

**Training** INTERACT workshop for the new European Territorial Cooperation Romania-Bulgaria Programme  
**Venue, date** Sofia, 01 March 2007  
**Participants** Approx. 50, National Authorities, Programme authorities, DG Regional Policy

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## Outline

### Background

Romanian and Bulgarian authorities involved in the preparation and implementation of the up-coming **European Territorial Cooperation** programmes, requested support from INTERACT; in particular a training session for the **future programme authorities**, including the **Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)**, for the new Romania-Bulgaria programme.

At the same time, INTERACT as a programme and the INTERACT Points Managing Transition and External Co-operation (**MTEC**) and Qualification and Transfer (**QT**) welcome the opportunity to present their activities and services, so that programme authorities and people in charge may benefit from them. Moreover MTEC Point will establish a contact network in these new Member States which will facilitate the implementation of co-operation programmes from 2007. The workshop will be organised in co-operation with the **European Commission's Directorate General for Regional Policy**.

### Objective

The general objective of the training is to present INTERACT activities and to address common challenges for programme authorities, arising from the preparation and implementation of the new programme, as well as from the setting up of new common structures, such as JTSSs.

In particular the training should first of all provide relevant stakeholders of future co-operation programmes with a platform for discussion on:

- the **main rules and changes for the future programmes**, prepared and implemented under the new Structural Funds regulations, including structures to be set up, tasks and responsibilities, lead partner principle, as well as a strategic approach on project development. Lessons learnt from INTERREG III will also be covered;
- **Financial training**, including structures (Certifying Authority, Audit Authority, etc.) financial flows and audit, as developed by the Point QT. Due to the limited time available, this session will focus on financial questions arising from drafting the Operational Programme and the period immediately afterwards;
- the **main needs and interests** of the authorities involved will be also identified.

### Expected results

- Increased awareness on Territorial Co-operation Objective issues and challenges. Interests assessment.
- 40-50 Participants

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- Contact network – Romania and Bulgaria with relevant stakeholders
- Strengthening contacts in the border regions

### **Methodology**

In a first session, the INTERACT programme, its activities and the services provided by the Points will be presented as well as the main challenges ahead for the programme authorities.

The second session will have parallel workshops:

- addressing the afore-mentioned financial issues;
- identifying needs and expectations of the authorities involved.

**Working language:** English

**Venue:** Still to be confirmed. Please checkout [www.interact-eu.net](http://www.interact-eu.net) under **Event**.

### **PROVISIONAL DRAFT PROGRAMME**

08.30 – 09.00 Registration

#### **09.00 – 11.00 First session:**

Welcome address by INTERACT / Commission / local authority

Presentations by INTERACT Points + Commission. Questions and answers.

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

#### **11:30 – 13:00 Second session / Parallel working sessions:**

- Financial training by QT
- Needs identification / interests assessment. Brainstorming session.

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

#### **14.00 – 18.00 Continuation of second session**

### **Follow-up**

- Evaluation of the information transfer.
- Follow-up workshop in May/June.