

Position of the MOT on the consultation of stakeholders on INTERREG EUROPE program 2014-2020

March 2014



Position of the MOT on the stakeholder consultation on INTERREG EUROPE program 2014-2020

I. Introduction

The INTERREG EUROPE program has launched a stakeholder consultation about the future INTERREG EUROPE program 2014-2020.

The network of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) would like to participate in this consultation, in particular on aspects linked with cross-border cooperation.

Therefore the present documents contains two parts, one about the specificity of cross-border cooperation within the future 2014-2020 INTERREG EUROPE program, and a second part, in response to the questions of the INTERREG EUROPE secretariat.

Presentation of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT - Transfrontier Operational Mission):

The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, created in 1997, is both an association and a French inter-ministerial structure, which has the main objective of facilitating cross-border projects. Its missions are operational assistance to leaders of cross-border projects (project development, legal structures, studies, etc.), networking, assistance in the definition of overall strategies in cross-border cooperation, and implementation of European projects. The MOT brings together within its network sub-national authorities and their groupings, associations, cross-border structures, large corporations, states, etc. involved in cross-border cooperation and situated on both sides of the border. It has more than 60 members, from 10 European countries.

To date, the MOT has concentrated its work on cross-border proximity cooperation and assistance in the definition of policies regarding cross-border territories.

Website: www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

II. The MOT contribution

II.1. Cross-border cooperation in the future INTERREG EUROPE program 2014-2020

For the next programming period, the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) basic expectation (as stakeholder representing cross-border territories), with regard to the INTERREG EUROPE program, is that INTERREG EUROPE should address the **territorial dimension** of the cohesion policy and not only the thematic dimension. Especially for **cross-border cooperation** such a **territorial** and even **integrated approach** is important. In this context, the **thematic restriction** of the INTERREG EUROPE programme, as it has already been the case in the previous programming periods, is a true problem.

It is also important to emphasize the need for **cross-border structures** (EGTC, Euroregions, etc.), and not only their national sub-parts, to be able to fully participate in the program as **lead partner** or **partner**. The eligibility concerning stakeholders of the private sector is also a question.

Generally speaking, one of the biggest obstacles in the past concerned the **insufficient funding** with regard to the **number of applicants** and the **number of projects accepted**.

Finally, the program should focus more on **best practice transfer and exchange** between similar projects and increase the **synergies with the other network-programs**, ESPON, URBACT and INTERACT. Resources should be capitalized in common without multiplying the existing tools. All these 4 programs should take more account cross-border cooperation as well as territorial and integrated approaches as mentioned before.

II.2. Responses to the questions of the INTERREG EUROPE secretariat

IDENTIFICATION

*Organisation name: Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)

*Type of organisation:

- National public authority
- Regional public authority
- Local public authority
- Development Agency
- University, Knowledge / Research Institute, institute for higher education
- Education / Training Centre
- Business support actor / chamber of commerce
- Civil society structure (association/foundation)
- EU institution
- International organisation
- EGTC / European grouping
- Consultancy
- Other private sector
- Other, please specify: network of local authorities and cross-border stakeholders

*Sector of activity:

- Research, technological development and innovation
- SME and Entrepreneurship
- Low-carbon economy in all sectors
- Environmental protection and/or promotion of resource efficiency
- Other, please specify: all thematic sectors, related to cross-border cooperation

*Country: NB: For European groupings, please refer to the location of the legal body acting on behalf of the whole territory

- (30 Partner States, and 'other, please specify') headquarters France, French borders

Region:

- (NUTS 2 level)

Have you been involved in an INTERREG IVC project?

- No
- Yes, please specify which one: ...

PROGRAMME STRATEGY

Section 1 of the draft Cooperation Programme describes the overall context and strategy of the programme. We would like to invite you to provide your feedback with regard to the following aspects:

1. The needs and challenges addressed by the INTERREG EUROPE programme as outlined in section 1.1.3 are:

	I agree	I partly agree	I disagree
Clear	X		
Relevant		X	
Complete	X		
<i>Comments:</i>	<p>Policy challenges: regional diversity is mentioned, thus some territorial specificities could be stressed, as cross-border ones.</p> <p>Interregional cooperation: Capitalization is mentioned as well as the importance to better integrate the territorial dimension, especially important in a cross-border context. Furthermore when citing relevant bodies and stakeholders think also about stakeholder networks (as MOT, CECICN etc.).</p>		

2. The proposed strategy of the programme and its overall objective as outlined in section 1.1.4 are:

	I agree	I partly agree	I disagree
Clear		X	
Relevant		X	
Comments:	<p>Main remark; the programme should address more the territorial dimension of the cohesion policy and not only the thematic dimension via its thematic objectives. Especially for cross-border cooperation such a territorial and even integrated approach is important.</p> <p>In general, the text seems too long and repetitive with the previous context presentation. You could more directly link the objectives with related actions.</p>		

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

– NOT ANALYSED –

Section 2 of the draft Cooperation Programme describes each of the specific (thematic) objectives of the programme in each of the four priority axes selected.

3. The specific objectives under "Research, Technological Development and Innovation" priority axis are:

	Relevant for interregional cooperation	Partly relevant for interregional cooperation	Not relevant for interregional cooperation
<i>Specific Objective 1.1 Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, in the field of research and innovation infrastructure and capacities</i>	/	/	/
<i>Specific Objective 1.2 Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, that support the delivery of innovation by actors in regional innovation chains in areas of "smart specialisation" and innovation opportunity</i>	/	/	/

Comments:

The specific objective under "Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises" priority axis is:

	Relevant for interregional cooperation	Partly relevant for interregional cooperation	Not relevant for interregional cooperation
<i>Specific Objective 2.1 Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, supporting SMEs in all stages of their life cycle to develop and achieve growth and engage in innovation</i>	/	/	/

Comments:

The specific objective under "Low Carbon Economy" priority axis is:

	Relevant for interregional cooperation	Partly relevant for interregional cooperation	Not relevant for interregional cooperation
<i>Specific Objective 3.1 Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, addressing the transition to a low-carbon economy</i>	/	/	/

Comments:

The specific objectives under "Environment and Resource Efficiency" priority axis are:

	Relevant for interregional cooperation	Partly relevant for interregional cooperation	Not relevant for interregional cooperation
<i>Specific Objective 4.1 Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, in the field of the protection and development of natural and cultural heritage</i>	/	/	/
<i>Specific Objective 4.2 Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC programmes, aimed at increasing resource-efficiency, green growth and eco-innovation and environmental performance management</i>	/	/	/

Comments:

Actions supported by the programme

Section 2 of the draft Cooperation Programme outlines two actions to be supported by INTERREG EUROPE, namely a) interregional cooperation projects and b) policy learning platforms.

4. Please rate the following statements

a) interregional cooperation projects

	I agree	I partly agree	I disagree
This type of action is relevant		X	
<i>Comments:</i>	The clear-cut thematic division does not correspond to territorial strategies or cooperation projects (quid for integrated territorial approaches?)		
Its objectives are clear	X		
<i>Comments:</i>	An overall table at the end could be useful to summarize the type of supported actions and beneficiaries. Please insert also detailed eligibility criteria.		
The indicative project activities are relevant	X		
<i>Comments:</i>			
A second project phase dedicated to monitoring the action plans is useful			X
<i>Comments:</i>			

It is likely that these actions contribute to an improved implementation of Structural Funds programmes		X	
<i>Comments:</i>	Cooperation actions go beyond improved implementation of Structural Funds programmes, and should also include local/territorial programmes and strategies.		

b) policy learning platforms

	I agree	I partly agree	I disagree
This type of action is relevant	X		
<i>Comments:</i>	It is said in chapter 8.1 that "Policy Learning Platforms for Priorities 3 and 4 will evidently focus entirely on policy learning related to sustainable development": this is too restrictive and should apply more largely.		
Its objectives are clear	X		
<i>Comments:</i>			
The indicative platform activities are relevant	X		
<i>Comments:</i>	Please clarify who will carry out these actions and which possible partnerships could be developed in link with outside-secretariat bodies (resource centers, training organizations, thematic or regional/local stakeholder networks, etc.).		
It is likely that these actions contribute to an improved implementation of Structural Funds programmes		X	
<i>Comments:</i>	Support and learning actions go beyond improved implementation of Structural Funds programmes, and should also include local/territorial programme and project management.		

Please select the service(s) of the platforms which you find the most relevant:

- Disseminating innovative thematic approaches developed within European Structural and Investment Funds programmes
- Disseminating thematic policy recommendations
- Organising thematic peer reviews
- Organising thematic events to meet and exchange with European counterparts
- Providing thematic advice in relation to Structural and Investment Funds programmes implementation
- Other, please specify:

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The assessment of the environmental effects of the INTERREG EUROPE programme is detailed in the separate Environmental Report.

5. The Environmental Report is:

	I agree	I partly agree	I disagree
Clear	X		
Relevant	X		
Complete	X		
Comments:			

6. *Do you have any objections to the draft Cooperation Programme and / or Environmental report?

- No
- Yes, please specify: [go to]

Draft Cooperation Programme:

- Section 1. Strategy:
- Section 2. Description of the priority axes:
- Section 3. Financing plan of the cooperation programme:
- Section 4. Integrated approach to territorial development:
- Section 5. Implementation provisions for the cooperation programme:
- Section 6. Coordination between funds:
- Section 7. Reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries:
- Section 8. Horizontal principles:
- Section 9. Separate elements:

Comment: The chapter “Integrated approach to territorial development” is of highest importance and should be further developed.

For example, “prioritised operations with a clear cross-border impact” are mentioned twice in chapter 4.2., but we think this specificity is not sufficiently tackled, no further specification is given. Cross-border cooperation should be much more present, we therefore suggest to introduce a specific focus on cross-border cooperation within the programme.

Environmental report:

- Chapter 1: Introduction:
- Chapter 2: The 2014-2020 Interregional Cooperation Programme (INTERREG EUROPE):
- Chapter 3: Environmental Objectives:
- Chapter 4: Characteristics of the environment, status of the environment in case of non-implementation of the programme and existing environmental problems
- Chapter 5: Potential significant impacts on the environment (positive/negative):
- Chapter 6: Recommendations:
- Chapter 7: Notes on problems in the compilation of required data and information:
- Chapter 8: Proposed monitoring measures:
- Non-technical summary:

7. Do you plan to be involved in an interregional cooperation project?

No

Yes, please specify on which topic:

- Research and innovation infrastructure and capacities
- "Smart specialisation" and innovation opportunity
- Supporting SMEs in all stages of their life cycle to develop and achieve growth and engage in innovation
- Transition to a low-carbon economy
- Protection and development of natural and cultural heritage
- Increasing resource-efficiency, green growth and eco-innovation and environmental performance management

8. Do you intend to use the planned services of the policy learning platforms?

No

Yes, please specify on which topic:

- Research, Technological Development and Innovation
- Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
- Low Carbon Economy
- Environment and Resource Efficiency

9. Do you have any further remarks on the INTERREG EUROPE draft programme?

See above, first part of the present contribution "point II.1. Cross-border cooperation in the future INTERREG EUROPE program 2014-2020".

10. Should you wish to be kept informed of the outcome of the consultation, you can provide contact details below.

Name: Jean
Surname: PEYRONY
Email: jean.peyrony@mot.asso.fr