

Building cross-border territories by using tools for integrated local development: good practices and future developments in the 2014-2020 period

Open Days
Workshop 09A15

INFORMATION ABOUT THE THREE GOOD PRACTICES

The **Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis (FR/BE)** is the first European Territorial Cooperation Group (EGTC) created (28 January 2008). It is the largest cross-border metropolis in Europe, with more than two million inhabitants, a bi-national and tri-cultural territory covering 3,550 km². The 14 member institutions share one objective: to strengthen all aspects of cooperation within the territory (transport, tourism, the environment, etc.).

The Eurometropolis is developing its strategy of insertion in the Europe 2020 Strategy and the future Cohesion Policy. It will draft an integrated action plan focusing on six themes: public amenities, tourism, culture, mobility and accessibility, spatial planning, and economic development. In addition, the Eurometropolis will also develop its 2030 Strategy that will respond to two main objectives, territorial integration, and the construction of a European high-ranking metropolis.

The Eurometropolis is developing and implementing concrete projects in the six areas of interest aforementioned. Some examples are: a cross-border higher education establishment in the field of arts (in development), a common health care zone (in development), a tourist map of the Eurometropolis (completed), the increase of the frequency of public transport and the homogenisation of its distribution, connection and pricing (in development), an annual job fair, etc.

The **Espace Mont-Blanc or EMB (FR/IT/CH)** covers the territory of the highest alpine peak, the Mont-Blanc (4810m, an area of about 2800km²), which is at the border between three countries, France, Italy, and Switzerland. The members of the EMB are the Republic and Canton of Valais (CH), the SIVOM of the Mont-Blanc County (FR) and the Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta (IT)

The four main development goals of the EMB are:

- ≡ To assist in the conservation of an agricultural space by supporting mountain agriculture and pastoral activities,
- ≡ To develop a common strategy for nature preservation, particularly for the most sensitive or threatened landscapes,
- ≡ To encourage an integrated tourism compatible with the conservation of natural resources and the environment,

To limit the impact of traffic and infrastructure in the interest of the inhabitants and the environment by preferring the rail-road traffic and public transportation.

Currently, some of the projects of the EMB are financed via the INTERREG IVA programme ALCOTRA through an integrated cross-border plan (in french : plan intégré transfrontalier, PIT). This instrument finances bundles of multi-thematic projects aimed at the local development of integrated cross-border territories. The EMB PIT comprises six concrete and ambitious projects that stem from the Sustainable Development Strategy of the EMB, drafted in 2005. Some examples are: an observation instrument of the territory, renewable energy initiatives, common hiking paths, better and more flexible public transportation.

The **Pons Danubii EGTC (HU/SK)**, created on 15 December 2010, brings together seven Hungarian and Slovak municipalities in a cross-border and interregional cooperation project. The Pons Danubii EGTC has three main goals: the establishment of cross-border cohesion within its territory, the implementation of projects in order to enhance joint strategic developments, the improvement of the quality of life in its inhabitants. The EGTC is currently working on its action plan.

The current main project of the Pons Danubii EGTC is “Crossing Borders by Information in the Pons Danubii Border Region” that started at the beginning of 2012. It comprises the creation of a regional web portal, the production and broadcasting of television programmes covering cross-border issues, the development design and distribution of special publications, the establishment of a Media Office supporting information flow, and of an information transmission system, the organisation and delivery of marketing campaigns promoting ICT use with special attention paid to the disadvantaged population, and enhancement of equal opportunities.