

Debate launched on the new Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

The MOT¹ network emphasises the importance of taking cross-border territories into account

The fifth European Commission report on economic, social and territorial cohesion defines the framework of the debate on the reform of the cohesion policy for the post-2013 period.

The MOT network responded to the public consultation initiated by the Commission until 31 January regarding the conclusions of this Report in order to underscore the need to take account of cross-border territories in the best possible way.

The fifth report reminds that "over 196 million people² or **almost 40 % of the total European Union population live in border regions**".

Key excerpts and proposals from the contribution by the MOT network:

- "We support that **all the European regions continue to benefit from the cohesion policy** (independent from their level of development) through the importance of this policy for the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the European Union."
- "In general, **territorial cooperation deserves a significant budgetary increase** in the new programming period. [...] Particular mention should be made in this context of cross-border cooperation. [...] The **European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)** is a precious tool to facilitate cooperation especially in the context of cross-border cooperation."
- "It is important that the list of themes addressed by the **future regulations** of cohesion policy remains essentially **open for these cross-border territories** and that it integrates a territorial dimension in order to allow **integrated approaches**."
- "With regard to drawing up **operational programmes**, more emphasis ought to be placed on territorial approaches. This could be achieved by integrating **territorial** rather than just theme-based **priority axes**. [...] Specific territories whose cohesion potential has not been exploited such as cross-border territories must be the subject of particular incentives, for example through **dedicated global grants**."

¹ **What is the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)?**

Founded in 1997 by the French Delegation for territorial planning and regional action (DATAR), MOT is an inter ministerial and associative structure whose main role is to facilitate the realization of cross-border projects. It sets up a network of 58 members, all actors of cross-border cooperation (local authorities, companies, associations, cross-border organizations, States...) Its activities are operational assistance to projects, networking and training of actors, as well as the orientation of national and European policies. MOT is presided by Michel Delebarre, Former French Minister of State, MP and Mayor of Dunkerque.

² In 2007

- "In order to improve **the involvement of local and regional stakeholders, social partners and civil society**, it means to enhance **the governance of cooperation programmes**: in drawing up cohesion policy programming documents ; [...] in the bodies in charge of monitoring the operational programmes ; [...] through dialogue and information among local partners throughout the programming period ; [...] and through participation of local partners in the projects."

Further information on MOT: www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

To download the MOT contribution :

http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/MOT_EUROMOT/contribution_mot_5cr_FR.pdf

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