

# Towards a national working group on cross-border issues

Working group on innovative solutions to  
cross-border obstacles

Vienna – 05.07.2016

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## « *There are many problems. They are analyzed, understood ...* »

- Comprehensive studies to identify the remaining obstacles:
  - at local level: e.g. analysis of the cross-border obstacles of the France-Belgium border.
  - at national level: e.g. report issued by the parliamentary mission on cross-border policy, driven by E.Blanc, F.Keller and T.Sanchez-Schmidt (2010).
- Political organization at national level:
  - *Bilateral political commissions:*
    - With a specific purpose: e.g. Commission for the “Tunnel du Mont-Blanc”.
    - For general affairs: e.g. Intergovernmental Commission France-Luxembourg.
  - *French Ambassador for intergovernmental commissions, cross-border policies and cooperation placed under the responsibilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

## « ... *but not addressed. They are not tackled.*

(Report on cross border policy / Blanc, Keller, Sanchez-Schmidt / 2010) »

- No systematic approach: each obstacle is addressed individually, depending on willingness and awareness of the participants.
  - No national register of existing practices, which could provide local, regional and national authorities with operational examples.
  - No platform at national level where participants could regularly exchange on, discuss and criticize the existing tools and mechanisms.
  - No established links between obstacles and financing tools (ESI Funds) that could contribute to remove them
- > a fair amount of propositions have been made so far but none materialized yet.

# *A stimulating context to work on cross-border issues*

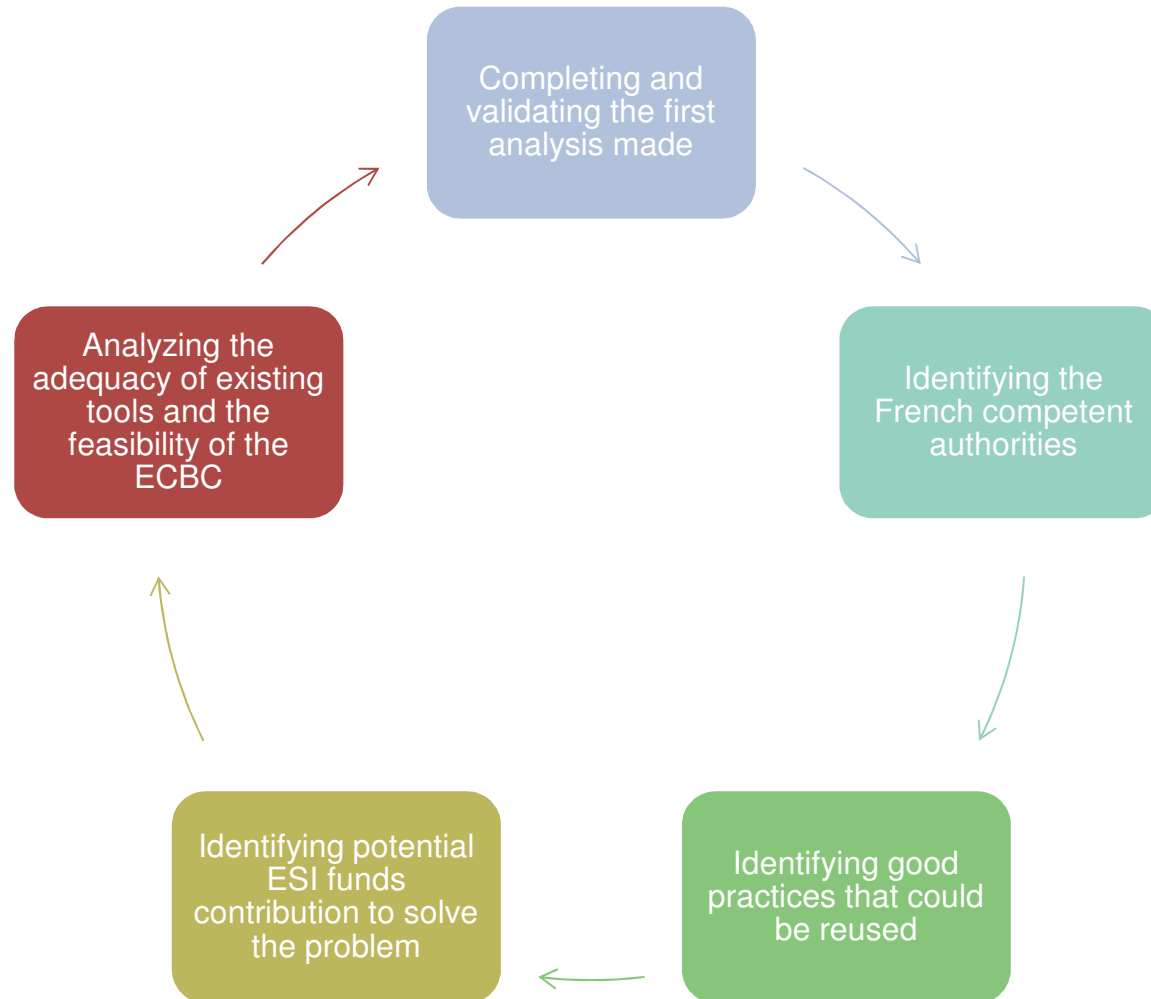
## ■ **At European level**

- CBC review: contributions still have to be deeply analyzed. The first results are however emphasizing the importance of the remaining obstacles in the cross-border area.
- Proposal from the Luxembourg Presidency: consideration on a new legal tool = European Cross-Border Convention

## ■ **At national level**

- 2016: Expectation from the association representative of the regions that:
  - *initiatives and specificities of the cross-border areas will be better taken into consideration in the regulation*
  - *the debate will be open on a right to experiment innovative solutions, incl. new legal provisions*

## *A systematic approach to tackle cross border impediments*



# ***Proposition : a comprehensive matrix consistent with existing initiatives***

1. *Border concerned.*
2. *Localization.*
3. *Specificities of the territory: Urban / rural / mountainous / littoral...*
4. *Policy field: healthcare / education / employment...*
5. *Nature of the obstacle: legal / cultural / administrative...*
6. *Competent authority: local administration / regional administration / State / Europe.*
7. *Level of resolution: local / regional / national / international.*
8. *Scope of action: unilateral / bilateral / multilateral.*
9. *Structured framework of cooperation: structured governance / intergovernmental agreement.*
10. *Experience that could inspire authorities.*
11. *Existing tool or mechanism that could apply in the situation.*
12. *For legal, regulatory, or technical obstacle: added value and feasibility of the ECBC (European cross-border convention)?*
13. *ETC Programs on the geographical zone?*
14. *Project(s) already financed on this thematic?*
15. *Thematic covered by the ETC programs of the zone?*

# ***Objectives and comitology of the French working group***

## *Objectives*

- Getting an overview of the current situation at the level of the French borders.
- Contributing to the European working group, especially to the discussions around the ECBC.
- Highlighting the added value of ETC programs by removing problems at the borders.

## *The selected steering committee*

- Ministries: Interior, Foreign Affairs, Employment, Health and Social Services, Outermost regions...
- *Mission opérationnelle transfrontalière* for its expertise.

## *The wider steering committee*

- Representatives of the local and regional authorities.
- Existing structure of cooperation: associations, EGTC...
- If relevant, colleagues from the bordering city / region / state?

**-> 1<sup>st</sup> meeting: by the end of September**

## *Questions*

- Is there any structured debate on cross-border issues in your region or country? Based on a systematic analysis?
- Is there any legal provisions empowering the authorities to experiment innovative solutions to solve problems?
- Is there any evaluation of the contribution of the ESI Funds or ETC programs to remove obstacles in the border regions?



*Thank you for your attention*

[melanie.charotte@cget.gouv.fr](mailto:melanie.charotte@cget.gouv.fr)

