

**Statement**

**INTERACT  
needs  
assessment  
2013**



**Position of the MOT in response to the  
INTERACT needs assessment 2013**

**Final version  
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# Position of the MOT in response to the INTERACT needs assessment 2013

## I. Introduction

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The INTERACT program has launched a stakeholder consultation via a questionnaire on the INTERACT needs assessment 2013.

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

### **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 about 60 members, from 11 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](http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu)

## II. The MOT contribution

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### II.1 The 2007 – 2013 programming period

#### 1. Problems related to programme management and project support (07/13)

- ≡ Problems related to the management of programmes with non-EU members;
- ≡ Lack of strategic dimension of programmes (strategies, territorial diagnoses, follow-up...);
- ≡ Lack of information on the achievement of the ETC projects;
- ≡ Lack of quantitative and qualitative data on the effects of ETC projects (evaluation of results and impact).

#### 2. Needs related to programme management and project support

Exchange of best practices, dissemination of solutions, capitalisation of experiences at EU-level in order to:

- ≡ Improve the joint management of ETC programmes with non-EU members;
- ≡ Improve territorial facilitation networks at programme level and links between them;
- ≡ Facilitate project networking and capitalization (thematic and territorial aspects);
- ≡ Train project partners on project management with coordinated action of training providers;
- ≡ Provide evaluation methods that are cost-efficient, simple and deliver results that can be easily communicated.

#### 3. Problems linked to financial management (07/13)

- ≡ Problems related to programmes with non-EU members;
- ≡ Involvement of private sector partners in ETC projects (state aid);
- ≡ Differences in eligibility rules for the national territories of a single programme;
- ≡ Differences in financial management tools, following national assistance programmes (ex. PRESAGE proper to France).

#### 4. Needs linked to financial management

- ≡ Harmonisation of eligibility rules at programme level or even European level;
- ≡ Facilitate the involvement of the private sector in ETC programmes;
- ≡ Facilitate cross-border public procurement.

## 5. Problems linked to communication (07/13)

- ≡ Visibility of ETC programmes to the citizens and elected representatives;
- ≡ Lack of implication of concerned stakeholders at all levels;
- ≡ Lack of identifying and linking result (resources, productions, methodological tools, best practices, experiences etc.) for better communicating on achievements and added value.

## 6. Needs linked to communication

- ≡ Developing methods or tools to better communicate about ETC programmes to citizens and elected representatives;
- ≡ Raise awareness for ETC in a multilevel approach addressed to local, regional, national and European level;
- ≡ Need to identify and link the above mentioned results in order to reach a critical mass for successfully promote ETC achievements.

## 7. Thematic fields for INTERACT capitalisation activities

- ≡ The 11 thematic objectives and European thematic priorities, but also territorial approach, micro-funds, territorial development tools (ITI, CLLD, JAP, etc.).

## 8. Additional functionalities to be implemented in KEEP

- ≡ The “themes” criterion should be changed according to the 11 thematic objectives for the 2014-2020 period;
- ≡ The “keyword” criterion should be also changed in order to reflect the priority investments;
- ≡ Generally: add all Interreg IVA projects;
- ≡ Add minimum / comparable information about projects and possibility to identify “best practices”;
- ≡ Add search criteria for projects : “project scale” (local, regional, inter-regional, macro-regional, network); “type of territory” (rural, urban, mixed, coastal, maritime, massif, river basin); “type of partner” (local authority, association, enterprise, education institutions, etc.), “total budget” (under 30 000 € ; 30 000 - 100 000 € ; 100 000 - 500 000 € ; 500 000 - 1 000 000 € ; 1 000 000 - 5 000 000 €; over 5 000 000 €);
- ≡ In graphic snapshots: add the ability to make maps as well as charts;
- ≡ Mention other existing European database on ETC (even with links);
- ≡ Include methodological supports (ESPON studies, etc.).

## 9. Specific problems within your institution that INTERACT may address

- ≡ Involve other European resource centres and expertise on ETC in INTERACT initiatives and events; more collaborations and exchange of resources.

## II.2 The 2014- 2020 programming period

### 10. Problems linked to programme management (2014-2020)

- ≡ Implementation of territorial development tools (ITI, CLLD, JAP, etc) in a cross-border context / Possibility of territorial approaches;
- ≡ Linking of different funds.

### 11. Needs linked to programme management and project support (2014-2020)

- ≡ Guidelines on the implementation of territorial development tools (TI, CLLD and JAP) in a cross-border context;
- ≡ Ways of delegating management tasks to local partners;
- ≡ Guidelines of how linking different funds.

### 12. Problems linked to financial management (2014-2020)

- ≡ Eligibility rules;
- ≡ Administrative and financial burdens in link with Small project funds;
- ≡ Different national financial systems and management tools, following national assistance programmes.

### 13. Needs linked to financial management (2014-2020)

- ≡ Possibility of financing ITI, CLLD of JAP through several funds or programmes;
- ≡ Rules of eligibility of EGTC and other cross-border bodies in cross-border programmes;
- ≡ Harmonisation of eligibility rules for each programme, or even all ETC programmes;
- ≡ Best practices of financial instruments in ETC programmes;
- ≡ Need to find have a “lighter” administrative and financial management for Small project funds.

#### 14. Problems linked to communication (2014-2020)

- ≡ Visibility of ETC programmes to the citizens and elected representatives;
- ≡ See also 2007-2013.

#### 15. Needs linked to communication

- ≡ Developing methods or tools to better communicate about ETC programmes to citizens and elected representatives;
- ≡ Disseminate best practices of good communication strategies;
- ≡ See also 2007-2013.

### II.3 Other ETC themes

#### 16. Basic training seminars in 2014

- ≡ Training on territorial diagnosis for ETC programmes;
- ≡ Territorial observation and statistical data in a cross-border context;
- ≡ Territorial development tools (ITI, CLLD, JAP etc.) in a cross-border context;
- ≡ Training at project level (thematic and territorial approach).

#### 17. Advanced working group in 2014

- ≡ Training on capitalisation methods and objectives;
- ≡ Territorial development tools (ITI, CLLD, JAP, etc.);
- ≡ Deal with European thematic priorities in depth in order to see how they can be implemented in cooperation actions.

#### 18. Useful tools or activities

- ≡ Seminars on indicators and evaluation;
- ≡ Transmission of useful documents on ETC (from the Commission or other sources), possibly links with other European resource centres;
- ≡ INTERACT as a platform connecting European centres of ETC expertise and networks.

#### 19. Areas for a more active role of INTERACT

- ≡ The new generation of the INTERACT programme should be aimed at assisting not only the implementation of programmes but also of cooperation projects, facilitating the exchange of information, experiences, results and good practices;
- ≡ INTERACT should be involved in capitalisation and networking not only at programme level, but also at project level (between stakeholders and partners involved in cross-border cooperation);
- ≡ Funding of networking and capitalization projects;
- ≡ Concerning the programmes, INTERACT should also address the strategic dimension of programmes (strategies, territorial diagnoses, development, selection, follow up and evaluation of projects);
- ≡ Moreover, special topics concerning cross-border cooperation may be followed by INTERACT (EGTC, cross-border labor market and mobility etc.), the same way as INTERACT already follows several macro-regional strategies (work on content, networking of stakeholders, communication etc.);
- ≡ INTERACT could reinforce its role as a facilitator of multi-level governance, between all levels: local, regional, national and European.

#### 20. Other info

- ≡ EU-level: For capitalisation and networking purposes, INTERACT may also use other stakeholders/networks than ESPON as relay (for instance, the Conference of European Cross-border and Interregional City Networks – CECICN, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière -MOT). In this context, INTERACT should be linked to existing documentation centers specialized in Territorial Cooperation (Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network - TEIN, MOT, other cross-border euroinstitutes, etc.);
- ≡ National level: INTERACT should have national contact points in each Member State (like ESPON) in order to be more in tune with public partner authorities involved in cooperation and not only with management authorities, joint technical secretariats etc. Moreover, these national contact points should operate as a network, as is the case for national contact points in the ESPON network, and be coordinated with MOT-type of national structures, or those involved in the Budapest Platform (network of national support structures for cross-border cooperation ; [www.budapestplatform.eu](http://www.budapestplatform.eu));
- ≡ Cross-cutting: The future INTERACT programme should increase the synergies with the other network-programmes: INTERREG C (which should approach the territorial dimension of the cohesion policy and not only the thematic dimension), ESPON and URBACT.