

INVITATION

Seminar on cross-border cooperation – ESPON findings and INTERREG activities, 14 June

and

Seminar on the Lead Partner Principle, 15-16 June

SAS Radisson Hotel, Riga

Dear Colleague,

As you are involved in one of the INTERREG cross-border programmes we are happy to be able to invite you to two upcoming seminars that both specifically target professionals working on INTERREG IIIA. The seminars will be back to back. The first one provides updates on the situation of cross-border regions in Europe and a first European-wide thematic overview on cross-border cooperation. The second seminar focuses on the Lead Partner Principle and its practical implications for programmes throughout the different phases of the project life cycle. You can either attend both events or only one of them.

Please feel free to pass on this invitation to a colleague you think might be interested!

ESPON-INTERACT Seminar on cross-border cooperation – ESPON findings and INTERREG activities, 14 June

Cross-border cooperation has a long tradition in Europe and the type and focus of cooperation differs widely from border region to border region. This is partly influenced by the history of the cooperation as well as the nature of the border.

The seminar provides a platform for learning and exchanging of experience on cross-border cooperation and the situation of border regions in Europe. It addresses people involved in INTERREG programmes and projects all across Europe, as well as a wide range of INTERREG stakeholders in the field of territorial development.

The discussion will be enriched by presentations on the importance of cross-border cooperation, its effects in the citizens' and businesses' daily life, examples of cooperation activities and the situation of border regions in Europe. ESPON, the European Spatial Planning Observation Network, provides insights on variety of cross-border situations, the barriers and opportunities for the development of border regions and shows the major differences between border regions in Europe.

The key questions for the seminar are:

- What thematic types of cross-border cooperation projects have been most effective to overcome the challenges of border regions?
- Where are the territorial potentials and comparative advantages of border regions and how can they be best utilised in cooperation projects?

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- How can cross-border cooperation make better use of European-wide territorial research adding a European perspective to the cooperation?
- How can future territorial analysis be targeted to demands from cross-border cooperations?

It will be possible to make a short presentation of relevant INTERREG activities and findings during the workshop session. If you want to make a presentation, please remember to tick the box on the registration form and enclose the title or topic. You will receive a confirmation together with some guidance for the presentation.

The seminar on cross-border cooperation is open to anyone interested – although especially targeted at cross-border INTERREG programmes – and places are available on a first come first served basis. The event is arranged by INTERACT Point Qualification and Transfer in cooperation with ESPON.

Seminar on the Lead Partner Principle, 15-16 June

For the new period, 2007-2013, several changes to the programmes have been introduced and one that will influence all Cooperation Objective programmes is that the Lead Partner Principle (LPP) will become compulsory. This Lead Partner Principle Seminar will provide guidance for everyone working on a programme level on **how to make the LPP work in practice**.

The aim of the event is twofold; on the one hand participants will be given input on what the LPP is and what its practical implications are. On the other it will encourage exchange between cross-border programmes on their experiences of the LPP so far, their considerations and preparations for LPP implementation in the next period etc. To facilitate this exchange programmes that already work with the LPP are **invited to make presentations** on their experiences of one of the following topics: i) development of LP projects, ii) LP project application and assessment or LP project contracting, or iii) LP project reporting. See the attached draft programme for more guidance and please indicate on the registration form if you would like to make a presentation.

The seminar will be **based on the project life cycle** and will focus on what role programmes have to play for a smooth LPP implementation during each phase. The following main topics will be covered: key aspects of how to best generate and develop strong LP projects, what information to ask for and check during the application and assessment stage, joint selection of joint projects, procedures and responsibilities for smooth LP project contracting, programme monitoring of LP project implementation, LP reporting requirements and how to arrange control procedures under the LPP.

The Lead Partner Principle seminar is arranged by INTERACT Point (IP) Qualification and Transfer in cooperation with IP Tool Box and IP Managing Transition.

NB: The issue of programme structures, systems and procedures needed for the new programme period is not included in this event, but will be discussed at a seminar in Potsdam on 12-13 July. If you have not already received the announcement for this seminar and would like to ensure you get an invitation, please send an e-mail to ip.gt@interact-eu.net entitled “*Programme preparation seminar 2*”.

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Please note that for the Lead Partner Principle Seminar, to be able to give every cross-border programme an equal chance to take part **participation will, as a general rule, be limited to 2 persons/ programme or programme institution** (when the same institution is responsible for several INTERREG/ Objective 3 programmes) – preferably one from each side of the border. Upon registration a maximum of 2 participants per programme or institution will receive confirmation – the participation of any additional registered people from the same programme or institution will be confirmed after the registration deadline if there are places available.

Overall **maximum number of participants for both seminars is limited to 80** and the last day to register is **Monday 22 May**. We apologise for the short deadline and for the late invitation, but the venue and seminar location had to be changed at the last minute.

Please have a look at the agendas attached for the two seminars for more information on what the days have to offer and use the registration form to indicate if there are particular topics you are interested in, questions you have already at this point or similar. Please remember to tick the box of the seminar you would like to attend or both boxes if you would like to participate for the full 2,5 days.

We hope to see you in Riga in June

Yours sincerely

INTERACT Point Qualification and Transfer

and

ESPON, the European Spatial Planning
Observation Network



In cooperation with:

INTERACT Point Managing Transition and
External Cooperation

and

INTERACT Point Tool Box

