

New issue of the "MOT Guides"

The European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC)

The MOT has just published the seventh issue of its "MOT Guides" on the European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC), **the new instrument for European territorial cooperation**¹.

As explained by Jan Olbrycht, MEP, in the editorial of this issue, "cross-border cooperation, supported to a great extent by the European cohesion policy, is one of the most successful actions undertaken on the European territory. However, over the last years it has become more and more clear that a legal framework is needed to structure it and to enhance its positive results".

The objective of the introduction of the EGTC², which has legal personality and is open to many categories of legal entity, is to **facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation between its members**. The EGTC is intended to give **new impetus** to cooperation by simplifying the cooperation process and providing **a joint framework** for protagonists located on either side of borders in Europe. The aim is to help them overcome the institutional, legal and financial barriers with which local stakeholders are confronted on a daily basis in their cooperation.

At a time when a number of cross-border territories are considering and planning the establishment of an EGTC to structure their cooperation (for example, in January 2008 the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis established the first EGTC in Europe), this publication of some twenty pages is **a practical tool** for project stakeholders. It compares this new instrument to the existing frameworks and instruments and describes the advances and the specific features of the EGTC. A section covers "The EGTC in practice": Why establish an EGTC? What are the applications of an EGTC? How is an EGTC set up?

Lastly, four **field experiences** are highlighted: the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, the German-Polish Pro Europa Viadrina Euroregion, the Capcir and Cerdagne cross-border hospital project (French-Spanish border) and the Matriosca transnational project.

The MOT works with local authorities and cooperation stakeholders on the setting up of their EGTCs. For example, it has provided (or is providing) assistance to the following territories, members of its network:

- West-Vlaanderen/Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale cross-border platform (France/Belgium),
- Saarbrücken-Moselle Est cross-border conurbation (France/Germany),
- Alpes-Mediterranean Euroregion (France/Italy).

If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact Françoise Schneider-Français, project director (+33 (0)1 55 80 56 82, francoise.schneider@mot.asso.fr) or Ludivine Salambo, project manager (+33 (0)1 55 80 56 92, ludivine.salambo@mot.asso.fr).

Further information and to download the publication: www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

¹ Third objective of European cohesion policy for 2007-2013, territorial cooperation has three strands: cross-border cooperation (local cooperation across land or maritime borders), interregional cooperation (cooperation between non-adjacent territories) and transnational cooperation (cooperation within a large geographical space, such as the Alps or north-western Europe).

² The EGTC was introduced by the European Community regulation of 5 July 2006. This regulation has been transposed or is being transposed into the law of the 27 member states: national measures have been introduced in France, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom, Slovenia and Slovakia.