

Conference	ENPI CBC Programme implementation 2007-13
Venue	Brussels, Hotel Silken Berlaymont, Boulevard Charlemagne, 11-13
Date	18 – 19 September 2007
Experts	ENPI CBC Programme Partners from EU Member States and Partner Countries, European Commission representatives, Members of Joint Task Forces, experts from RCBI and INTERACT
Participants	Up to 100, National, Regional and Local members of Programme management bodies (JMA and JTS) and Programme counterparts

Outline

Background

On 29 September 2004, the European Commission (EC) adopted a new regulation for the period 2007-2013, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) to provide assistance in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Mediterranean region. The funding instrument (ENPI) has a cross-border component with a joint budget drawing on both external and internal funds coming from the External Relations heading and the Structural Funds budget. This new innovative approach brings the programme partner countries together for the first time to joint programming under one funding instrument.

The ENPI regulation (1638/2006) forms the legal base and is applicable from 1.1.2007 until 31.12.2013. During 2006 the EC finalised the “ENPI CBC Strategy Paper” setting out the strategic approach naming the four common objectives for each programme and framework for the 15 ENPI CBC programmes, laying down the programmes, their eligibility, objectives and funding allocation together with an analysis of the present situation in the area. Leaving the task of programming cross border development for the Joint Task Forces (JTF) consisting of local and regional stakeholders from Member States and partner countries, the ENPI strategy wants to ensure coherence with other national and regional development policies.

Draft Programmes are currently under preparation and will be submitted for the consistency check with the ENPI Regulation, the Strategy Paper and the recently finalised Implementing Rules for the cross-border component of the ENPI. The Rules draw from the experience from the Neighbourhood Programmes and are inspired by the decentralised management system of the EU Structural Funds. They are adapted to programme environments involving partner countries which are non EU member states and include important elements taken from external cooperation. Final submissions of programmes are expected in autumn 2007.

The ENPI Partner countries have played an active role in participating in the programming of the ENPI CBC and have been supported in their task by the Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) set up by the EuropeAid Co-operation Office. The programming process has progressed well, Joint Managing Authorities (JMA) have been identified for nearly all 15 programmes and Joint Task Forces are finalising the drafting of programme documents.

Objective

The Cross Border Cooperation programmes on European external borders are going through a transitional development from implementing separate instruments on both sides of border to merging two instruments (ERDF and ENPI) into one programme funding, with joint management structures, comprising Joint Monitoring Committee, Joint Selection Committee and Joint Managing Authority and a Joint Technical Secretariat.

To enable all programme partners to exchange experiences on the progress on preparation of ENPI CBC programmes and on the interpretation of the ENPI Regulation as well as application of the Implementing Rules, INTERACT is organising a technical conference for all ENPI CBC programmes to discuss the management structures being proposed and the control, audit and monitoring systems selected together with Programme counterparts in Partner countries and EU Member States, inviting all above mentioned programme bodies to be represented in these discussions in Brussels, 18-19 September 2007.



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This two day conference focuses on defining the best management practises for the localised implementation of decentralised programmes in external border cooperation by creating common understanding how the programme and project management can be best implemented.

On the first day, 18 September:

The conference opens at 11 am

Short plenary session for the exchange on ENPI Regulation and on Implementing Rules:

An opportunity to share on interpretations of ENPI Regulation and application of Implementing Rules, complemented by feedback from the programme partners and Q+A leading to

Intensive workshops:

Detailed exchange in participatory intensive workshops on management aspects of ENPI CBC including application of the PraG (the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions) in the specific context of CBC.

On the second day, 19 September:

The workshops continue by addressing questions on how to apply the rules in the day-to-day programme management followed by a joint feedback session at the end.

Conference closes by 3 pm

To ensure your interests and concerns to be covered during the workshops, please, kindly complete the Questionnaire provided together with this information. Thank you!

The conference “ENPI CBC Programme implementation 2007-2013” is a continuation of series of events organised by INTERACT on ENPI: A number of issues have already been dealt with through a consultation process with the Member States and partner countries. INTERACT MTEC together with the EC directorate General of External Relations, Directorate General of Enlargement, Directorate General of Regional Policy and EuropeAid Co-operation Office has followed up on some technical questions on both ENPI and IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession) during 2006 by gathering together all stakeholders including the neighbouring countries. For this purpose, INTERACT MTEC in co-operation with the EC services did organise three conferences with the following approach:

- (1) *Present to the ENPI stakeholders the proposed programming framework and the main elements of the CBC strategy for ENPI.*
- (2) *Provide an overview of the implementing rules.*
- (3) *Provide the necessary elements in order to kick-off the process of preparation of the Joint cross border co-operation programmes.*



Conference on ENPI CBC Programme implementation 2007-13 is organised by INTERACT Point Managing Transition and External Cooperation together with EC Services of EuropeAid Cooperation Office

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