

How to measure territorial cohesion and cooperation?



21 February 2018
Brussels, Belgium





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Outline

ETC stands for *European Territorial Cooperation* – it is an instrument to support Cooperation and implicitly also its governance across borders and territories and one of its major policy goals is to contribute to territorial cohesion.

Territorial cooperation, territorial cohesion - both concepts are widely used in policy documents but in the end it is not that easy to measure how cities, regions, or bigger territories are doing with regard to territorial cooperation or territorial cohesion over time. How is good or bad territorial cooperation and territorial cohesion linked to quality of life conditions of European citizens and what kind of activities can contribute to develop better cooperation capacities and increased territorial cohesion? How can the effect of these activities be measured and the performance of those acting? The aim is to have useful measurements for the actors that can help them to improve their performance. At the same time, we want to communicate achievements and tell stories.

Increasing territorial cohesion is challenge for all types of regions and it requires cooperation: this is obvious when looking at cross-border agglomerations but can become also a major cooperation issue when looking at functional areas such as coastal areas, sea basins, industrial regions or regions otherwise linked by economic flows from a transnational perspective etc. Mapping flows across borders, outlining specificities of regions in Europe with indicators relevant to programme objectives, in short capturing essential features of territorial development builds the bridges to territorial cohesion. From the perspective of other Interreg programmes ESPON can provide valuable inputs in building the context of territorial cooperation supporting cohesion.

Improving cooperation is at the heart of Interreg – but it is difficult to reflect this specific quality in indicators be it at levels of outputs, results or impact. For example, the cooperation criteria are quite often handled as rather technical requirements although these should be the key quality criteria for projects. Measuring the intensity of cooperation or progress in cooperation is hardly done in a consistent manner in programmes – considering that Interreg is mostly about cooperation we have to acknowledge that current indicator systems do not fully reflect this.

This is why we would like to invite you to a meeting in order to

- bring together persons working on territorial cohesion with Interreg programme practitioners and to share experiences between cohesion & cooperation experts
- exchange on concepts, approaches and ideas related to territorial cohesion and cooperation and to investigate jointly how to develop indicators which are meaningful in terms of reflecting the cooperation and cohesion aspects basis for indicators – in order to measure changes in the territories/for populations) and performance of policies/programmes/projects, also in view of the post-2020 period.

In the end we would like to identify

- promising approaches to adequately measure key aspects of cohesion and cooperation in the context of Interreg
- concrete areas where efforts undertaken in the frame of ESPON could be used more widely by other Interreg programmes (e.g. with a view to programming in the forthcoming period)

Target group:

- representatives of programme administration bodies (MA, JS, MC)
- Member states experts working with Interreg programmes



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Day one

Wednesday, 21 February 2018

09.00 – 09.30

Registration and Welcome Coffee / Tea

09.30 – 10.00

Welcome and Introduction

Interact

10.00 – 13.00

**Incl. coffee
break**

How to measure territorial cohesion

- **Introduction**, *Interact*
- **Territorial cohesion and cooperation - reflections from the European Commission**, *David Alba, Evaluation Unit European Commission (tbc)*
- **Introduction of various concepts from different experts/programmes**
 - NWE programme: territorial cohesion indicator (tbc)
 - Proposal from academics, *Prof. Eduardo Medeiros tbc, etc.)*
- **Discussion of the different proposals:** Which concepts could be used in order to bridge the gaps between concepts and practice, i.e. to come to operational measurement in indicator sets for Interreg programmes and what framework would be required?
- **How can ESPON support the indicator/ measurement discussion in post 2020**
- **Data availability as a major pre-requirement in order to map the essential features of territorial cohesion and cooperation - linkages EUROSTAT**

13.00 -14.00

Lunch Break

14.00 – 16.30

**incl- coffee
break**

How to measure cooperation

- **Introduction**, *Interact*



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- **Introduction of various concepts from different experts/programmes/Member States**
 - NWE programme: territorial cohesion indicator (tbc)????
 - Input Crossborder Focal Point EC
 - German Impact study tbc
- **Discussion of the different proposals**
 - What concept could be feasible for interreg programmes and what framework would be required

16.30 – 17.00 **Wrap up and next steps**



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Practicalities

Registration

For the registration to the event, please follow the link below.

<https://apps.interact-eu.net/interact/events.nsf/registrationform.xsp?eid=2276>

The registration is open until 12 February 2018.

Venue

The meeting will be held in Brussels, Belgium. Exact venue will be communicated after being accepted to the event.

Travel

Every participant is responsible to take care of his/her travel.

Accommodation

Every participant is responsible for his/her accommodation arrangements.

Other information

For more information, please contact:

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We look forward to meeting you in Brussels!