also important to making this project a success. The project is an example on how a border formerly separating countries can be an asset for joint development. This way, the border shifts from a separating function to an interface. This example can therefore be transferred to any other EU border region wishing to implement and promote joint water tourism.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Installation of floating piers for kayaking and canoeing on the Ipoly river to develop water tourism and sports facilities	2018 – 2019	Pontibus EGTC

A primary goal of the PONTIBUS EGTC is to increase tourism for Danube and Ipoly settlements by offering quality services, programmes, events and other attractions through joint tourism development. The EGTC was involved in a project to install floating piers for kayaking and canoeing on the Ipoly to develop water tourism and sports facilities on both sides of the river in Slovakia and Hungary, which is important for this underdeveloped cross-border area. The project was funded by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and also aims to strengthen international relations between these two countries.

The obstacles encountered when initiating the project were mainly administrative. This included the complicated and lengthy processes for receiving the authorisation to install floating piers on the Slovakian side and obtaining permission from landowners on the Hungarian side. To overcome these obstacles, the EGTC had to change some technical parameters of the piers and one was installed at a different site. This caused a few months delay. However, the authorities and government agencies helped solve these problems.

Four requests to install floating piers were submitted to the towns of Szob, Ipolydamásd, Letkés and Chlaba. Three piers were installed on the Ipoly riverbank, in Szob, Ipolydamásd and Letkés. These are removable in case of flooding and in winter to increase the safety of this infrastructure.

The piers help tourists to get into and out of kayaks and canoes, fostering water tourism on the Ipoly. This project was an initial investment and further developments are planned.



Floating pier on the Ipoly river in Letkés

Dissemination was through a bilingual article published on the EGTC website about installing mobile piers and a presentation was given to other EGTCs in Szentgotthárd (HU) in March 2019.

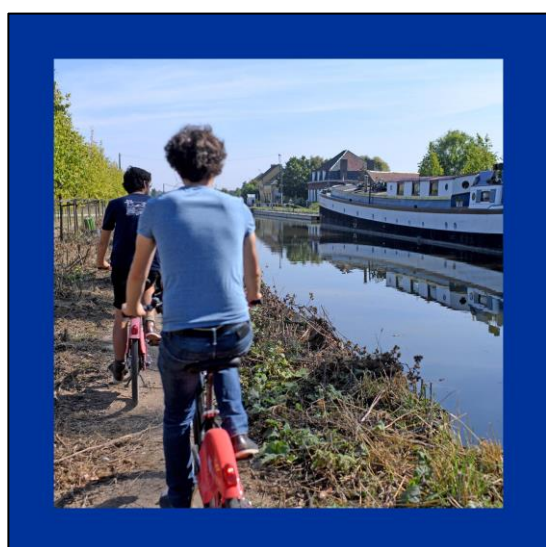
© Pontibus EGTC

This experience can certainly be useful for other EGTCs where developing water tourism on cross-border rivers is equally important. The most useful experiences of Pontibus EGTC are the importance of selecting installation sites which ideally involve cooperative landowners and prudent planning to facilitate authorisation procedures.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Blue Walks & Carré Bleu (micro-projects) for Blue Park	2018 – 2019	Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai

The Blue Walks & Carré Bleu project (‘Blue Walks’) combines nature protection, cooperation in spatial planning and an integrated tourist offer. Blue Walks is a micro-project under the Blue Park project, where the EGTC has erased the effects of national borders through concrete actions.

The EGTC working group as well as enthusiastic students and researchers from the area have actively collaborated on developing the Blue Park project. ‘Blue’ stands for the network of rivers, canals, streams and ditches that criss-cross the region as well as the groundwater. The Blue Park project idea was to create a robust hydrological system capable of absorbing climate shocks. This system should ensure the protection of ecosystems, flood proofing, water storage, drinking water supply, irrigation and drainage. A sub-project of Blue Park is the Blue Walks micro-project, that are bilingual cross-border guided tours. From its very beginning, the micro-project organised four cross-border tours and three tours in the subregions (Flanders, Wallonia and Nord Pas de Calais). It also implemented eight walking tours, four cycle tours and one boat tour (involving more than 230 participants).



BlueWalks in the Eurometropolis

© Alexandre TRAISNEL (MEL)

Project implementation has been straightforward despite some issues related to common project ownership (different riverbank management, language barriers, problems related to joint promotion). However, these obstacles have been overcome thanks to a strong leadership role played by the EGTC.

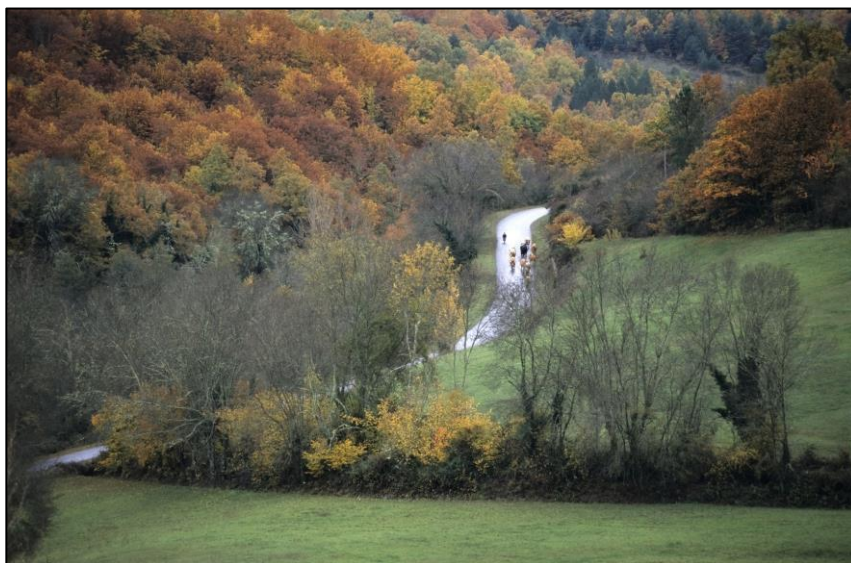
These very successful tours have created a need for permanent ‘Blue Walk /Carré bleu’ signage on hiking and cycling routes as well as waterways. The 90 kilometres route covered by the project can be completed in two days. It includes towpaths and by-roads along the principal waterways of the Eurometropolis: the Scheldt, the Lys, the Deûle, Bossuit Canal, Spiere Canal and Roubaix Canal. The towpaths and by-roads are the heart of Blue Park and traverse the Eurometropolis. This successful micro-project has been covered by numerous regional press articles, a TV report (NOTELE) and social media.

Project added value is at local, regional and EU level. At local level, the project enabled stakeholders to cooperate pragmatically to strengthen the European identity. At regional level, the EGTC ensured a structured and permanent dialogue between the local, regional and European levels. Thanks to its role as facilitator, mediator and accelerator for awareness, the EGTC contributes to development of a cross-border identity among stakeholders at various levels and in multiple sectors. Lastly, at European level, the EU can rely on EGTCs such as Eurometropolis to facilitate cross-border, trans-institutional and multilateral governance. This offers an opportunity to keep up to date with socio-economic realities in the field. As part of this process, the EGTC contributes to the European identity through governance and concrete actions. Although the funding linked to Interreg is limited in time, the projects can be continued through the efforts of the EGTC.

The experience of Blue Park and Blue Walks could be useful for other EGTCs in terms of methodology, project governance and development of a European identity that address the needs of people living in cross-border areas.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
MESETA IBÉRICA	2015 – 2018	ZASNET - EGTC

The MESETA IBÉRICA project was funded under the ERDF through the Interreg VA Programme, POCTEP. This project is a turning point for the EGTC and its action plan. The project had three main aims. First, to protect and enhance cultural and natural heritage of the EGTC ZASNET and Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Plateau Iberian adopted by UNESCO. Second, to mobilise and conserve all potential in a sustainable manner. This is in accordance with the ZASNET 2020 Territorial Cooperation and Development Strategic Plan as a cross-border intercultural identity reference that promotes competitiveness and the IBERIAN MESETA Action Plan. Third, to generate added value with sustainable and quality tourism using the Biosphere Reserve with adequate signs on routes.



Nature, man and biosphere in the EGTC territory

© António Sá

During implementation, ZASNET encountered administrative obstacles, namely lengthy procedures for public procurement and slow responsiveness from public authorities.

The outcomes of the project are many activities. These are by themselves an outstanding benefit, for the territory of ZASNET and the Iberian Plateau Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve. The activities include creation of a quality brand ZASNET MESETA IBÉRICA, thematic itineraries and a joint offer

for the BIOSPHERE Certificate of tourist destination. Other activities are a protection and recovery plan for natural and environmental resources in the ZASNET EGTC area to consolidate actions in the Biosphere Reserve Action Plan, protection and valorisation of heritage and cultural resources, a plan to declare the ‘Intangible Heritage of Humanity of Iberian Masks and Winter Festivities’, a valuation plan for sustainable agricultural production with a quality mark for Iberian Plateau Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve products.

The main project results are the tourism quality brand for ZASNET and the Iberian Plateau Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve (BIOSPHERE Certification tourist destination), integrated management of resources and potential, as well as synergies that provide the project with a multiplier effect. Participatory sustainable development generates added value that benefits public organisations and social agents with tourist itineraries.

The MESETA IBÉRICA project can be transferred to other areas of the EU, as it is beneficial for tourism, the local population, local and regional products and the general interaction between humans and natural and cultural heritage.

4.1.8 Cooperation in education

EGTCs with a sectoral approach can find education is a relevant field of cooperation as illustrated by the AeuCC for training in ceramics and the European Mycological Institute in truffles. Euro-regional EGTCs implement cross-sector education projects ranging from children’s education (e.g. PAMINA) to public sector master’s programme (e.g. Euregio Tirolo - Alto Adige - Trentino) and academia (e.g. Galicia – Norte de Portugal).

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
CERASMUS+	2017 – 2019	AEuCC

The Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Ciudades de la Cerámica (AEuCC) EGTC participated in the CERASMUS+ project implemented under Erasmus programme.

AEuCC proposed and created the project, participating because of its role as an EGTC for Cities of Ceramics Associations and its specific mission to develop projects related to art and craft ceramics. The aim of the project was to protect EU traditional heritage and to modernise the ceramics sector.



Participants to the CERASMUS+ kick-off meeting

© AEuCC EGTC

revising and innovating vocational education in ceramics through work-based learning models to strengthen cultural, social and economic value.

The first project proposal of CERASMUS+ was rejected by the Programme. However, when the lead partner changed, the project was revised and approved. The EU added value of EGTC AEuCC is still not fully known and recognised. One obstacle affecting project implementation was the interregional dimension and competences bundled by the EGTC within this project are not recognised enough. In times of ubiquitous integrated strategies, the EGTC faced difficulties promoting the sectoral development approach. In some territories sectoral approaches may provide higher leverage for territorial development than integrated approaches.

For project transferability, the experience and, from a broader perspective, the role played by AEuCC, could be replicated as a good practice elsewhere in Europe. AEuCC bundles specific competences and knowledge about ceramics across the EU and thus is a specialised actor, interrelating the sector across EU countries.

To achieve its aim, the project promoted three initiatives. Firstly, it created a European network of ceramics stakeholders to analyse sector needs for competences to improve the value chain. Secondly, the project intended to combine ceramic tradition with innovative design and production techniques. Thirdly, the project aimed at

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Trufforum	Since 2016 (ongoing)	European Mycological Institute (EMI)

Since 2016 the European Mycological Institute EGTC has been implementing the ‘Trufforum’ project. The project promotes cooperation for integrated tourist offers, education and culture as well as economic cooperation, jobs and growth.



Trufforum

© Fernando Martínez Peña

The key aim of the project is to promote the responsible use of European truffles in homes and restaurants. First of all, the project contributes to improving and spreading the knowledge of the different provenance and species of European truffles, how to distinguish them from less valuable Asian truffles and how to select European truffles from synthetic aroma

imitations. Moreover, the project intends to make people aware of the importance of quality control to avoid counterfeits, but also to teach appropriate uses in the kitchen. Further, the ‘Trufforum’ project intends to enhance Mycotourism in European truffle territories including habitats, truffle farms, fairs and specialised restaurants. Project activities mainly regard organising the International Truffle Congress. Additionally, the project also organised the Truffle Market-Trufforum, a single market in Catalonia with black truffles (*Tuber melanosporum*) selected from different territories. Lastly, the project also coordinated the Truffle Dog Catalonia Championship.

The main obstacle during implementation has been the lack of funding to organise events. To overcome this, the EGTC implemented a fundraising campaign seeking local, regional and private funding. Thanks to Trufforum, the European Truffle sector is better organised and people are more aware of this particular sector.

Furthermore, ‘Trufforum’ has helped develop international truffle tourism (attracting visitors from Asian countries who have shown interest in Europe-Asia cooperation). It is also worth noting that more than 10,000 visitors participated in each event and the project also had wide coverage in national media. The successful model of Trufforum could be also replicated for other products (in particular agri-food) and sectors which need to be further enhanced and jointly promoted at EU level and in cross-border regions.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Weltenbummler - Passe-Partout (Globetrotter online game)	Since 2017 (ongoing)	PAMINA

EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA created an educational online game to allow children to playfully discover the cross-border territory and engage them in learning the neighbouring language. This tool is used in schools in the framework of ‘cross-border class meetings’. The online game is based on a board game that was developed in 2012 which was very well appreciated by children and teachers who expressed their wish for an online version. Eurodistrict PAMINA picked up that wish and initiated the online version of the game.



An Interreg volunteer is presenting the game to children

© EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA

organise cross-border class meetings (e.g. special authorisation for French pupils to leave the country or forms for teachers and volunteers moving to the neighbouring country). School authorities were very helpful in resolving these organisational issues.

To now more than 1,200 people have used the online game. The children are very happy and motivated and teachers appreciate this pedagogical tool in their classes. They report that pupils use the online game at home and their motivation helps them learn more about the cross-border region and have a positive attitude to the neighbouring language and culture. Moreover, it enabled new cross-border partnerships between teachers and classes.

Media coverage of the project is positive. Nearly all press releases are published in newspapers. Part of the project was even presented in a short TV report. However, the media coverage is much better in the France than in Germany.

The project contributes to developing a cross-border and thus European identity for children, parents and teachers. Moreover, the origins of the project go beyond the French-German cross-border region, as the initial board game was a cooperation with a Euroregion on the Polish-Czech border. The project was also one of the first to have the support of an Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY) volunteer. The young Italian volunteer carrying out activities with the children and presenting the online game was a truly European experience for them.

Learning the neighbouring language is a challenge at most European borders so examples of good practice to motivate children from an early age to learn a neighbouring language and culture is always useful for EGTCs on all European borders. The project partners plan to publish the game source code to make it easy to transfer to other European border regions.

Finding funding to carry out the project was a challenge. It was eventually developed through support from the Interreg VA Upper Rhine programme. Organisational obstacles had to be overcome by adapting to different situations. Language learning starts at different ages in the different countries and Länder. Therefore cross-border class meetings involve pupils with different levels of the neighbouring language or with a substantial age difference between the participants. Organising cross-border training for teachers is challenging because of national differences between teacher training schemes. Administrative obstacles also made it more difficult to

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Euregio Master (EMEPA)	2018 – 2020	Euregio Tirolo - Alto Adige - Trentino

The Euregio Master in Public Administration (EMEPA) is a Master’s degree, initiated by Euregio Tirolo - Alto Adige – Trentino in 2018. The cross-border Master’s programme enhances cultural unification within the EGTC territory and is targeted at graduates already working in public administration in the region. The programme is financed by the EGTC with a total allocation of EUR 216,000.

The two-year curriculum is oriented towards the needs of Euregio public administrations and increases the European and international skills of graduates working in these public administrations. The programme promotes multilingualism as it is in English, German and Italian. It addresses intercultural topics and public management in the Euregio enhancing student understanding of ‘Europe of the Regions’. The curriculum includes eight lecture blocks per year which cover sector-specific strategies of public administrations to enhance managerial and leadership skills in European law, public management, policy governance, intercultural working and intercultural elements of the EGTC territory. The Master’s uses best-practice examples and helps to create a knowledge base along with a network of experts in international relations that will help to internationalise and better link the administrations. From 2018 to 2020, 36 students participate for 1,500 hours which will result in 60 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits and graduation in autumn 2020.

During development of the Master’s, the EGTC faced several difficulties. These mainly related to the complexity of designing a project involving multiple project partners (six regional administrations and three universities, from two countries where different national regulations apply). The collaboration of all the partners was a prerequisite to realise the programme.



Euregio Master (EMEPA)

© EVTZ Europaregion Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino

It took about two years to resolve the obstacles linked to elaborating the Euregio Master. The main obstacles were from different national and regional labour regulations covering the public sector. Intense legal assessments were needed. One example concerned the code of conduct in personal questions for Masters’ participants. To create equal conditions for all students from the different administrations, compromises had to be found. All students follow the programme during working hours. The courses are in different locations in Euregio (Trient, Bozen, Innsbruck and Alpbach). Participation is free as it is during work hours and classifies as work. The EGTC

covers the costs of courses, travel and posting participants. The obstacles were completely removed once the project was approved by all partners.

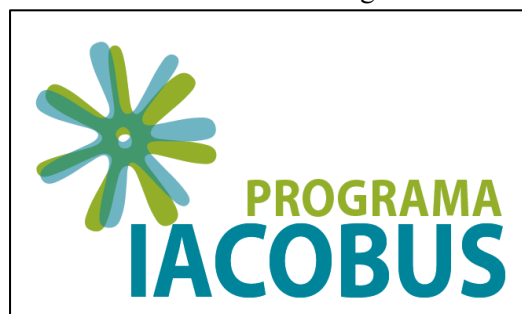
Public perception and media coverage of the Master’s programme was overwhelming, especially in the regions. It is the first project of its kind and was initially subject to scepticism that has turned into great enthusiasm since 2018. The European added value of the project lies in the possibility of elaborating a degree with a European approach and through this creating a new generation of managers with a vision of European integration.

Experience gained from the Euregio Master project can also be helpful for other EGTCs, particularly experiences during implementation of the project. Resolving the obstacles can also be useful for other cross-border projects.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Iacobus programme	Since 2014 (ongoing)	GNP EGTC

The Iacobus Programme responds to priorities established in the PIC (Joint Investments Plan of the Euroregion), driven by Working Community Galicia - Norte de Portugal (GNP), and counts on EU financial support provided by the Operational Programme for Cross-Border cooperation Spain-Portugal (POCTEP).

Iacobus aims to promote cross-border cooperation and exchange between people in higher education institutions (HEI's) of the Euroregion. This should improve teaching, research and communication. These exchanges improve knowledge and cooperation relationships within academia, benefiting scientific and technological research, creating synergies and economies of scale. Taking into account the weak relationships between universities a few years ago, GNP EGTC created the Iacobus programme to foster, support and develop collaboration and staff exchanges among these communities in the Euroregion. In 2014 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the presidents of regional governments and the rectors of all universities and HEI's in the Euroregion (three universities in Galicia, four in North Portugal and four polytechnic institutes – HEI's in North Portugal). Afterwards the first call under the Iacobus programme was published. The memorandum and general principles of the programme are the backbone for implementing the Iacobus programme.



IACOBUS Programme logo

© GNP EGTC

The main difficulties when developing and creating the programme were due to the many institutions involved. The obstacles were mainly administrative and cultural. There were also some legal barriers that determined what could be done or not under a co-funded Interreg project. The obstacles were overcome through joint work between all the stakeholders involved in the programme. Many contacts and internal meetings took place to develop the general principles and the Memorandum of understanding so all stakeholders agreed.

The general principles and the Memorandum of Understanding already included an agreement. Nevertheless, the programme is constantly changing and developing new initiatives that may face obstacles prior to implementation. For instance, in the 6th call two new initiatives were added to continue promoting cross-border R&D in the GNP Euroregion for the academic year 2018-2019 and beyond. This enabled technology entities to participate in addition to universities. The Iacobus Papers Call promotes joint publication of cross-border papers with at least one author from a Galician institution and another from a Northern Portuguese institution. To include the Technology Centres in the Programme required a specific Collaboration Protocol between the GNP EGTC and the Technology Centres in 2018.

To now more than 1,400 proposals were submitted. A total of 798 exchanges were supported and 34 papers were accepted under the 1st Iacobus papers call. The main EU added value of Iacobus is to develop and advance a cross-border higher education framework with interregional integration between universities and HEI's in the Euroregion. Other benefits at European level are fostering R&D cross-border collaboration among HEI's and universities in the Euroregion, promoting new joint publications, mostly focusing on regional sectors and improving the visibility of the Euro-regional University System as well as improving the quality of HEI's (Shanghai Ranking).

The IACOBUS programme illustrates how an EGTC can secure funds for several years from Interreg programmes and distribute them in a flexible manner rather than being restricted to specific projects.

4.1.9 Cooperation in culture

The variety of projects implemented by EGTCs for culture illustrates different access points and approaches. Often cultural heritage is the focus, sometimes closely related to enhancing tourism. Some examples have a more specific focus on cultural heritage. Examples also cover an urban focus (e.g. Pannon) or linking cultural heritage with strengthening local identity (e.g. European Border Cities).

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Historical Memorials	Since 2018 (ongoing)	Abaúj-Abaújban

The Historical Memorials project was initiated to showcase cultural historic relations in Slovakia Hungary border areas. The objective is to raise awareness for children, the general public and tourists about shared history in the areas and to introduce habits, clothing and food from the past into people's daily lives. The EGTC co-organises events, providing a platform for historic associations, interest groups and businesses in the regions. The EGTC and organisers of the historic events are keen to spread knowledge of cultural interrelations in the cross-border area.

Partners of the EGTC already cooperated before the cross-border instrument was established 13 years ago. This means projects can rely on close cooperation between authorities that can easily resolve minor obstacles. EGTC Abaúj-Abaújban encountered no major obstacles during its implementation.



Presentation of King Matthias and the Middle Ages at the castle of Boldogkőváralja

© ABAÚJ - ABAÚJBAN

The EGTC mobilised young and old generations from both sides of the border to visit and become actively involved in cultural groups. This has raised the profile of cultural groups among the local population especially visibility and relevance (Javitva). The events have indirectly helped cross-border tourism businesses by generating new events increasing tourism from the other side of the border and from abroad.

To increase the EU added value, areas beyond the EGTC territory were included as part of the events. This increases cultural awareness of the broader cross-border region with its shared history. These related activities have increased the visibility of the EGTC.

Public events on the shared cultural past were well attended, including by residents from other regions beyond the EGTC territory. EGTC residents, leaders of national organisations and local decision-makers were invited and many attended. The events are also advertised in tourist accommodation throughout the region, which increased participation and media coverage.

With this project, the EGTC showcases shared culture in the territories to raise awareness of historic cross-border relations. It is also a good example of how residents, tourists, current and former decision-makers can be mobilised for a joint cause. Additionally, local business competitiveness was promoted. This well-functioning partnership of the past 13 years can be a useful example for EGTCs showcasing shared history in other border regions.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Patrimc@t – Cross-Border Territorial Arrangement of Interpretation of Architecture and Patrimony in Tech and Ter Catalan Valleys	2016 – 2020	PAHT

In 2016 the Cross-border Country of Art and History ‘Catalan Valleys’ EGTC implemented the Patrimc@t project, to create a territorial system for interpreting architecture and heritage in the Catalan Valleys. The project is funded under priority axis 3 (‘conserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency’) of the Interreg VA Spain-France-Andorra 2014-2020 Programme (POCTEFA) and focuses on cooperation in education and culture.

The EGTC decided to participate in the project to implement the cross-border ‘Country of Art and History’ brand. This brand was established by the French Ministry of Culture and is given to municipalities or groupings of municipalities engaged in raising awareness about the quality of heritage, architecture and the living environment.

The Patrimc@t project intends to translate the ‘Country of Art and History’ brand into a cross-border dimension. The main objective is to create a network of heritage sites and interpretive routes for locals, young audiences and visitors. So, the project contributes to economic development in the rural areas and reinforces culture and tourism professionals by developing new activities and access to professional resources. Project activities also focus on improving accessibility of heritage sites, their development and restoration. Project activities cover the restoration of Maison du Patrimoine et de la Mémoire in Saint-Laurent-de-Cerdans, rehabilitation of the Cal Marquès in Camprodon and recent works to improve accessibility to the Liège Museum.

The ‘Country of Art and History’ label, awarded for the first time to a cross-border territory (31 French and Spanish municipalities), takes on a new dimension with an EGTC and operational implementation of the Patrimc@t project. Project implementation has faced minor obstacles which were solved thanks to the help of institutional project partners.

Media coverage has been through publications in the press as well as social and specialised networks. As a result, the project received positive feedback from locals, especially through social networks.

The EU added value lies in the implementation of a new methodological framework for the management and joint development of cultural heritage on both sides of the border. The Patrimc@t project, that will end in 2020, has already enforced cooperation among local populations and elected officials from both sides of the cross-border project area in order to enhance and promote tangible and intangible local heritage as well as a common language and culture.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
SHARE	Since 2017 (ongoing)	Pannon

The diversity of cultural heritage plays a specific role in Europe 2020 strategy goals for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It is relevant not only in culture but also in social and economic development, cohesion, education, tourism, and innovation. The aim of the SHARE project is to exchange policies of cultural heritage in urban settings. It identifies best practices and innovative approaches to develop a sustainable and smart process for management and valorisation. Smart city projects should be effectively improved by including a smart and sustainable agenda for cultural assets in urban centres. Smart infrastructure plays a key role in evidence-based decision making and responsive planning while also providing the ‘raw material’ for a knowledge-based economy. Ever-cheaper digital infrastructure and approaches can give insights into fields that have so far remained inaccessible. Ensuring that tourism planning and management as well as development of the built environment responds to the needs of users requires smart infrastructure, providing information on how people use public spaces and touristic attractions.

Within the SHARE project, Pannon EGTC has two functions. The EGTC elaborates public and private



SHARE project team

© Pannon

tourism development project proposals for actors in the area covering economic development and innovation. It also functions as an expertise centre in elaborating recommendations to improve the effectiveness of EDIOP calls to improve exchanges of experience on cultural heritage policies in urban settings. EDIOP is a Hungarian government programme for the 2014-2020 period aimed at sustainable economic growth and the expansion of high added-value manufacturing and employment. For tourism, the programme 'is set to increase spending of tourists by developing cultural heritage assets into sustainable, economically viable tourism products in harmony with the surrounding environment'.

The SHARE project is based on four pillars: sustainable urban development, urban cultural heritage, information and communication technologies as well as participatory processes. The core of SHARE is joint learning between managing authorities covering different policy instruments. The interregional exchange of good practices in the project territories inspires new ideas to improve each policy.

The project is producing six local action plans to improve local policy instruments concerning urban cultural heritage. These action plans will propose improvements to the use and management of public funds, bringing them closer to the needs of citizens and generating more effective impact. The project involves citizens and stakeholders in the participatory process. Participatory actions planned by the project will involve many residents and organisations in sustainable urban development and improvements to the related policy instruments. SHARE improves the relationship between residents and their city with its historical value and identity. Residents and visitors benefit through better access, communication and sustainable development of the urban environment and its cultural heritage.

No obstacles were encountered so far during implementation. A press conference was held at the beginning and end of the first phases and various online media have mentioned the project. Stakeholders were informed of preliminary project results at a separate meeting. The results will help development of the region by improving the targeting of EU funding. Cultural heritage professionals and stakeholders were pleased with the preliminary results. During the project, the partners gained insights on different cultural heritage and management systems. Furthermore, the EGTC acquired more knowledge on ways to increase the number of visitors. These experiences are very useful and can be easily transferred to other EGTCs. The project results will be useful for tourism promotion in other urban regions.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
CultDialogue	Since 2019 (ongoing)	European Border Cities

The European Border Cities EGTC in Nyíregyháza (HU) implements the CultDialogue project together with partners in Veľké Kapušany (SK). It is funded under the Small Project Fund of the Interreg VA SK-HU Cooperation Programme and addresses ethnic diversity in the region.

People in the two cities in this region are of Sultan, Slovak and Hungarian origins. Addressing social cohesion in this area thus requires bringing together the cultural heritage of three ethnicities.

The focus of the CultDialogue project is to tackle a lack of integrated methods, procedures, institutional cooperation and cultural values that lead to cultural challenges. Social cohesion and a common cultural understanding will be strengthened among young citizens and the project addresses similar cultural challenges across the ethnicities. It aims to improve cross-border partnership and preserve the common cultural heritage of Nyíregyháza and Veľké Kapušany. So far, no obstacles have been encountered.

The project conducts workshops involving local cultural organisations in the two cities. These gather information and set up common services such as cultural meetings and events that establish sustainable cross-border relationships. The results will be available in Slovak and Hungarian languages. Two events will offer the chance for young people to learn about traditional regional food. An action plan showing Slovak-Hungarian cultural values will help keep young people in the region and strengthen understanding between the nationalities. CultDialogue will strengthen regional cultural identity and counteract young people moving away.

The workshop protocols can be transferred to other regions with similar cultural and demographic problems as the Nyíregyháza and Veľké Kapušany border region.

4.1.10 Cooperation in attracting EU funding

Although Interreg is the main EU funding source for EGTCs they are also eligible under other EU funding instruments. Some EGTCs successfully apply to other programmes (see sub-section 4.2.3) as illustrated by the Horizon 2020 project implemented by EUCOR – The European Campus. EGTCs may attract EU funding for their own activities as well as for their members or other institutions in their territory. This is illustrated by the example of EGTC Gate to Europe that uses national funding to help NGOs and local authorities obtain EU funding.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
QUSTEC – Quantum Science and Technologies at the European Campus	Since 2019 (ongoing)	EUCOR – The European Campus

EUCOR – The European Campus aims to develop Research and Teaching Hubs in selected thematic priority areas. One of these is Quantum Technology. Researchers at member universities of the EGTC wanted to build a joint doctoral programme for the Upper Rhine region. They identified the COFUND funding instrument proposed by the European Commission under Horizon 2020 (Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions). Since COFUND only provides funding for single beneficiaries, it was clear that applying through the EGTC would be suitable to sharing the funding. Hence, EUCOR – The European Campus submitted a proposal in 2018 which was accepted by the European Commission. The grant allows the recruitment of 39 Early Stage Researchers at four member universities and one industry partner (IBM Research Zurich) who have been taking in a doctoral programme since May 2019. Furthermore, the programme involves regional SMEs that offer internships and secondments in their labs and facilities. In addition to funding sources of the five partner organisations, the programme receives an EU contribution of EUR 4.5 million. It is the first time that the EGTC successfully applied for Horizon 2020 funding.

One challenge for applying for funding through Horizon 2020 is that different agreements need to be negotiated and signed. These include a Grant Agreement with the European Commission and Partnership Agreements with partner organisations, which requires legal expertise. However, the EGTC only has a lean management structure which does not include professional legal experts. The EGTC



QUSTEC training programme logo

© QUSTEC

therefore relies on the legal services of member universities but these are not familiar with the legal details of the EGTC and in general are not responsible for the EGTC. External legal expertise would be very costly. In the specific case of QUSTEC, the university of Strasbourg led negotiations for the Partnership Agreement, which led to a delay in the process and in hiring Early Stage Researchers for the doctoral programme. Despite these challenges, a successful application for Horizon 2020 funding is proof that the universities can jointly apply for third-party funding under the EGTC umbrella.

The added value of the QUSTEC project is threefold. Firstly, it improves tertiary education opportunities along the Upper Rhine and helps the universities expand their doctoral programmes and become more attractive for international researchers. Due to the involvement of private enterprises, QUSTEC furthermore contributes to technology transfer and innovation in the regional economy. Lastly, this implies promoting synergies between different policies, in this case between research and regional policies. EGTCs with university members might benefit from the experience regarding the management of Horizon 2020 applications and projects.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
'Civil Meetings in cross-border Area' Initiative	Since 2017 (ongoing)	Gate to Europe

The Gate to Europe EGTC, established in 2012, is facilitator and mediator in the 'Civil Meetings in cross-border Area' initiative. The initiative, started in 2017, is funded by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an umbrella initiative under which several projects are implemented.

The initiative supports project applications and professional aspirations of civil organisations, local governments and small businesses, overcoming a lack of expertise in rural areas and small cities. The main source of income is agriculture and animal husbandry, so making the cross-border area attractive to a wider public is essential for the EGTC. Gate to Europe has submitted two projects under the LEADER Programme, one promoting typical local products, and one on institutional development through new technological equipment.

The 'Civil meeting in cross-border area' initiative is innovative because the EGTC is the first organisation in a cross-border area offering expertise and project management consultancy services without payment. Gate to Europe EGTC is involved in elaborating and implementing 10-15 projects each year.

Unfortunately, natural and environmental protection projects have encountered obstacles due to different legal frameworks in Romania and Hungary. For example, despite EU legislation requiring public information, information regarding groundwater resources, river basins, water capacities, and thermal waters could not be published in Romania. This hinders an integrated strategy for cross-border irrigation. In addition, different legal definitions of forest and forestry further hamper joint approaches.

Events organised by or in collaboration with the EGTC, including a football competition, cultural days and days of traditional border area meals were attended by many people from the cross-border area. They were also covered by local and major national TV stations, radios and newspapers. To help promote the EGTC activities, leaflets, billboards and other promotional material were produced.

Project added value is in the innovative character of the initiative since it is new. Gate to Europe is the first organisation in the border area which gives expertise and project management help for free. This



Community Day in Nyíradony 2019

© Gate to Europe EGTC

kind of expertise can be offered to NGOs and replicated especially in rural areas where there are limited project experts. The experience could be of particular interest to EGTCs in similar territorial settings which need support for developing proposals and capacities before they become operational and effectively apply for EU funds.

4.1.11 Cooperation in economic cooperation, jobs and growth

Some projects implemented by EGTCs focus on the labour market either by offering placement services (e.g. Linieland van Waas en Hulst), helping specific parts of the population to find a job (e.g. Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC) or enhancing employment creation through local product development and branding. Other projects want to enhance economic cooperation through cross-border markets for local products (e.g. Pannon) or other cross-thematic approaches (e.g. León-Bragança). Finally, EGTCs also have sector specific initiatives enhancing competitiveness e.g. for ceramics or supporting innovation in e-health.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Grensinfovoorziening: Annual jobfair and annual open enterprises event	2016 – 2019	EGTC Linieland van Waas en Hulst

The Interreg project ‘Grensinfovoorziening’, implemented by EGTC Linieland van Was en Hulst, aims at reducing the obstacles that EU citizens encounter when working in another EU member state. The project is co-funded by the Interreg VA Belgium – The Netherlands (Vlaanderen – Nederland) programme under the priority axis promoting employment and supporting labour mobility. The EGTC took action to address such problems and with the cooperation of partner organisations in Flanders and the Netherlands has organised an annual jobfair and an annual open enterprises event. The jobfair hosts both Belgian and Dutch companies and visitors come from both sides of the border. For the cross-border open enterprises event, the EGTC invites entrepreneurs from the border region to visit companies that open their doors.



An impression of the EGTC jobfair 2019

© EGTC Linieland van Waas en Hulst (Filip Deproost)

EGTC Linieland van Waas en Hulst can rely on different partners in organising the jobfair and the open enterprises event. It has a strong team working to make the events a success. The team has representatives from the four municipalities and other partners such as large employers from the region, cross-border job placement services and also EURES.

Every year the EGTC tries to improve the jobfair and the open enterprises event by adding new elements. Sometimes the EGTC encounters difficulties. For example, how can the EGTC ensure inhabitants from Hulst in the Netherlands can reach the jobfair in Beveren, Belgium? How can the EGTC meet requests from companies at the jobfair to have more Dutch/Flemish students (graduates-to-be) among the visitors? How does the EGTC convey news of the event and the possibilities of cross-border cooperation to potential visitors and employers?

EGTC Linieland van Waas en Hulst and its partners discuss problems and try to find a solution. For example, to meet the urgent demand of companies in the cross-border region for qualified personnel, at

the jobfair in 2019 a new app ('GrensMatchapp') was launched (in cooperation with EURES) to enable companies and job applicants to meet each other online.

Both events organised by the EGTC have been successful. Employers are very eager to attend the jobfair and unfortunately each year the interest is greater than the places available. As a result of the activities of the EGTC, the labour market in the cross-border region has more cross-border integration. For example, the number of companies with cross-border employees has increased from 50% (2017) to 62% (2019) in the area. In 2019, 12 of the 92 employers at the fair found a match among visiting job-applicants. During the cross-border open enterprises event in 2019, 76% of participating entrepreneurs established new relations with other entrepreneurs. This highlights the added value of bridging border effects using the EGTC instrument for cross-border cooperation and illustrates the EU added-value. Each year, the jobfair is covered in several national newspapers.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
SILVER ECONOMY	2017 – 2019	Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC

The Silver Economy is a way to describe the economic participation, needs and opportunities of people above the age of 50. It is closely linked to European demographic trends, and the effects on life quality for the older people and the wider European economy. The 'Silver Economy' project aimed to strengthen economic cooperation of 'Over 50s' in the Slovak-Hungarian border region. It was funded under the Interreg VA Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme and led by the EGTC.

The project brought together consumers, employees and employers of this age group to strengthen cross-border cooperation. This included public and private institutions, public and private sectors, industrial and commercial companies, chambers of commerce and institutions representing older people. This meant encouraging Silver Economy products and services, developing that economic sector. The project highlighted the role of healthy and active ageing to encourage high employment and decrease poverty, making the SK-HU border area a good place to live for future generations. The project strengthened cross-border cooperation between residents and increased interest in cross-border activities.



Closing Press Conference

© SILVER ECONOMY

The project also conducted free knowledge transfer events on smart devices, electronic administration, job search for 50+ age groups, and language courses. In addition, conferences, workshops and presentations were organised in six counties of the programme area, including an exhibition where more than 125 exhibitors offered silver economy products and services. These events highlighted changes in consumer behaviour, ways of enhancing international relations and the fact that ageing is not a threat but an opportunity. The 50+ age group can stimulate the economy by creating demand for new products and services.

Enterprises, companies and target group organisations were scouted for the project, which involved funded network development in the SK-HU border region.

During implementation no obstacles were encountered.

The project can be easily transferred to other regions. Participants learnt about networks and opportunities, inspiring and encouraging them to start new businesses. Furthermore, participants got familiar with intelligent devices, technology and e-administration to better position themselves on the job market and keep up with younger colleagues.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
IG Heritage Re-discovered heritage. Employment development through cross-border networking of local producers	Since 2019 (ongoing)	Ister-Granum

Ister-Granum EGTC has helped with branding cross-border local products for the last five years. Through the ‘IG Heritage Re-discovered heritage’ project the EGTC aims to build a local product network and give local producers the opportunity to sell their goods in local markets. Cross-border networking should help local producers increase employment and develop new products. The project will also help with provide packaging, delivery and building an Ister-Granum Local Product brand. The project is funded by priority axis 3 on ‘Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility’ in the cross-border Interreg Hungary-Slovakia programme. The project has been approved by the Territorial Action Plan for Employment, a unique tool to promote sustainable and quality employment, support labour mobility and increase synergies between projects.



Local producers

© Ister-Granum EGTC

The results of the project have also been transferred to other Visegrad countries. EGTCs have been inspired by this approach to support local producers and some LEADER projects under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, involving both Visegrad and other MS have been realised based on knowledge exchange with Ister-Granum EGTC.

The main obstacles the EGTC encountered involved the different legal backgrounds in Hungary and Slovakia. These included different rules and regulations on quality for local products and for selling in local markets. For example, there are different conditions on the use of cash. Products can be sold in local markets in Hungary without using a cash register, while in Slovakia local producers do not pay tax on a limited amount of farm-gate sales. Although it has been difficult for the EGTC to overcome legal obstacles, it has supported local producers by providing them with a guidebook on cross-border legislation.

Through this project, employment in agriculture has increased and the number of young people leaving small villages decreased. Furthermore, the quality of products has improved, due to better processing, packaging and branding, while products also have a longer life span by using cooling containers. These have also helped increase the income of producers.

The Slovak side of Ister-Granum EGTC is mainly agricultural and the Hungarian side predominately industrial, so the project has enabled cross-border trade.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Crossmarkets – Institutional cooperation to enhance cross-border selling at local farmers’ markets	2018 – 2019	Pannon

The Crossmarkets project aimed to enhance institutional cooperation across municipalities as well as owners and operators of farmers’ markets. This way farmers, primary producers and local distributors in the border region of Hungary and Croatia could overcome legal and administrative obstacles that hinder them selling their products on the other side of the border. The project examined cross-border sales possibilities for local products in the border region by comparing legal and administrative frameworks with producer demands and expectations. The project also proposed measures to facilitate cross-border sales opportunities for local products.

During implementation, many legal and administrative obstacles to cross-border sales of local agricultural products were identified. One difficulty was to involve the relevant actors. The producers were sceptical about the project as they felt the demand for local products was insufficient, even domestically. Furthermore, involving policy actors was a major challenge, especially in Hungary where the public administration workload grew considerably with municipal elections in 2019. Several other facts made the sale of agrarian products on the other side of the border a lot more difficult including a lack of information, linguistic barriers and limited cooperation.



Pannon EGTC Crossmarket

© Pannon

Knowing and understanding the legislation and regulations improves farmer and primary producer competitiveness and enlarges supply especially given the diversified products in the area next to the border. Exchanges of experience and requirements across the institutions led to publicising information about locations and specific requirements of farmers’ markets on both sides of the border in a bi-lingual format. During implementation of the project, the EGTC closely cooperated with local governments in both Hungary and Croatia. Regional actors, development agencies and ministry representatives from Croatia and Hungary were invited to discuss policy recommendations.

The recommendations modify regulations to facilitate cross-border sales of local products. The process involved an analysis to collect and analyse the needs of Croatian and Hungarian farmers for cross-border selling in local farmers’ markets. Then a gap analysis elaborated a matrix of intervention possibilities to overcome legal, administrative and language-related obstacles. This led to online and offline guidance and information for local value-chain actors. Finally, recommendations for local, regional and national public policy were created.

In terms of dissemination, the EGTC participated in the ‘B-solutions’ meeting in Brussels and joined the 'Boosting EU Border Regions' network. It also published four articles on results of the project. Furthermore, events were posted on the project’s Facebook page. Many borders within the EU are in rural areas which lack harmonised administrative infrastructure to aid cross-border sales for local farmers and primary producers. The solution and tools developed by this project should be highly relevant for similar cross-border regions and easily adaptable to local specificities.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Strategic Plan for the EGTC León-Bragança	2015 – 2019	León-Bragança

With the preparation of the cross-border ‘Strategic Plan’, EGTC León-Bragança created a shared instrument to structure future cross-border cooperation. The project was supported by the Interreg VA programme Spain Portugal (POCTEP) under priority axis 4 (‘Improving the institutional capacity and efficiency of the public administration’). To implement the strategic plan effectively, it has specific objectives, among which are development of a territorial diagnosis and a territorial development strategy, an action plan, monitoring mechanisms and a framework to enhance communication between EGTC members.

EGTC León-Bragança was the promoter of the project. The EGTC general assembly and its members decided to implement this project to create a defined working strategy, structuring the activities and projects of members. The strategic plan is the roadmap for the 2021-2027 programming period.



During the life cycle of the project no obstacles were encountered. All steps were running smoothly according to official procedures in the public bodies and the administrative and time requirements. Smooth project implementation was however the result of thorough preparation by the project manager and staff. These are experienced and well aware of the administrative procedures and requirements.

Working together for a better future

© EGTC León-Bragança

The main project outcome is the ‘Strategic Plan’, which is a bilingual (PT/ES) document with a roadmap for future cooperation within the EGTC. This document was elaborated

during almost a year with participatory approaches, involving more than 100 entities and inhabitants in local meetings. The purpose of the participatory approaches was also to create synergies between social and economic actors as well as other target groups from both sides of the border.

The EGTC ‘Strategic Plan’ has been presented to the general public in social media and local as well as regional TV and newspapers. The document is publicly accessible and can be consulted on the [EGTC website](#). The reception has been positive according to calls and emails from people interested in how the cooperation strategy will be implemented and how local people can benefit from the cooperation.

EU added value of this project is in the result where two local authorities from different countries without experience and tradition in cross-border planning managed to collaborate. This was made possible through shared objectives in local development, which provided the cooperation rationale.

The experience is evaluated as strongly positive because two territories from Portugal and Spain with unrelated public bodies and no common cooperation strategies, managed to collaborate in territorial development. Experience from the working methodology and the local stakeholder participation process can be transferred to other areas. The outcome may be less transferable due to the many specificities of the EGTC territory, reflected in the ‘Strategic Plan’.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
MED.net	2018 – 2022	DIETAMED

DIETAMED EGTC is an associated partner in the MED.net project. The project deals with cooperation in an integrated tourism offer, economic cooperation, jobs and growth. The project is implemented under the Interreg MED Programme. DIETAMED is involved to improve and explore the Mediterranean Diet (MD) as defined in the UNESCO Mediterranean Diet Convention.

There are several project outcomes so far. Firstly, the adoption of comprehensive MD concepts with innovative tools, and MD recognised as an opportunity for smart economic growth in remote rural areas. Secondly, it strengthened exploitation of the MD, through UNESCO MD regions by expanding the territories subscribing the UNESCO Med Diet Convention. Thirdly, it promoted MD internationally by addressing the entire MD systems of its distinctive products to build an innovative integrated marketing brand and hi-tech networked complementary services. Lastly, the project enhanced adoption of the MD by targeting specific communities through slow tourism and created a durable network involving users, local communities, enterprises, research centres and public administrations to promote new opportunities for MD products and services to younger generations.

Implementation was hampered by obstacles related to managing project development and the involvement of social actors in recognising the importance of the MD's value as an integral part of the Mediterranean identity. The MD is registered in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. Thanks to an appropriate and effective partnership, many of these obstacles have been overcome.



Kick-off meeting MED.net

© MD.Net project archive

has also been guaranteed abroad through the project website, the newsletters service and the communication plan prepared by Campania Region, which is the lead partner.

It is worth noting that the EGTC presented the MED.net project during the European Week of Regions and Cities in October 2019 in Brussels. This emphasised the value of the Mediterranean lifestyle and stimulated a debate on cohesion and enhancing the European identity.

The important results achieved by MED.net are sharing scientific knowledge and research on MD, reinforcing the MD identity and cooperation among regions in the international market, creating innovative products and services, spreading information, workshops and MD professionals, and strengthening partnerships among quadruple-helix actors⁸.

⁸ This recognises four main types of actors for innovation, namely science, policy, industry and society.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
CLAY - Cross Sector support for Innovative and Competitive Artistic Ceramic SMEs	Since 2018 (ongoing)	AEuCC

In 2018 the Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Ciudades de la Cerámica (AEuCC) EGTC, started implementing the CLAY ‘Cross Sector support for Innovative and Competitive Artistic Ceramic SMEs’ project. The EGTC is a partner and contributes to this project as sector and communication advisor. The project is funded by the Interreg Europe Programme, under priority axis 2 related to SME competitiveness.



Participants to the CLAY kick-off meeting

© AEuCC EGTC

Artistic Ceramics represents a central part of European tradition, with mainly small and micro enterprises that were hit by the economic crisis and low-cost competition. A project goal is to show that product and process design along with innovation can keep tradition and modernity visible and competitive in today’s world.

Project implementation is encountering some issues with expenditure approval, especially for AEuCC salaries and management costs. Such issues should be solved by harmonising national regulations for EGTC guidelines. As project implementation is entering the 4th semester, out of 10, there are few outcomes so far. Project EU added value lies in enhancing SME competitiveness and business opportunities that could be replicated in other contexts and territories.

Media coverage of the project is very good and has included articles in local partner and specialised sector magazines, social media campaigns, press releases, Interreg events and dissemination activities.

CLAY boosts SME competitiveness in the ceramic sector through interregional policy learning to support innovation in technologies, processes and products. It supports the ceramic sector by prioritising new technologies, strengthening brands and developing new services to maintain competitive advantage and face the challenge of globalisation.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
KISS ME	2017 – 2021	Pyrénées-Méditerranée

The KISS ME - ‘Knowledge and Innovation Strategies involving SMEs’ project is co-funded by the Interreg Europe 2014-2020 programme. The project wants to improve the policy instruments addressing SMEs to develop, grow and engage in innovation processes. This should improve the innovation capacity of SMEs across Europe, contributing to the EU2020-goal of Smart Growth. The partners in the project are border regions from Germany and the Netherlands (Euregio Rhine-Waal), France and Spain (EGTC Pyrenees-Mediterranean), Hungary and Croatia (HAMAG BICRO), as well as Sweden and Norway (Värmland County Administrative Board; Hedmark County Council).



Action Plan presentation KISS ME project

© KISS ME project

allowing them to get a wider understanding of cross-border policy instruments, to self-assess regional policy instruments targeting SMEs and their potential areas for improvement.

As a result, the EGTC has defined an action plan with three interrelated and incremental actions. These are a Euro-regional guide on barriers to cross-border collaboration for SMEs, implementation of the ‘new Euro-regional RIS3’ (which will link the Euro-regional Innovation Strategy with respective regional RIS3 strategies) and the first Euro-regional call for proposal on R&I for collaborative projects. This Action Plan contains concrete measures for the EGTC to be implemented during the second phase of the KISS ME project.

The goal is to create a long-lasting sustainable instrument improving the participation of SMEs in cooperative cross-border innovation actions and boosting regional competitiveness. However, these actions are still on-going and the results are not available yet. Furthermore, it is foreseen that the project results will be disseminated at European and regional levels and they will be worth deploying in all border regions trying to support SME competitiveness across borders.

The EGTC decided to participate in the KISS ME project since this is a unique opportunity to strengthen the innovation capacity of SMEs by comparing approaches from four border regions while sharing experiences and good practices.

The main obstacles have been the limited EU funding schemes for financing SME activities, existing barriers to cross-border innovative collaboration and the need to harmonise regional innovation strategies (RIS3) and innovation labelled funds. During the first two and a half years of implementation, the EGTC has engaged in a policy learning process sharing experiences with three other European regions,

4.1.12 Cooperation in spatial planning

Several examples show how EGTCs enhance local spatial planning by supporting institutional cooperation (e.g. Arrabona), developing a cross-border spatial plan (e.g. Alzette Belval) or implementing an integrated strategy (ITI) in a cross-border area (e.g. EGTC RIO MINHO). The EUKN project example relates to the urban agenda. The last two examples provide methodological support for geographical information systems (GIS) (e.g. Secrétariat du Sommet de la Grande Région) and multi-level governance (e.g. ESPON EGTC).

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Building institutional cooperation for greener settlements within Arrabona EGTC territory - "BuilCoGreen"	2017 – 2019	Arrabona

The BuilCoGreen project is funded under priority axis 4 ‘Institutional Cooperation’ of the Interreg VA Slovakia-Hungary cross-border programme. It uses a stakeholder participatory process to promote institutional cooperation for greener settlements within the Arrabona EGTC territory. The aim is to increase cooperation between settlements, local governments and their urban service providers. Local municipalities and their everyday urban management tasks are well known by Arrabona EGTC. This made the EGTC a natural lead partner to implement a project related to local institutional cooperation.

BuilCoGreen is based on several organisational and facilitative activities:

- (1) organising workshops for experience sharing, case studies and co-creation,
- (2) organising a mentoring and implementation service for municipalities and
- (3) creating a supporting/cooperation interface for municipalities to share experiences, know-how and to pool urban service resources (equipment, tools, vehicles, etc.) to improve their efficiency.

Project outputs continue to further the overall objective and address needs of the area even after project completion. The project contributed to the programme area by organising workshops to foster exchanges of practical and theoretical good practices between authorities and other partners in the region. This cooperation was formalised via the project and persists even after its conclusion. The cooperation is also strengthened via the joint cooperation ICT platform. This is available to stakeholders and ensures the long-term usability of project outputs in similar contexts.



Elaborating solutions to shared problems together
© Arrabona EGTC

Project results were also directly linked with media coverage due to the type of BuilCoGreen activities. Press releases were disseminated to regional and national media. The workshops were accompanied by short videos on their outcomes. Awareness raising materials and handouts include best practices related to greener settlements.

The local governments of Győr, Mosonmagyaróvár, Dunajska Streda, and Samorin and their urban service provision companies benefit from the case studies and public documents that summarise the results of workshops, experiences and guidelines.

The EU added value of the project is that partners and stakeholders have intensified and institutionalised their cross-border communication and cooperation. The organisations are expected to become more resource effective and implement know how from the EGTC cross-border region. This good practice can be transferred through professional forums or workshops and regional development related platforms.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Alzette Belval cross-border spatial planning strategy	Since 2018 (ongoing)	Alzette Belval EGTC

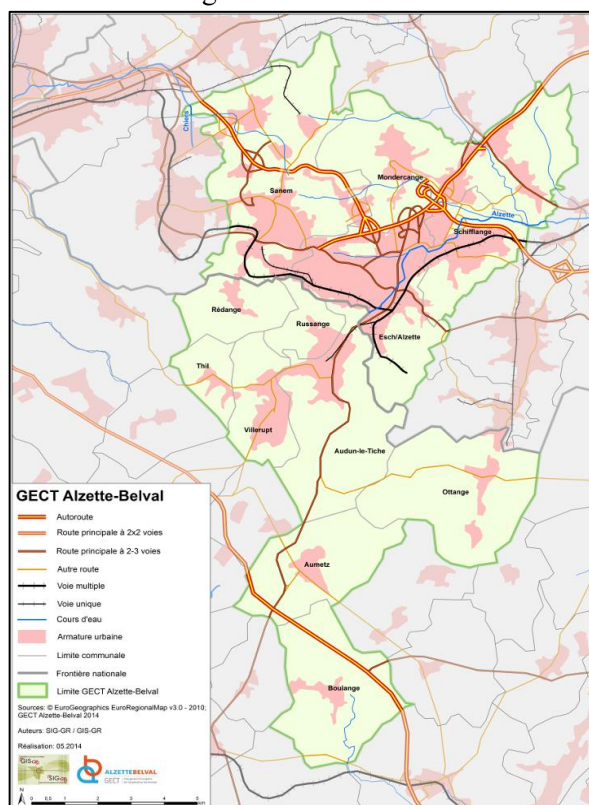
In 2018 the Alzette Belval EGTC started implementing the ‘Alzette Belval cross-border spatial planning strategy’ project. The project focuses on cross-border spatial planning and aims at enhancing a cross-border strategic vision of spatial development in the Alzette Belval cross-border agglomeration. The ‘cross-border spatial planning strategy’ will stimulate innovation within the EGTC territory, notably by identifying challenges and opportunities from ongoing socioeconomic development and by defining an integrated polycentric and cross-border strategy to increase the attractiveness and competitiveness of the area.

The cross-border spatial planning strategy of Alzette Belval EGTC follows efforts in the Greater Region to create a joint spatial planning strategy. The Greater Region focused on creating a shared knowledge base and a common language. This encompassed a diagnosis allowing spatialisation of the problems, and the elaboration of cartographic presentations of border related risks and opportunities. The spatial planning strategy will be based on these and actions will ensure an operational component is identified. To achieve a shared result, cross-border participatory workshops will bring together local actors and thematic experts to strengthen the support of actors in the Greater Region.

The project replicates the Greater Region approach but intends to implement the cross-border spatial planning strategy for its specific cross-border territory. The project assembles French and Luxembourg spatial development documents, to get an overview of strategic and coherent synergies which can be created.

Although there were some difficulties, the project created a cross-border planning document for the EGTC Alzette Belval territory. The first version of the document was presented to EGTC members in October 2019. The ‘Alzette Belval cross-border spatial planning strategy’ project works in close cooperation with the Interreg VA Grande Région Uni GR - Center for Border Studies and the MMUST projects, to ensure consistency and transfer of knowledge between scientific, institutional and operational players.

Since the project is still in its initial stage, the documents have not been published yet. Public reception of the project has not yet been investigated. The EU added value lies in using the EGTC to moderate coordination of cross-border spatial planning documents which helps to overcome borders and enhance the cross-border dimension of territorial development. This experience, if deemed successful, could be replicated by EGTCs interested in implementing cross-border planning strategies.



Map of the EGTC territory

© EGTC Alzette Belval

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Cross-Border River Minho strategy – River Minho 2030	2017 or earlier (ongoing)	EGTC Rio Minho

With the cross-border ‘River Minho 2030’ strategy, the EGTC plans to improve institutional cooperation in the two municipalities. Through cross-border cooperation, the EGTC plans to improve the socioeconomic situation in the border area and increase the well-being of local citizens. Joint projects and collaboration will increase the number of local jobs as well as social and territorial cohesion between the two territories. A special focus is on creating equal opportunities on both sides of the border as well as interlinking enterprises and firms. The project was also promoted by the Interreg project ‘Smart Minho’, funded by the cross-border cooperation programme Spain-Portugal 2014-2020⁹.



EGTC consultative board meeting in April 2019

© EGTC Rio Minho

but also local, regional and national private institutions from Portugal and Spain.

The project started before the EGTC was founded, when cross-border cooperation between the partner municipalities was still organised under the 2003 Valencia agreement between Portugal and Spain. The EGTC builds on this experience by continuing projects and initiatives from before its foundation in 2018.

The main outcome of the project is a bottom-up strategic plan, supported by a wide public participation process. This process involved the public, such as citizens of the two municipalities

The EU added value of the EGTC and the project is that the strategy includes a bottom-up approach for the Minho River. This fosters a strategic and integrated approach and helps overcome barriers from national borders. This also helps to increase visibility of regional and national authorities in Spain and Portugal through the common objectives of the two border municipalities.

The EGTC plans to implement a cross-border Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) instrument in the near future to deepen cooperation between the two municipalities. This would be the second cross-border and EGTC implemented ITI in the EU. During the upcoming programming period 2021-2027, the EGTC will implement an elaborated and well-coordinated catalogue of measures. This will increase the accountability and transparency of EU funds by increasing effectiveness, efficiency but also visibility of EU-funded measures towards improving everyday life for the local population.

⁹ See: <http://smartminho.eu/noticias/?lang=pt-pt>

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Possibilities and strategies of the German Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2020	2018 – 2020	EUKN

EUKN EGTC is part of a consortium to prepare the urban programme for the German Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2020. The EGTC is responsible for the European dialogue needed to create political support among all urban stakeholders in the EU. At the end of the German Presidency, EU Ministers responsible for urban matters will be invited to acknowledge two political documents. One will set the political and operational framework for urban and regional development between EU MS, and in cooperation with the European Commission and other urban stakeholders, a new Leipzig Charter on the principles of urban development. The other will be an operational document to continue the EU Urban Agenda, established under the Dutch Presidency of 2016. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) and the German Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR).

The consortium has been selected due to its expertise in urban policy and research. EUKN EGTC has been a strategic knowledge partner of MS and EU Presidencies for over 15 years. The project allows the EUKN to play a key strategic role in helping to shape the political and operational framework for urban matters. It builds on EGTC experiences of working with MS. Being an EGTC helped in establishing a legal, financial and operational framework that can act as a European organisation. For this project, apart from political and project management issues, no specific obstacles were encountered. The project will be finished at the end of 2020, after the informal ministerial meeting on urban matters, the new Leipzig Charter adopted and a new operational framework for the Urban Agenda for the EU established. At the same time, the urban programme of the German Presidency will also facilitate cooperation in urban development, spatial planning, economic cooperation, jobs and skills within the EU Urban Agenda.

The new Leipzig Charter will define the political priorities and main principles for sustainable urban development needed to support European towns and cities in their transformation towards a carbon-



neutral society. The project concerns all MS and associated countries. The added value of this project is the political and operational framework for urban development for the following decade. Apart from political interest in the project, it might be interesting for other EGTCs to learn from the EUKN how to cooperate in an EU-wide setting and be effective, even with truly limited resources.

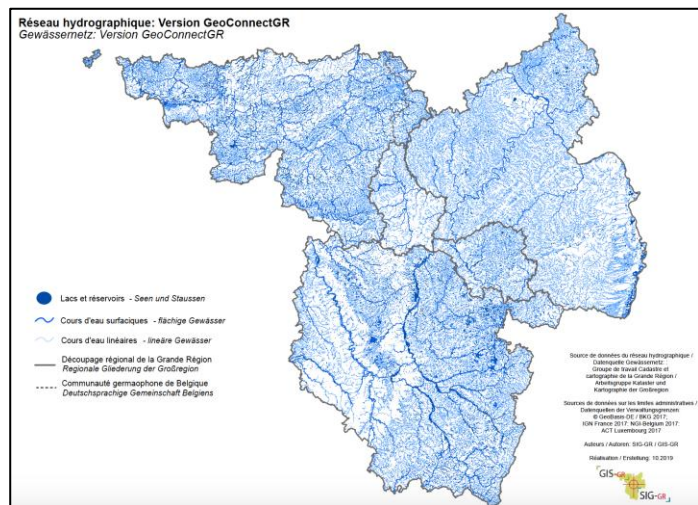
European dialogue meeting to prepare the German Presidency of 2020

© Presidency team

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
GeoConnectGR	2018 – 2019	EGTC Secrétariat du Sommet de la Grande Région

GeoConnectGR is a B-solutions project financed by the European Commission to investigate innovative ways of mitigating and resolving border obstacles. The project addressed the lack of interoperability between geodata from different sources across borders.

Despite advances in the use of cross-border spatial data, there are still administrative and legal obstacles to institutional cooperation in the Greater Region. For environmental data on water body networks, existing Greater Region datasets, did not provide sufficient detail. Environmental assessments rely on fine-grained data, e.g. to assess the impact of new infrastructure on surface and groundwater quality. The main obstacles were the lack of continuous precise data, inaccessibility of data because of licence and data format constraints and the fact that water network data was produced separately by the partners of the Greater Region, following different legal, organisational and technical principles. All these complicate the use of this extremely valuable geographic data.



River system of the Greater Region mapped under GeoConnectGR

© SIG-GR/GIS-GR

To resolve these difficulties, the EGTC partnered with the working group ‘land registry and mapping’ of the Summit of the Greater Region and Geoportail ‘GIS-GR’¹⁰. The project objective was to create harmonised geodata on the Greater Region water network, complying with the INSPIRE directive¹¹. The project was divided into work packages to tackle different data challenges. The first package was harmonising the geometry of water bodies at the borders to ensure connectivity. The second work package realised the geodata set at the level of the Greater Region and a third package approved a non-commercial licence for all project partners.

GeoConnectGR is a first step towards an interoperable dataset for the Greater Region. From the beginning it was clear that the project could not solve all such cross-border problems. Nevertheless, GeoConnectGR shows a way towards harmonising geodata sets, testing and working principles that could be applied anywhere in the EU.

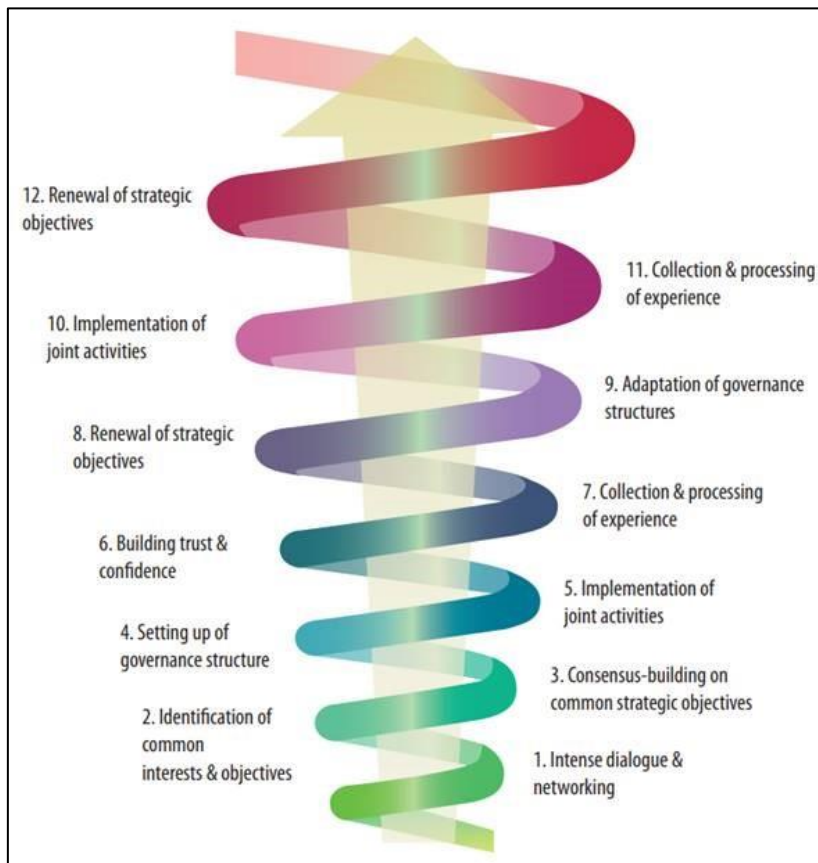
The project addresses the need to coordinate geodata types, formats and licencing at EU level. MS possess ‘treasures’ of reliable geodata but cannot use or share them because of pricing or licencing restrictions, incompatible metadata between sources or different ways of data collection. Alternative open data is much less reliable. Making official fine-grained and reliable geodata public, following common EU-level criteria especially concerning environmental hazards is of great added value. All border regions in the EU can benefit from these experiences and use the instruments, such as an agreement between project partners establishing a common licence for non-commercial use.

¹⁰ See: <http://map.gis-gr.eu/theme/transport?version=3&zoom=8&X=669751&Y=6416190>

¹¹ The INSPIRE directive lays out common implementing rules for a number of specific areas (metadata, data specifications, network services, data and service sharing and monitoring and reporting) for spatial data infrastructures of the Member States (see: <https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/inspire-directive/2>).

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
ACTAREA - Thinking and Planning in Areas of Territorial Cooperation	2016 – 2018	ESPON EGTC

ESPON EGTC is the sole beneficiary of the ESPON Programme. Its main task is to deliver content of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. The ACTAREA ‘Thinking and Planning in Areas of Territorial Cooperation’ project, mainly related to cooperation in spatial planning, was launched in November 2016 and ended in 2018. The Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development, which was the lead stakeholder in the project, submitted the project proposal to be implemented as part of the Specific Objective 2 activity. The objective of the project was to identify good governance practices in so-called ‘Action areas’, their implementation and their long-term impacts.



Spiral of growth in cooperation

© ESPON ACTAREA (2017)

offices and telephone interviews were preferred. The obstacles were minimised and did not negatively impact the project outcomes.

The main outcomes are a comparative analysis of cooperation areas in Europe and practical guidance on implementing and coordinating implementation of policies in these areas given existing governance, including examples of good practices. The results of the project were discussed and presented at outreach events in Budapest, Paris, Dublin, Nova Gorica and Luxembourg.

EU added value relates to a better understanding of soft territorial cooperation, tools to be used in territorial cooperation at different levels, transferability of the results and the case study methodology. This experience was also very useful to provide tailor made support to stakeholders.

The main obstacles during project implementation related to constraints in implementing some case studies (interviews with stakeholders took more time than expected), limited time and budget to finalise the contract and further exploit the topic, budget constraints for project missions and meetings with stakeholders. The transferability of project output is weak because there is no translation of project results.

In general, these obstacles have been overcome thanks to the continuous and active involvement of stakeholders and the high level of expertise of the consortium conducting the project. The lead stakeholder played a key role in the communication and flow of information among project actors. To compensate for the lack of budget, Steering Committee meetings were organised in stakeholder

4.1.13 EGTC as fund manager

The EGTC instrument was originally designed to facilitate cross-border and transnational programme management, though there have been few applications. Some EGTCs are responsible for managing small project funds (e.g. Via Carpatia). The INTERREG Grande Région is the only EGTC acting as Managing Authority (MA) of a cross-border programme. The example of the IACOBUS Programme managed by EGTC Galicia – Norte de Portugal (see sub-section 4.1.8) is another form of programme management. Other forms of implementation, e.g. the ESPON EGTC acting as sole beneficiary of the ESPON programme have been presented earlier.¹²

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Small Project Fund for Eastern Programming Area implemented under Interreg VA Slovak Republic - Hungary	2017 – 2022	Via Carpatia



First call for proposals officially launched by all representatives of involved regional authorities
© EGTC Via Carpatia

EGTC Via Carpatia was established in 2013 and founded by the Košice Self-governing Region and Boršod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Council. The goal is to enhance cross-border cooperation in the regions and to connect citizens which share common historical and cultural ties. For this and given the capacities of the EGTC and its member regions, the EGTC applied to implement the small project fund (SPF). This combines a broad range of cooperation activities in cultural exchange, human resources, planning and development studies, economic development, environment, tourism and communication. The funding enables smaller organisations to start engaging in cross-border cooperation.

It allows for better understanding of cross-border and regional needs and encourages bilingualism and mutual cooperation. In addition, it is an efficient funding allocation mechanism due to low administrative requirements for beneficiaries.

Legislation and administrative differences impeded preparation of the project. Regular discussions on the SPF fund application with programme and national authorities reduce the administrative burden. This improved SPF implementation, audit and control systems and simplified expenditure verifications at project level. At the same time, those involved in SPF implementation participate in preparations for the 2021-2027 programming period. In order to manage the SPF call for proposals as well as possible, the partnership first launched the pilot call with a set deadline of two months and limited budget allocation. The experience and conclusions from the pilot call were incorporated in a second call. The EGTC is very positive about this step.

¹² Zillmer et al. (2018 pp. 63)

The SPF supports small infrastructure under PA 1 ‘Nature and culture’ and institutional cooperation under PA 4. Until now, SPF has funded many events and workshops where local people can learn more about regional culture. Beneficiaries are mainly non-profit and public sector entities such as municipalities, associations, non-profit organisations and schools. These can obtain grants for small projects which lead to better cooperation and understanding for cross-border citizens.

Promoting the SPF as a tool for implementing small projects with the aid of the EGTC, publicity was through spots in regional and local TV as well as radio, public releases, info-days, websites and social media. The SPF is a useful tool for Via Carpatia to support small organisations enhancing cross-border cooperation, that may otherwise not have the capacity to apply for Interreg VA Slovakia-Hungary projects. Unlike SPF beneficiaries, the EGTC as a legal personality can facilitate applications for EU funding.

Regular meetings with the presidents of the regions allow to understand better the needs and issues of each region to be considered for SPF priorities. Bilingual staff contributed added value through effective implementation and management of projects in one institution.

Name of the good practice	Project duration	Name of the EGTC (Acronym)
Interreg VA Greater Region programme	Programming period 2014-2020	EGTC INTERREG Grande Région

EGTC INTERREG Grande Région was founded to manage the corresponding Interreg VA programme 2014-2020. This built on previous experience in the programming period 2007-2013. The previous EGTC Grande Région was founded in 2010 to take over as MA of the Interreg programme for the Greater Region territory during 2007-2013. The EGTC was the first to fulfil the function of a MA, one of the purposes for which the EGTC tool was initially introduced by Regulation (EC) N° 1082/2006.



House of the Greater Region in Esch-sur-Alzette, office of the Managing Authority

© Sebastian Hans

The EGTC was responsible for managing the programme, its own structures as an individual entity as well as a micro project fund. The EGTCs existence was linked to the 2007-2013 programming period and it employed four people. The EGTC was located in Metz (France) and governed by French public law. It had ten members representing national and regional authorities from Luxembourg, France, Belgium and Germany. The large number of members rendered the governance structure and decision-making processes complex, resulting in difficulties in effectively implementing choices taken by the members.

It was therefore decided to streamline the membership structure, to simplify the Interreg VA Greater Region programme implementation. The grouping takes over the tasks of a MA according to Article 125 of Regulation 1303/2013 and Article 23 of Regulation 1299/2013. In this way, it implements decisions taken by the EGTC assembly and is accountable to the Monitoring Committee (MC) of the programme. The MC represents the Greater Region programme political partners. The EGTC can now hire staff to implement its tasks. In 2014-2020, the EGTC employed 20 full-time equivalents.

Re-establishing the EGTC for the 2014-2020 programming period was accompanied by an increase in personnel and financial resource. EGTC INTERREG Grande Région was founded in 2015 with only two members from Luxembourg and France. This has greatly improved effectiveness of the

grouping and enabled the EGTC to act more independently in implementing the cross-border cooperation programme.

The experiences of the governing bodies in implementing a cross-border cooperation programme under two programming cycles show how the EGTC instrument can be used to facilitate such tasks. Even though the EGTC instrument is rarely used for this purpose, the Greater Region experience will serve as good practice for similar EGTCs.

4.2 EGTCs in numbers

The following table provides a summary of EGTCs, with details in the sub-sections below.

Indicator	Unit	31 Dec 2019	Comment / Source
Authorities with EGTCs in their territories	Number of authorities with EGTCs*		Data from Spatial Foresight and University of Geneva based on Eurostat GISCO, GADM and EEA data.
MS		20	
Regional authorities (NUTS 2)		~ 120	
Local authorities (LAU 2)		~ 45,150	
Third countries involved in EGTCs as members	Third countries involved	4	Albania, Palestine, Switzerland and Ukraine
Approximate number of citizens in territories covered by EGTCs	Number of citizens	137 million (27% of 2011 EU population) ¹³	Citizens in the territory of an EGTC based on the membership structure. This excludes 'network EGTCs'. Data from Spatial Foresight and University of Geneva based on Eurostat GISCO, GADM and EEA data.
ETC projects implemented by EGTCs in 2018/2019	Number of EU-funded projects	125**	Questionnaire for EGTCs
EU funded projects other than ETC implemented by EGTCs in 2018/2019	Number of national and other projects	22***	Questionnaire for EGTCs
Staff employed by EGTCs, directly and indirectly employed	FTE	599*	Questionnaire for EGTCs
Hired directly	FTE	410.1****	Questionnaire for EGTCs
Hired indirectly	FTE	188.9****	Questionnaire for EGTCs

* Each authority is counted if an EGTC has at least one member located in the respective territory, whether covering all or parts of this territory.

** Please note that the number accounts only for ETC projects funded under Interreg VA, B or C programmes.

*** This includes projects implemented by the EGTCs during 2018/2019 that were financed from non-ETC related EU funding sources, such as B-solutions, Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, Employment and Social Innovation, etc.

**** The number includes staff from EGTC HC (194 directly employed, 51 indirectly employed).

Source: *Spatial Foresight, based on data from EGTCs*

¹³ Some regions in central Europe stopped their EGTC membership (see EGTC Map), which slightly reduced the number of citizens in territories covered by EGTCs in 2018 and 2019 compared to 2017 (140.2 million 28% of 2011 EU population).

This cross-analysis of EGTCs reviews them as follows:

- Section 4.2.1: Evolution of EGTC number and membership
- Section 4.2.2: EGTC staff and budget
- Section 4.2.3: Implementation of EU-funded projects and programmes
- Section 4.2.4: Other cohesion policy actions of EGTCs
- Section 4.2.5: Further intensions of EGTCs in the 2014-2020 programming period

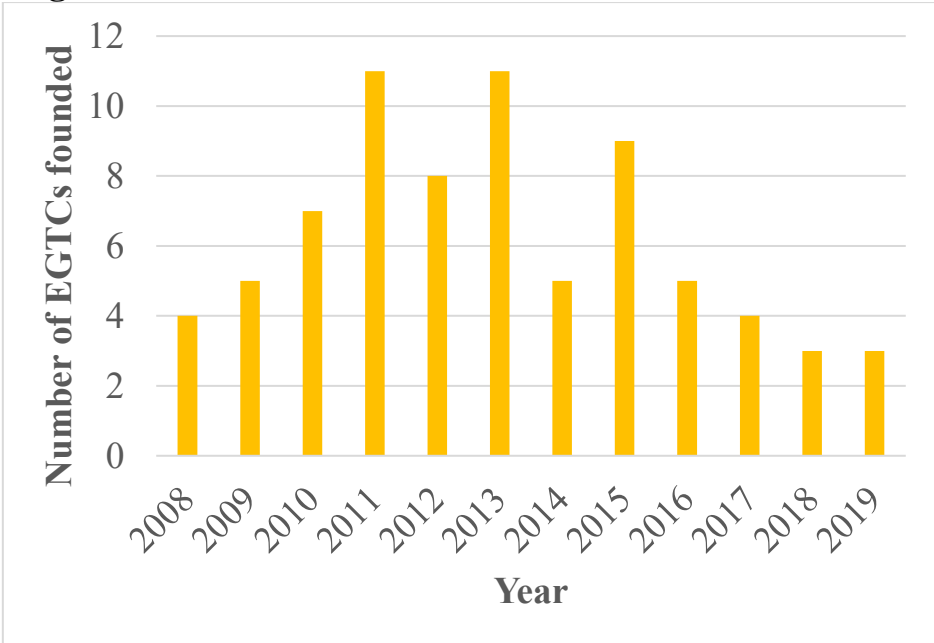
The analysis includes all EGTCs as at the end of 2019. Smaller samples are noted in the text and figures/tables. ‘Newly’ constituted EGTCs refers to the six EGTCs founded during 2018 and 2019. This chapter is complemented with information in Annexes 2 and 3.

4.2.1 Evolution of EGTC number and membership

The following is an overview of EGTCs founded since the introduction of the EGTC instrument. This includes their geography, changes in partnerships and updates on the main types of EGTC.

During 2018 and 2019, six new EGTCs were registered at the CoR. One was dissolved but the winding-up process was not finalised (see Chapter 5). So as of December 2019, 75 EGTCs were registered but only 74 effectively existed.¹⁴ In comparison with previous years, there were fewer new EGTCs (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: EGTC foundations



Source: Spatial Foresight, based on information from the official CoR EGTC register

¹⁴ The dissolved but not de-registered EGTC is not considered in the following calculations and analyses.

Geography

The number of EGTCs founded in Central-Eastern Europe, mostly involving Hungary, has stabilised again. In 2018 and 2019 there were no new EGTCs with Hungarian involvement. Three of the six new EGTCs are on the Spanish-Portuguese border. One is a trinational Euregio involving Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, one is on the border between Austria and Slovenia and one is an interregional EGTC with members from Italy and the Netherlands.

There are three major types of EGTC; **cross-border** that mainly address local and regional aspects, **transnational** whose territory is considerably wider than cross-border cooperation areas and **network EGTCs** with members who typically do not have connected territory. There are 64 cross-border EGTCs and only a few are truly transnational (four) or network oriented (six) (Table 2).

Table 2: Type and geography of existing and new EGTCs

Geography of EGTC*	Pre 2018	New EGTCs	Comments
Cross-border Iberia & southern France	15	3	EGTC Interpal – Medio Tejo, EGTC Eurociudad del Guadiana and EGTC Rio Minho
Cross-border North-west Europe	11	1	EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine
Cross-border Alpine area	4	1	EGTC GEOPARK KARAWANKEN
Cross-border area involving Germany, Poland and Czech Republic	3		
Cross-border areas involving Hungary & Slovakia	25		
Cross-border areas central and eastern Mediterranean Sea	1		
Transnational	4		
Network	5	1	EGTC CITTASLOW

* The differentiation of groups follows as much as possible the outlines of the Map in Annex 2.
 Source: EGTC monitoring report 2017 and Spatial Foresight based on data from new EGTCs

In 2018 and 2019, four EGTCs included members from non-EU countries. These were Tisza EGTC, EUCOR – The European Campus, Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC and Amphictyony. During 2019 two new members from non-EU countries were involved. Amphictyony incorporated another member from Albania and an additional member from Palestine (the EGTC now has two members from Albania and two from Palestine).

Nevertheless, few EGTCs are either willing or actively looking to integrate members from non-EU countries.

Membership

During 2018 and 2019, EGTCs actively restructured their membership, with total 18 or 24% reporting a change in partnership. Only TRITIA and CETC-EGTC reported that a member left without replacement or addition.

For three EGTCs, membership structure changed with members both leaving and new during 2018 and 2019. Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale had one member leaving the EGTC (regional council of Pas de Calais) and being replaced as administrative structures were resolved due to territorial reform in France. Pannon had seven municipalities leaving and seven new members joining the grouping. EUKN saw Belgium leaving in 2018 and Slovenia, Spain and Portugal joining the in 2019.

In 13 EGTCs the membership structure changed because of new members in 2018 and 2019. Most integrated a single or only a few new members. AEuCC was the only EGTC with admission procedures for three or four new members.

Table 3: Type of EGTC membership

Partnerships of EGTCs	Pre 2018	New	Comments
<i>Cross-border:</i>			
Local level:			
- 2-20 members	17	3	EGTC Eurociudad del Guadiana, EGTC Rio Minho and EGTC GEOPARK KARAWANKEN
- 21-100 members	6		
Local-regional level	9	1	EGTC Interpal – Medio Tejo
Regional level	17	1	EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine
Regional-national level	2		
Local-regional-national level	6		
<i>Transnational / Networks:</i>			
Local-regional	6	1	EGTC CITTASLOW
National	2		
<i>Without territorial authorities:</i>			
- Cross-border	2		
- Transnational/ network	1		

Source: EGTC monitoring report 2017 and Spatial Foresight based on data from new EGTCs

The most dominant type of partnership is a cooperation of local authorities with small to medium-scale cooperation structures of 2 to 20 municipalities. The second most prominent type is cross-border cooperation involving regional authorities (see Table 3).

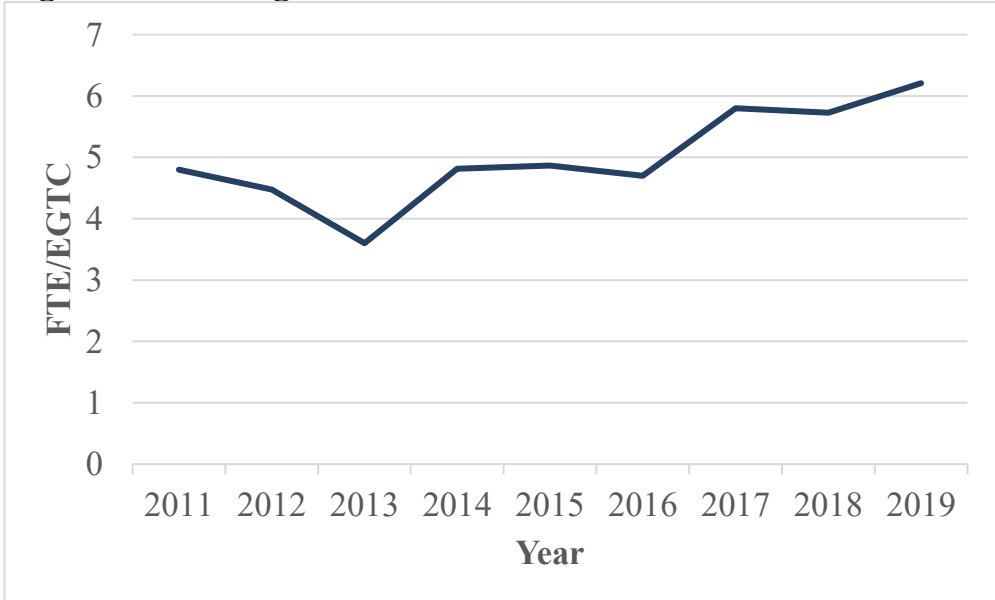
4.2.2 EGTC staff and budget

The role of EGTCs can be illustrated quantitatively through their staff, budget and number of externally financed projects. For the projects, a more qualitative assessment in Sub-sections 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 complements this analysis, assessing the role of EGTCs particularly in Cohesion Policy and ETC.

Staff

For 2018, 57 EGTCs reported staff hired directly. Compared with **512.5** and **460** full-time equivalents (FTE) in 2017 and 2016 respectively, **566** FTE were working at EGTCs in 2018. For 2019, 58 EGTCs reported **599** FTE in 2019. The number of staff continues to increase but this is partially skewed by EGTC Hôpital de Cerdanya (EGTC HC) which employs 194 FTE, just below its previous maximum of 195 direct FTE plus 51 indirect.

Figure 2: Average FTE* – 2011 to 2019



*The average FTE/EGTC includes only EGTCs that reported staff hired/employed and excludes EGTC HC. For 2018 and 2019 the sample covers 56 and 57 EGTCs respectively.

Source: Spatial Foresight, based on EGTC monitoring report 2017 and data from EGTCs

Without the EGTC HC, EGTCs employed approximately **320,9 FTE** in 2018 and **353,9 FTE** in 2019 (compared to **279 FTE** in 2017). Thus, employment increased significantly in 2019. This is explained by the additional EGTCs created in 2018

and 2019 rather than a general increase in staff. The average number staff increases slightly in comparison to past years. Excluding EGTC HC, this was 5.7 FTE in 2018 and 6.2 in 2019, compared to 5.8 FTE in 2017 (see Figure 2).

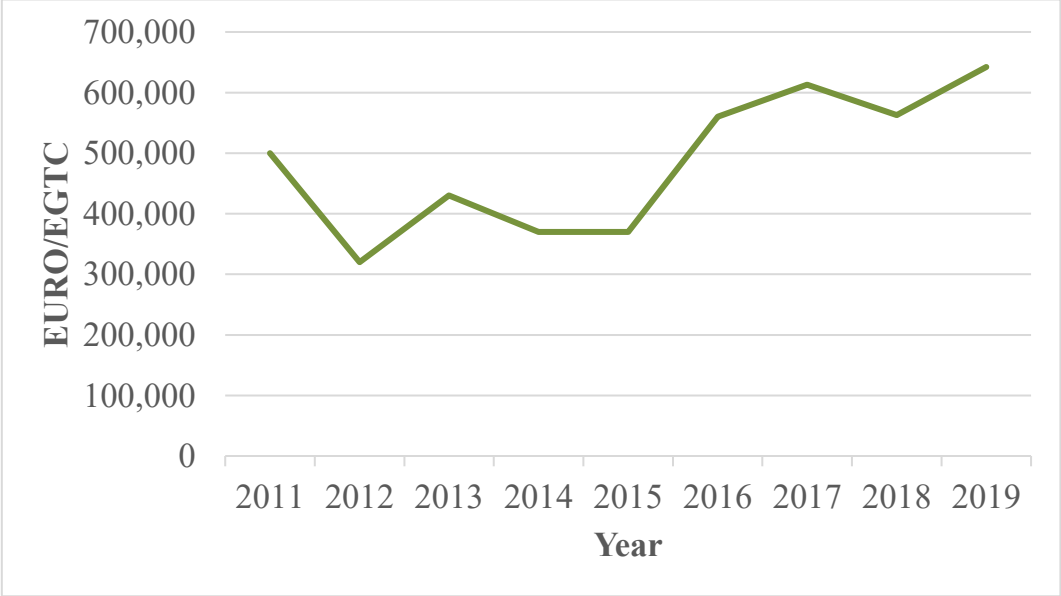
Budget

Altogether, 52 EGTCs reported their budget for both years. In comparison to previous years, EGTCs were asked to indicate their budget in EUR, which required a number. These figures are more reliable than in previous years. The total reported budgets for 2018 was around € **48.7 million** and for 2019 around € **52.8 million** (2017: approximately € 52 Million). These figures include € 20 million from EGTC HC, which plays an outstanding role compared with all other EGTCs and is the only EGTC so far operating an infrastructure. Only five reporting EGTCs did not fill in the budget information.

Compared¹⁵ with 2017, the 2018 budgets for all EGTCs decreased by 6%. Between 2018 and 2019, the reported budget increased again by 8%.

This is mainly because average budget allocations for EGTCs decreased in 2018. EGTCs reporting their budget, and again excluding EGTC HC, averaged about € 563,900 in 2018 and € 642,200 in 2019 (€ 613,000 in 2017). The value for 2018 is 8% lower than for the previous year (see Figure 3). However, between 2018 and 2019 the average budget increased by 14%, so average staff and budgets have developed in parallel.

Figure 3: Average budget* in Euros – 2011 to 2019



* The average Euro/EGTC was calculated excluding EGTC HC.
 Source: Spatial Foresight, based on EGTC monitoring report 2017 and data from EGTCs.

¹⁵ Including the budget of EGTC HC. The numbers rely on different methodologies in previous years and for 2018/19. The comparison should thus be considered with caution.

4.2.3 Implementation of EU-funded projects and programmes

The EGTC instrument enables public actors from different countries to create an international body under European law. In their function as cross-border public bodies they are appropriate for implementing ETC, known as Interreg, and projects funded under respective operational programmes. On behalf of their partners, EGTCs can also implement projects from other funding sources, including other EU instruments. EGTC activity implementing EU funded projects and programmes in 2018 and 2019 is detailed below.

Implementation of ETC projects and programmes

As in 2017, there are still only two EGTCs that implement ETC programmes. One is EGTC INTERREG Grande Région¹⁶, acting as MA that replaces the previous EGTC responsible for implementing the cross-border Interreg programme of the Greater Region (EGTC Grande Région). The other is the ESPON EGTC, which is the sole beneficiary of the ESPON programme 2014-2020 and as such responsible for implementing the programme. In addition, some EGTCs implement a Small Project Fund (SPF). RDV EGTC and Via Carpatia, respectively manage two and one small project fund under the Interreg HU-SK Programme. The newly founded EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine also manages the SPF ‘People-to-People’ programme of the Interreg programme Belgium-Germany-the Netherlands.

Apart from the special case of the ESPON EGTC, 28 ETC and non-ETC projects in 2018/2019 were dedicated to EGTCs as sole beneficiaries, substantially more than the two projects in 2017. This can partially be explained by a more structured form of retrieving this information from EGTCs through the survey for this EGTC monitoring report. Another explanation is the overall high involvement of EGTCs in EU funded projects in the middle of the programming period 2014-2020. Finally, it shows the EGTC instrument is better acknowledged by EU programmes. Table 4 indicates sole beneficiary EGTCs and the corresponding programmes.

Participation in ETC projects is much more common among EGTCs. In 2018 and 2019, apart from benefiting as sole beneficiary, 39 EGTCs indicated their involvement as partner or lead partner in ETC projects.

In total, 40 EGTCs implemented 125 ETC programmes or projects (in 2017, 83) through different roles, ranging from MA and sole beneficiary to associated

¹⁶ The predecessor of EGTC INTERREG Grande Région, the EGTC no. 14 EGTC Grande Région is awaiting closure in 2021. The role of the EGTC was similar to the current one, implementing an ETC programme (see Sub-section 4.1.13 **Error! Reference source not found.**).

partnerships. This is significantly higher than previous years. On average, each EGTC that reported being involved in ETC, was involved in 3.2 ETC projects during 2018 and 2019 (in 2017, 2.5 projects).

Table 4: EGTCs acting as sole beneficiaries of ETC and other EU projects

Name of the EGTC	Number of projects	Funding source
Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai	3	Interreg VA France-Wallonia-Flanders, B-solutions
ZASNET	1	Interreg VA Portugal-Spain
Arrabona	1	Interreg VA Slovakia-Hungary
Euregio Tirolo - Alto Adige - Trentino	1	Interreg VA Italy-Austria
GO	4	Interreg VA Italy-Slovenia, B-solutions
Pannon	1	B-solutions
TRITIA	2	Interreg VA Poland-Slovakia
Via Carpatia	1	Direct funding from the European Commission
Secrétariat du Sommet de la Grande Région	1	B-solutions
TATRY	3	Interreg VA Czech Republic-Poland
Alzette Belval	1	Interreg VA Greater Region
Eurocity of Chaves-Verín	1	B-solutions
NOVUM	3	Interreg VA Czech Republic-Poland
León-Bragança	1	Interreg VA POCTEP
PONTIBUS	1	Interreg VA Slovakia-Hungary
EUCOR – The European Campus	1	Horizon 2020 MSCA COFUND 2018
Euregio Meuse-Rhine	1	Interreg VA Belgium-Germany-The Netherlands
RIO MINHO	1	Interreg VA Portugal-Spain

Source: EGTC monitoring report 2017 and Spatial Foresight based on data from EGTCs.

The increase compared to previous years can be explained by more Interreg operational programmes being fully functional in the current programming period. This is mirrored, inter alia, by the increased number of ETC programmes in which EGTCs participate compared to 2017 (2018/2019: 27, 2017: 25). Some EGTCs still have applications for ETC projects pending.

Table 5: EGTCs in ETC partnerships in 2018/2019*

ETC programme	EGTCs involved	Role of EGTCs
Interreg VA Croatia-Hungary	Mura Region	Project implementation
Interreg VA Czech Republic-Poland	NOVUM	Project implementation
Interreg VA Belgium-Germany-The Netherlands	Euregio Meuse-Rhine	Project implementation
Interreg VA Flanders-Netherlands	Linieland van Waas en Hulst	Project implementation
Interreg VA France-Italy	Parc européen Alpi Marittime – Mercantour	Project implementation
Interreg VA France-Wallonia-Flanders	Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai, Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale	Project implementation
Interreg VA Greater Region	Alzette Belval, SaarMoselle	Project implementation
Interreg VA Italy-Austria	Euregio Tirolo - Alto Adige - Trentino	Project implementation
Interreg VA Italy-Slovenia	EGTC GO, Euregio Senza Confini	Project implementation
Interreg VA Poland-Slovakia	TRITIA, TATRY	Project implementation,
Interreg VA Portugal-Spain	ZASNET, Galicia – Norte de Portugal, Duero-Douro, Eurocity of Chaves-Verín, León-Bragança, EGTC EUROCIUDAD DEL GUADIANA, EGTC RIO MINHO	Project implementation
Interreg VA Romania-Hungary	EGTC Gate to Europe	n.a.**
Interreg VA Slovakia-Hungary	Pons Danubii, Arrabona, Ister-Granum, RDV, Via Carpatia, PONTIBUS	Project implementation
Interreg VA Spain-France-Andorra	Espacio Portalet, HP-HP	Project implementation
Interreg VA Upper Rhine	Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau, Eurodistrict PAMINA	Financing and operating partner, project implementation
Interreg VA Saxony-Czech Republic	PROUD	Associated partner
Interreg VB ADRION	Euregio Senza Confini	Project implementation

Interreg VB Atlantic Area	Galicia – Norte de Portugal	Project implementation
Interreg VB Baltic Sea Region	CETC-EGTC	Associated partner
Interreg VB Caribbean	European Mycological Institute	Project implementation
Interreg VB Central Europe	TRITIA, Via Carpatia, CETC-EGTC, NOVUM, PROUD	Project implementation and associated partner (CETC-EGTC)
Interreg VB Danube Transnational Programme	Pons Danubii	Project implementation
Interreg VB MED	DIETA MED EGTC	Associated partner
Interreg VB Mediterranean	Pyrénées-Méditerranée	Project implementation
Interreg VB SUDOE	Pyrénées-Méditerranée	Project implementation
Interreg VC EUROPE	Pyrénées-Méditerranée, Pons Danubii, Ister Granum, GO, Duero-Douro, AEuCC	Project implementation and associated partner

* Without projects with EGTCs as sole beneficiaries.

** The EGTC did not indicate the role it has in implementing the ETC project.

Source: *Spatial Foresight*, based on data from EGTCs.

Implementation of other EU projects

Another source of funding is the contribution from EU funds other than ETC. The variety of programmes and funding sources is similar to 2017. EGTC funding is mainly through ESIF (ERDF/ETC, ESF, EAFRD) but EGTCs also benefit from B-solutions, Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 funding. Altogether, 20 EGTCs reported receiving EU programme funding outside ETC (see Table 6), which is significantly higher than in 2017. Five benefited only from EU projects other than ETC (in *italics* in Table 6).

EGTCs that did not report involvement in any ETC, or other EU funded project said this was because applications for projects were not successful, there were no open calls for projects from funding sources or they could not manage to assure resources from partners to implement EU projects.

Table 6: Use of EU funds other than ETC (2018/2019)

Fund/ Programme	EGTCs
B-solutions	Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai, GO, <i>Pannon</i> , <i>Secrétariat du Sommet de la Grande Région</i> , Eurocity of Chaves-Verín, RIO MINHO, Euregio Meuse-Rhine, <i>HC</i>
Connecting Europe Facility	<i>Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor</i>
Creative Europe	Pyrénées-Méditerranée
EAFRD	Linieland van Waas en Hulst
Employment and Social Innovation	Euregio Meuse-Rhine
Erasmus+	Pyrénées-Méditerranée, AEuCC, <i>EUCOR – The European Campus</i>
Direct funding from the European Commission	Via Carpatia, <i>Pannon</i> , Euregio Meuse-Rhine
Horizon 2020	<i>EUCOR – The European Campus</i> , Espacio Portalet

Source: *Spatial Foresight*, based on data from EGTCs.

4.2.4 Other cohesion policy actions of EGTCs

Many EGTCs also contribute to other EU cohesion policy actions beyond implementing or assisting EU funded projects. Nearly all EGTCs indicated they at least contribute to EU cohesion policy by informing and communicating about EU projects and calls, managing cross-border infrastructure, or organising workshops to discuss challenges and funding opportunities. In addition, EGTCs are project facilitators, managers and co-financers. They also enable cross-border civil society groups and public administration as well as organising cooperation networks.

Some other EGTCs contribute in other ways:

- Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai through ‘organising governance [in the cross-border area] and by making better use of the EGTC tools that make it possible to take actions requiring only a limited budget while having a major impact’. This EGTC reduces cross-border obstacles through the cooperation of its partners and enables bi-national experiments and project support.
- Euregio Senza Confini is an exchange platform for broader political and legislative actions of its members. The EGTC also takes a pro-active role in working to overcome cross-border obstacles in collaboration with its regional partners and eventually influencing regional legislation. This way, the EGTC is a ‘centre of expertise’ on border related issues for its partners, investigating potential solutions to cross-border obstacles.
- Eurodistrict PAMINA is an expert on the functioning of the EU and a territorial expert for the cross-border area and other border regions.

- Linieland van Waas en Hulst also functions as facilitator for cross-border cooperation projects of any type.
- SaarMoselle welcomes four volunteers from the Interreg Volunteer Youth action since 2018.

4.2.5 Further intensions of EGTCs in the 2014-2020 programming period

Many EGTCs mentioned they have submitted project proposals either alone or as (lead) partners in a joint proposal to open calls for Interreg programme projects. A total of 40 EGTCs for 2018/2019, compared to eleven in 2017, indicated they are either planning to submit new projects, projects are currently under development, were submitted, have been approved or are about to be contracted. For example, EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine noted that several projects are currently awaiting approval and more are in the pipeline. However, until interested partners have been mobilised and projects sufficiently developed, the EGTC does not expect new activities until the start of the next programming period 2021-2027.

However, not all EGTCs aim to benefit from ETC funds. Fifteen EGTCs explicitly stated that they have no further intentions in the remaining programming period 2014-2020. The large majority of these, however, already implement one or more EU funded projects and ETC projects.

5 EGTCs being set up and closed in 2018-2019

The first part of this chapter reviews EGTCs being set up and compares development since the 2017 monitoring report. The list in Section 5.1 is probably not complete but is based on data available to the CoR as well as extensive desk research and interviews with existing EGTCs and other authorities.

EGTCs being set up repeatedly report delays in the process which is not always finalised. Section 5.2 is devoted to the obstacles and provides an overview. This is complemented by a short review of closed EGTCs (section 5.3).

5.1 EGTCs being set up

Of the EGTCs awaiting approval in 2017, Eurociudad del Guadiana and Cittaslow were approved in 2018 and 2019 and Geopark Karawanken-Karavanke finalised its constitution in 2019. Two other EGTCs (INTERPAL – MEDIO TEJO and RIO MINHO) received approval in the first two months of 2018. Since the last monitoring report six EGTCs foundations were finalised. These are presented in Chapter 3 with extensive descriptions.

The following table lists EGTCs being set up at the end of 2019. About 25 could be identified, slightly more than in 2017. A few previously identified processes stopped and new ones have started.

Hardly any EGTC awaiting approval was in the same category in the 2017 EGTC monitoring report. The European Campus of Studies and Research that was in preparation in 2017 received approval under conditions and is currently working to fulfil these conditions early in 2020. Two EGTCs have been denied approval. Further processes are either under way or pending, due to changes of political representatives or clarification needs, which is why they are still listed below.

Approval was denied for different reasons, but especially liability issues. Approval authorities argued, inter alia, that the convention content was not sufficiently specific regarding applicable national legislation, rules for personnel management and financial control mechanisms. Finally, the participation of members from non-EU MS was denied.¹⁷

¹⁷ Information collected from approval authorities and EGTCs concerned.

Several EGTC foundations not listed two years ago are already awaiting approval. A case worth mentioning is the EGTC Pirineos-Pyrénées. It will replace two existing EGTCs, namely Espacio Portalet and HP-HP. One foundation process below is between idea and preparation as it is working on clarifying the framework conditions under different assumptions rather than preparing legal documents.

Table 7: Overview of EGTCs being set up

No.	Name	Status 2017	Status 2019	Countries
1	European Campus of Studies and Research	In preparation	Conditional approval	Germany, Austria
2	INNOVATIVE EUROPE - INEU	Awaiting approval*	Awaiting approval*	Greece, Bulgaria
3	EGTC David	Awaiting approval	Pending*	Slovenia, Austria
4	EGTC Alpine Pearls	Awaiting approval	Approval denied – further processes unclear*	Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, France
5	Odra+Oder	In preparation	Approval denied – further processes under way	Poland, Germany
6	Pirineos-Pyrénées	In preparation	Awaiting approval	France, Spain
7	Euro Contrôle Route (ECR)	In preparation*	Awaiting approval	Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, France, Germany, Ireland, UK, Poland, Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Croatia, Spain
8	EGTC Kvarken		Awaiting approval	Finland, Sweden
9	EGTC Corsica Sardigna Trasporti		Awaiting approval	France, Italy
10	Eurodistrikt Region Freiburg Centre et Sud Alsace		Awaiting approval	France, Germany
11	EGTC Proximity		Awaiting approval	Italy, Greece
12	Bodrog-Latorica-Ung (BLU)		Awaiting approval	Hungary, Slovakia
13	Geopark Muskauer Faltenbogen	In preparation	In preparation*	Poland, Germany
14	EGTC Hercules	In preparation	In preparation	UK, Spain
15	CIRCULAR ECONOMY, TERRITORIAL COHESION, AND INSULARITY EUROPEAN GROUPING OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION	In preparation*	In preparation*	Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Spain

16	Cross-border University Campus	In preparation	In preparation	Spain, France, Andorra
17	Europaregion Moldau	Idea	Idea / In preparation	Germany, Austria, Czech Republic
18	nEULakes		In preparation	Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Finland, Greece
19	Zentrum für Europäischen Verbraucherschutz		In preparation	Germany, France
20	EVTZ Kleiner Gemeinschaften mit Großen Kulturgütern		In preparation	Italy, Germany
21	Tour of the Alps		In preparation	Italy, Austria
22	Regional park Scarpe-Escaut and Parc naturel des plaines de l'Escaut		In preparation	Belgium, France
23	THE LANDS OF MATILDE DI CANOSSA		In preparation	Italy, France, Germany, Croatia
24	EGTC Saint Martin Sint Maarten	In preparation*	Idea	France, Netherlands
25	University Groningen-Oldenburg		Idea	Germany, Netherlands

* Based on information from approval authorities, news etc. rather than response from EGTC.

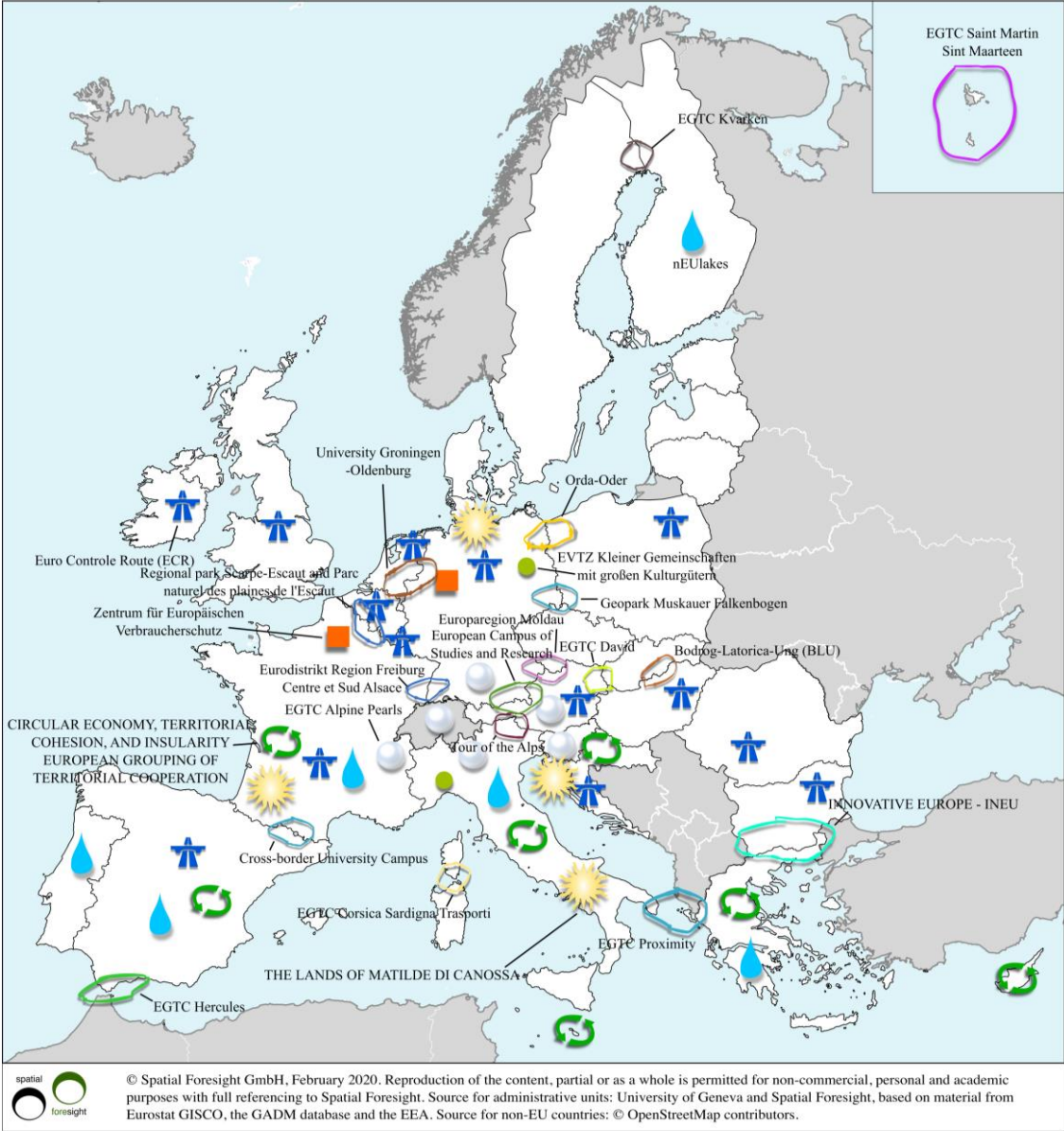
Source: *Spatial Foresight*

Several EGTCs under constitution, whether awaiting approval or still in preparation aim at finalising their foundation in 2020 or early 2021. For example, Euro Contrôle Route – ECR has already received approval from seven out of the 14 MS and is awaiting the remaining approvals in the first half of 2020. Many of the other EGTCs cannot assess when the process may be finalised. Based on previous experience with unexpected prolongations and delays, founders tend to be cautious in indicating an expected date.

EGTCs under constitution vary widely regarding their thematic focus and geographic location. As in the past, many of these cross-border EGTCs have a cross-thematic approach focusing on territorial development of their cities or regions. However, there are EGTCs being set up with a specific thematic focus. Examples are cross-border geopark management (Geoparks Muskauer Faltenbogen), transport activities (ECR and EGTC Corsica Sardigna Trasporti), educational networks and collaboration (European Campus of Studies and Research and Cross-border University Campus) and EGTCs supporting tourism (Tour of the Alps), cultural heritage (EVTZ Kleiner Gemeinschaften mit Großen Kulturgütern), nature parks (Regional park Scarpe-Escaut and Parc naturel des plaines de l'Escaut) or consumer rights (Zentrum für Europäischen Verbraucherschutz).

Many local and regional authorities will become members of these EGTCs, as will national authorities (in ECR), educational institutions (e.g. European Campus of Studies and Research) and nature parks (Regional park Scarpe-Escaut and Parc naturel des plaines de l'Escaut). The number of prospective members per EGTC varies from two to more than 20.

Map 3: Geographical distribution of prospective EGTCs, January 2020



Source: Spatial Foresight, based on data from EGTCs, national authorities and EGTCs under constitution

Map 2 gives an overview of the locations of EGTCs under constitution at the end of 2019. In contrast to the map on existing EGTCs, the indications do not correspond to the territory covered by the prospective members of the EGTCs. Many will work cross-border, but some network EGTCs will be transnational or

interregional (e.g. EVTZ Kleiner Gemeinschaften mit Großen Kulturgütern, nEULakes and THE LANDS OF MATILDE DI CANOSSA).

There are prospective EGTC members all across the EU. With the EGTC Kvarken the first EGTC in the Northern countries is under way. Hardly any prospective EGTC includes members from non-EU countries, however a few plan to extend their membership. New cross-border EGTCs are mainly in border areas where there are existing EGTCs (e.g. Portugal-Spain). Compared to previous years the number of EGTC foundation processes around Hungary has slowed. The focus of cross-border EGTCs has generally moved to western European countries.

The variety of themes and geographies covered by the EGTC instrument is likely to expand further through EGTCs currently under constitution.

5.2 Obstacles causing delays

A few EGTCs reported as prospective in previous monitoring are not being pursued further. These are listed in Table 8. In some cases, representatives explicitly mentioned that there is no intention to pursue the foundation (e.g. GEPACO - GEmeindePARTner PARTenaires Communaux) since they decided on a different structure that was easier to establish. In other cases, support ceased after political representatives changed (Alto Adriatico/Severni Jadran/ Sjevneri Jadran). Reasons are mainly a lack of cooperation (e.g. interest or political support) and long-lasting processes.

Table 8: Prospective EGTCs not pursued further

Name	Status 2017	Countries
Alto Adriatico/Severni Jadran/ Sjevneri Jadran	In preparation	Italy, Slovenia, Croatia
GEPACO - GEmeindePARTner PARTenaires Communaux	Idea	Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg
Euregio Bayerischer Wald - Böhmerwald	Idea	Germany, Austria, Czech Republic

Source: Spatial Foresight

EGTCs mention different causes for delays which are linked to their specific context. Some concern lengthy discussions on the registered office, budget, staff and other issues to be specified in the convention and statutes. Others mention clarification regarding the transition from a previous structure to the EGTC, or liability issues. The latter especially matters if there are different implementation rules in different MS. Other effects delaying foundation are external conditions such as regional administrative reforms, administrative procedures or political

representatives changing during the foundation process, since this affects ownership. In a few cases, communication procedures with approval authorities are lengthy if additional documents or clarifications are requested. This often tends to be less critical if the approval authorities are consulted early in the process. Delays also occur with members from several countries, especially non-EU countries.¹⁸

5.3 Overview of EGTCs closed in 2018-2019

In 2018-2019 some EGTCs appeared no longer active and discussion about further EGTC closures is under way. Some EGTCs have specific termination dates or conditions defined in their convention. Under Article 8 of the EGTC regulation EGTCs must specify their duration and conditions for their dissolution in their convention¹⁹. In some cases, this refers to specific dates or achievements. These specifications must also include arrangements for liability of the EGTC and its members for EGTC obligations arising during its existence.

To 2019, no EGTC has closed due to specifications in its convention.

In addition to conditions in the EGTC's convention, in Article 14 the EGTC regulation refers to the dissolution of an EGTC initiated by the MS where the EGTC has its registered office (see box below). Therefore, the dissolution of EGTCs under Article 14 is subject to national implementation rules, including procedures for cessation of payments, liabilities, the national EGTC register and/or national official journal.

Article 14 - Dissolution*

1. Notwithstanding the provisions on dissolution contained in the convention, on an application by any competent authority with a legitimate interest, the competent court or authority of the Member State where an EGTC has its registered office shall order the EGTC to be wound up if it finds that the EGTC no longer complies with the requirements laid down in Articles 1(2) or 7 or, in particular, that the EGTC is acting outside the confines of the tasks laid down in Article 7. The competent court or authority shall inform all the Member States under whose law the members have been formed or any application to dissolve an EGTC.

2. The competent court or authority may allow the EGTC time to rectify the situation. If the EGTC fails to do so with the time allowed, the competent court or authority shall order it to be wound up.

* EGTC Regulation (EU) No 1082/2006, 31 July 2006

¹⁸ See also Zillmer et al., 2014; Zillmer and Lürer, 2016; Zillmer and Toptsidou, 2014

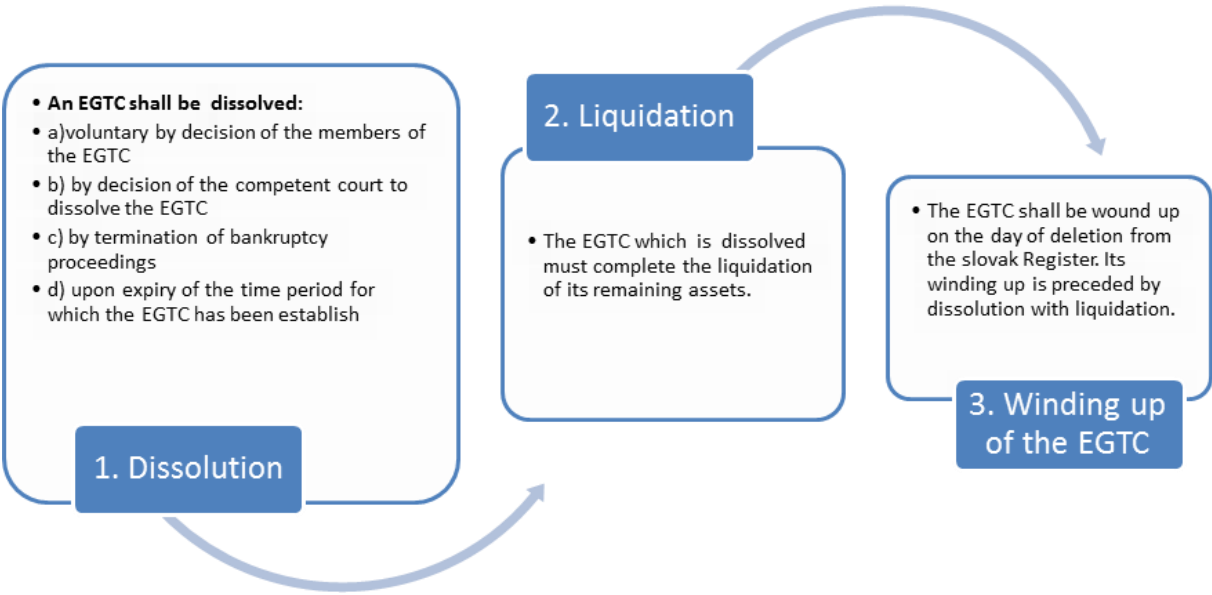
¹⁹ For EGTCs founded before June 21, 2014, under the original EGTC regulation 1082/2006, this is also detailed in the statutes.

The first EGTC closed according to Article 14 is EGTC Karst-Bodva, as indicated in the 2017 EGTC monitoring report.²⁰ Despite being dissolved, EGTC Karst-Bodva still exists legally. Neither liquidation and winding up nor deregistration have yet taken place. According to the proceedings foreseen by the Slovakian authority (see Figure 4), liquidation needs to be initiated by the EGTC itself. Once the EGTC informs the approval and control authority of its liquidation, winding up can take place and then de-registration in the CoR EGTC Register.

UTTS and MASH are two further EGTCs which will face dissolution procedures. Hungarian authorities are clarifying the procedures, which will be put in place in 2020. Further potential candidates for dissolution could be EGTCs that do not seem to be able to implement any of the envisaged cooperation. This currently includes the Torysa and Svinka EGTCs.

Finally, dissolution and winding up of EGTC Grande Région is expected for 2021 after finalising closure of the corresponding Interreg IVA programme 2007-2013.

Figure 4: Dissolution of EGTCs in Slovakia under Article 14 of the EGTC regulation



Source: Deputy Prime Minister’s Office for Investments and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic, 2018

²⁰ For the corresponding court decision see <https://obcan.justice.sk/infosud/-/infosud/i-detail/rozhodnutie/c3bdc8ab-5518-45e9-b86a-af1cdbcbb21c%3Adb3061b5-c292-4a02-aa70-0fed78b9d621>.

6 Conclusions

This EGTC monitoring report highlights that EGTC activities, partnerships and territorial structures further increased in 2018 and 2019. Multiple examples illustrate that EGTC tasks vary from soft general cooperation to very specific subjects that are impossible to tackle without cross-border cooperation. The descriptions of good practice projects highlight this broad variety of actions across 13 thematic fields. EU added value is created in various ways.

EGTCs still face obstacles in their daily work. These often relate to typical cross-border obstacles²¹ or other factors hampering cross-border and transnational cooperation. The EGTC instrument, however, is useful in overcoming obstacles through solid and sustainable collaboration, its legal structure or other competences not available to individual members.

Only six EGTCs were constituted during 2018 and 2019, which is relatively few compared with previous years. However, the instrument still appears to be attractive, since 25 potential EGTCs have been identified with many awaiting approval in the near future.

New cross-border EGTCs often develop in the same or neighbouring areas to existing EGTCs. In the last two years this focus was on the Spanish-Portuguese border. This indicates that the positive experience of some stakeholders is transferred to neighbouring regions. An amendment of the EGTC regulation in 2013 aimed to clarify and support the participation of players from non-EU MS and allows for different procedures. Uptake of this amendment is still slow and there is still no EGTC that include Overseas Countries and Territories.

A few of the 75 EGTCs founded up to the end of 2019 are no longer active or have never been operational. The first EGTC was dissolved in 2017 but is still registered due to lagging liquidation procedures. Other closures are expected to follow, including EGTC Grande Région, following closure of the Interreg IVA programme Grande Région where the EGTC acted as MA and some inactive EGTCs in central-eastern Europe.

All MS have adopted the EGTC regulation, however, only some have updated their implementation provisions after amendment of the regulation in 2013. This is, however, not related to the number of EGTCs in these MS. Many MS with several registered EGTCs or members of EGTCs increasingly support the instrument, though with different intensity.

²¹ See e.g. European Commission (2017)

Many EGTCs either implement projects funded under ETC or otherwise contribute to European policy objectives in the Europe 2020 strategy. Implementing ETC programmes still plays a minor role, though this a major reason the EGTC instrument was developed. However, participation in ETC and other EU funded programmes has intensified. In particular, EGTCs increasingly benefit as sole beneficiary from EU funding, both in ETC and other programmes.

7 Bibliography

The central source of information for the EGTC monitoring report 2018-2019 is data and information from EGTCs, EGTCs being set up and national authorities collected through a written questionnaire and interviews. The following sources give an overview of additional literature and reports used.

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- Committee of the Regions, 2016. EGTC Monitoring Report 2015. Implementing the new territorial cooperation programmes.
- Committee of the Regions, 2015. EGTC monitoring report 2014. Implementing the Strategy Europe 2020.
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- Regulation (EU) No 1302/2013, n.d. of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) as regards the clarification, simplification and improvement of the establishment and functioning of such groupings. OJ L 347/303.
- Zillmer, S., Böhme, K., Lürer, C., Stumm, T., 2014. Guideline for the establishment of an EGTC for stakeholders of transnational cooperation, BMVI-Special publications. Bundesministerium für Verkehr und digitale Infrastruktur, Berlin.

Zillmer, S., Hans, S., Lür, C., Montán, A., Hsiung, C.-H., Le Moglie, P., Gnetti, V., 2018. EGTC Good Practice Booklet. European Committee of the Regions, Brussels.

Zillmer, S., Lür, C., 2017. Experience of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) (No. 08/2017), MORO Praxis. BMVI, Berlin.

Zillmer, S., Toptsidou, M., 2014. Potentials and limits of the EGTC instrument for enhancing integration across borders. Spatial Foresight Brief 2014:5. Luxembourg.

Annex 1 – Legislation update

Answer pending

New provisions compared with EGTC monitoring report 2017

Minor changes compared with EGTC monitoring report 2017

MS	EGTC National Provision	Date of adoption, incl. Regulation 1302/2013	Competent authority	General information
AT – federal level	<i>No national implementation law</i>	./.	./.	./.
AT - Burgenland	Burgenländisches EVTZ-Gesetz - Bgld. EVTZG	24 Feb 2011, Amendment 1302/2013 adopted: Dec 2014	Land Burgenland (Regional government – federal state of Burgenland)	Public or Private law with Limited or Unlimited Liability *
AT - Carinthia	Kärntner EVTZ-Gesetz - K-EVTZG	18 Dec 2008, Amendment 1302/2013 adopted: Oct 2014	Land Kärnten (Regional government – federal state of Carinthia)	Public or Private law with Limited or Unlimited Liability *
AT - Lower Austria	Niederösterreich EVTZ-Gesetz	21 Jan 2010 Amendment 1302/2013 adopted: Aug 2015	Land Niederösterreich (Regional government – federal state of Lower Austria)	Public or Private law with Limited or Unlimited Liability *
AT - Salzburg	Salzburger EVTZ- Anwendungsgesetz - S.EVTZ-G	26 Sep 2009, Amendment 1302/2013 adopted: Feb 2015	Land Salzburg (Regional government – federal state of Salzburg)	Public or Private law with Limited or Unlimited Liability *
AT - Styria	Steiermärkisches EVTZ- Anwendungsgesetz - StEVTZG	17 Nov 2009, revised: Sep 2013	Land Steiermark (Regional government – federal state of Styria)	Public or Private law with Limited or Unlimited Liability *
AT - Tyrol	Tiroler EVTZ- Gesetz	3 Sep 2010, Amendment 1302/2013 adopted: Oct 2014	Land Tirol (Regional government – federal state of Tyrol)	Public or Private law with Limited or Unlimited Liability *
AT - Upper Austria	EVTZ-Anwendungsgesetz OÖ-EVTZG.	31 Mar 2011, Amendment 1302/2013 adopted: Dec 2017	Land Oberösterreich (Regional government – federal state of Upper Austria)	Public or Private law with Limited or Unlimited Liability *
AT - Vienna	W-EVTZG	24 Sep 2010, Amendment 1302/2013 adopted: Apr 2015	Municipal Administration of the City of Vienna	Public or Private law with Limited Liability

MS	EGTC National Provision	Date of adoption, incl. Regulation 1302/2013	Competent authority	General information
AT - Vorarlberg	EVTZ-Gesetz	23 Apr 2009, Amendment 1302/2013 adopted: Jun 2015	Land Vorarlberg (Regional government - federal state of Vorarlberg)	Public or Private law with Limited or Unlimited Liability *
BE – federal level	<i>No national implementation law</i>	./.	./.	./.
BE - Brussels Capital	Ordonnance portant exécution du Règlement (CE) n° 1082/2006 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 5 juillet 2006 relatif à un Groupement européen de coopération territoriale (GECT) (1)	14 May 2009	Government of the Region of Brussels Capital	Public Law
BE - Flanders Region	Houdende uitvoering van de Verordening (EG) Nr. 1082/2006 van het Europees Parlement en de Raad van 5 juli 2006 betreffende een Europese groepering voor territoriale samenwerking (EGTS)	6 Dec 2007	Ministry for Regional Development	n.a.
BE - German-Speaking Community	Dekret Über Die Zuständige Behörde Zur Ausführung Der Verordnung (Eg) Nr. 1082/2006 Über Den Europäischen Verbund Für Territoriale Zusammenarbeit	23 Jun 2008	Government of the German-speaking Community	Public Law
BE - Walloon Region	C.R.I.C. N° 68 (2008-2009)	10 Feb 2009	Ministry of Internal Affairs	n.a.
BG	Decree No. 199 of 29 August 2007 / Decree No. 24 of 10.02.2015	4 Sep 2007, Amendment 1302/2013 adopted: Feb 2015, latest changes adopted: Aug 2017	Council of Ministers	Public law with Unlimited Liability

MS	EGTC National Provision	Date of adoption, incl. Regulation 1302/2013	Competent authority	General information
CY	Απόφαση 67.446 με ημερομηνία 9/7/2008 (Decision of the Ministerial Council 67.446 as of 9/7/2008)	Jul 2008	Committee of representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, the Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development and the Department of registrar of companies and official receiver	Private law, non-profit
CZ	Zákon, 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 zákonů (rozpočtová pravidla), ve znění pozdějších předpisů, a zákon č. 89/1995 Sb., o státní statistické službě, ve znění pozdějších předpisů (154/2009 Sb.)	7 May 2009, Amendment 1302/2013 adopted: Nov 2015	Thematic responsible Ministry	Public law with Limited or Unlimited Liability
DE – federal level	<i>No national implementation law</i>	<i>./.</i>	<i>./.</i>	<i>./.</i>
DE - Baden-Württemberg	Verwaltungsvorschrift der Ministerien zur Ausführung der Verordnung des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates über den EVTZ	18 Jun 2007, Amendment 1302/2013 adopted: 25 Mar 2015	Regional Council of Freiburg (on behalf of the State of Baden-Württemberg)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Bavaria	Art. 13 Gesetz über die Zuständigkeiten zum Vollzug wirtschaftsrechtlicher Vorschriften / EVTZ-Durchführungsverordnung	20 Dec 2007, Amendment adopted: 16 Aug 2017	Regional Council of Upper Palatinate (Oberpfalz) (on behalf of the Free State of Bavaria)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Berlin	Senatsbeschluss Nr. 200/2007	20 Feb 2007	Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises (Berlin)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Brandenburg	Brandenburgische EVTZ-Zuständigkeitsverordnung	22 Nov 2007, revised 23 Jun 2012	Ministry for the Interior and Municipality Affairs (Brandenburg)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **

MS	EGTC National Provision	Date of adoption, incl. Regulation 1302/2013	Competent authority	General information
DE - Bremen	Landesinterne Organisationsanordnung (unpublished)	n.a.	Municipal Administration of Bremerhaven	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Hamburg	Anordnung über Zuständigkeiten im Zusammenhang mit dem EVTZ	17 Nov 2008, revised 17 Dec 2013	Senatskanzlei (Hamburg)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Hesse	Landesinterne Organisationsanordnung (unpublished)	n.a.	Hessian Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Regional Planning (Hesse)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Mecklenburg Western Pomerania	Landesverordnung zur Übertragung von Zuständigkeiten nach der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1082/2006 im Land Mecklenburg- Vorpommern	18 Jun 2007	Ministry for Economics, Employment and Health (Mecklenburg Western Pomerania)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Lower Saxony	Interner Beschluss der Landesregierung (unpublished)	10 Jul 2007	State Chancellery (Lower Saxony)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - North-Rhine Westphalia	Verordnung zur Regelung von Zuständigkeiten nach der EG-Verordnung über den Europäischen Verbund für territoriale Zusammenarbeit (Europäische Territorialverbundverordnung - ZV EVTZ)	29 Apr 2008	Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Industry and Craftmanship (North-Rhine Westphalia)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Rhineland-Palatinate	Landesverordnung über die zuständigen Behörden zur Ausführung der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1082/2006 über den Europäischen Verbund für territoriale Zusammenarbeit	18 Jul 2007	Ministry of the Interior and Sport (Rhineland-Palatinate)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Saarland	Verordnung über die Zuständigkeit zur Ausführung der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1082/2006	07 May 2008	Ministry for Economics, Employment, Energy and Transport (Saarland)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Saxony	Gesetz zur Durchführung der Verordnung über den EVTZ (EVTZVODG) vom 2. August 2019 (replaced the previous EVTZ-Zuständigkeitsverordnung)	02 August 2019	Regional Council of Dresden and the Ministry of the Interior (Saxony)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **

MS	EGTC National Provision	Date of adoption, incl. Regulation 1302/2013	Competent authority	General information
DE - Saxony-Anhalt	Beschluss der Landesregierung über die Benennung der zuständigen Stelle/Behörde in Sachsen-Anhalt im Wege eines Organisationserlasses im Rahmen der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1082/2006	24 July 2007	Ministry for Economics, Science and Digitisation (Saxony-Anhalt)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Schleswig-Holstein	Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt für Schleswig-Holstein, Buchstabe A, Ziffer 1	17 Dec 2009	Ministry of Justice, Cultural and European Affairs (Schleswig-Holstein)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DE - Thuringia	Thüringer EVTZ-Zuständigkeitsverordnung	23 July 2007	Thuringian Administration Office (on behalf of the Free State of Thuringia)	Public law with Unlimited Liability **
DK	Lov om administration af forordning om oprettelse af en europæisk	1 Jun 2008, amendment adopted: 21 Feb 2014	Danish Commerce and Company Agency and approval of the request for participation from the Danish Enterprise and Construction authority	Public law with Limited or Unlimited Liability
EE	Euroopa Parlamendi ja noukogu määruse (EÜ) Nr 1082/2006 'ETKR kohta' rakendamise seadus	5 Jun 2008, revised 1 Jan 2018	Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance	Public law with Limited or Unlimited Liability
EL	Law No 4483/2017	30 Jun 2008, amendment adopted: July 2017	Committee consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy and Development, the Association of Greek Regions (ENPE, when the applicant member is a Region) and the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE, when the applicant member is a Municipality)	Public law with Limited or Unlimited Liability

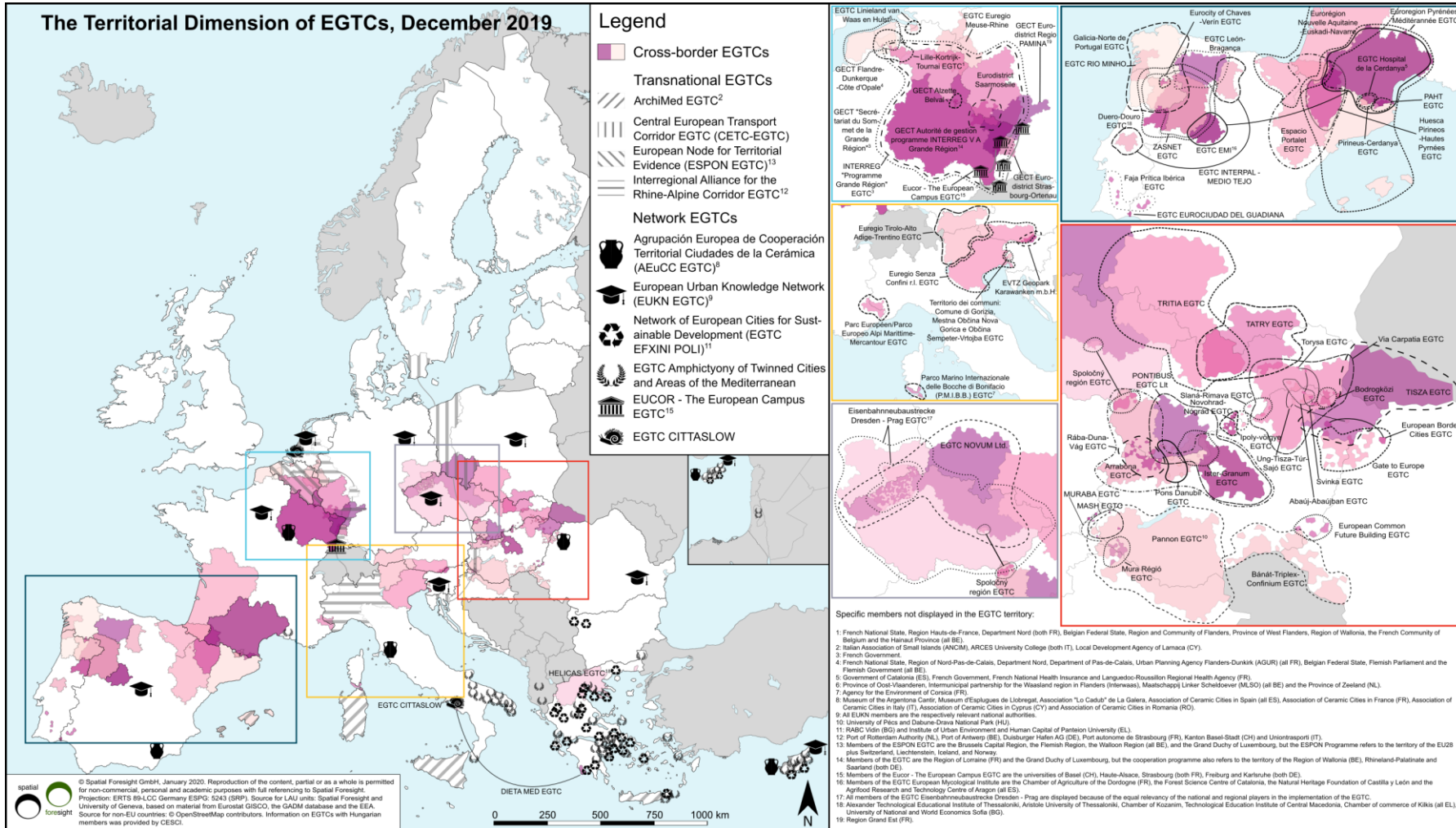
MS	EGTC National Provision	Date of adoption, incl. Regulation 1302/2013	Competent authority	General information
ES	Real Decreto 37/2008 por el que se adoptan las medidas necesarias para la aplicación efectiva del Reglamento (CE) n° 1082/2006 / Real Decreto 23/2015	18 Jan 2008, amendment adopted: Jan 2015	An EGTC is notified to the Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, which transmits all applications (and modifications) to the Ministerio de Administraciones Públicas	Public law with Unlimited Liability
FI	Act on a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (1340/2015)	24 Jul 2009, amendment adopted: 20 Nov 2015	Ministry of Employment and the Economy	Public law with Unlimited Liability
FR	Loi n° 2008-352 visant à renforcer la coopération transfrontalière, transnationale et interrégionale par la mise en conformité du code général des collectivités territoriales avec le règlement communautaire relatif à un groupement européen de coopération territoriale	16 Apr 2008	State Representative at the regional level: Préfectures de région	Public law with Limited or Unlimited Liability
HR	Zakon o provedbi uredbi Europske Unije o Europskoj Grupaciji za Teritorijalnu Suradnju	13 Jun 2014	Ministry of Administration	n.a.
HU	Act LXXV of 2014 on the European grouping of territorial cooperation, amended by Government Decree 485/2017 of December 2017	Act LXXV and Decree 485/2017 effective from 01.01.2018	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Public law with Limited Liability
IE	Statutory Instrument, S.I. No. 533	16 Dec 2009	Department of Finance	Public or Private law with Limited Liability
IT	Disposizioni per l'adempimento di obblighi derivanti dall'appartenenza dell'Italia alle Comunità europee - Capo III - Attuazione del regolamento (CE) n. 1082/2006	23 Jun 2009	General Secretariat of the Prime Minister	Public law with Limited Liability

MS	EGTC National Provision	Date of adoption, incl. Regulation 1302/2013	Competent authority	General information
LT	Lietuvos Respublikos Europos Teritorinio Bendradarbiavimo Grupiu I Statymas	3 Jun 2008	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Public law with Limited Liability
LU	Loi portant diverses mesures d'application du règlement (CE) N. 1082/2006 relatif à un GECT	19 May 2009	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Department for Spatial Planning	Public law with Limited or Unlimited Liability
LV	Grozījumi Eiropas teritoriālās sadarbības grupu likumā	20 Aug 2009, amendment 1302/2013 adopted: 3 Dec 2015	Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government Affairs	Public law with Limited or Unlimited Liability
MT	L.N. 8 of 2011	12 Jan 2011	Ministry of Finance	Public or Private law with Limited or Unlimited Liability
NL	Uitvoeringswet EGTS-verordening	26 Nov 2009	Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations	Public law with Unlimited Liability
PL	Ustawa z dnia 7 listopada 2008 r. o europejskim ugrupowaniu współpracy terytorialnej	7 Nov 2008, amendment 1302/2013 adopted: 11 Sep 2015	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Public law with Unlimited Liability
PT	Decree Law No. 376/2007, Decree Law No. 60/2015	9 Nov 2007, amendment 1302/2013 adopted: 22 Apr 2015	Ministry for the Environment, Territorial Planning and Regional Development	Public law with Limited or Unlimited Liability
RO	Emergency Ordinance regarding the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (no. 9/2015)	12 Nov 2007, amendment 1302/2013 adopted: 2015	Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism	Public
SE	Svensk författningssamling - Lag om europeiska grupperingar för territoriellt samarbete	1 Aug 2009	Companies Registration Office	Public or Private law with Limited or Unlimited Liability
SI	Uredbo o ustanavljanju evropskega združenja za teritorialno sodelovanje (EZTS)	30 Mar 2008, amendment 1302/2013 adopted: Apr 2015	Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy	Public law with Unlimited Liability

MS	EGTC National Provision	Date of adoption, incl. Regulation 1302/2013	Competent authority	General information
SK	Act No. 90/2008 Coll. on a EGTC	15 Feb 2008, amendment 1302/2013 adopted: 2015 and 2016, minor adjustments in 2018	Ministry of Construction and Regional Development	Public law with Limited or Unlimited Liability
UK	Statutory Instrument - 2015 No. 1493	31 July 2015	Ministry of State for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise	Public or Private law with Unlimited Liability

Source: *Spatial Foresight*, based on data collected from approval authorities.

Annex 2 – Territorial dimension of EGTCs as of December 2019



Source: Spatial Foresight, 2020, based on information collected during the monitoring exercise

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**European Committee
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