

SPECIFICATION

ESPON Applied Research Project 2013/1/9

Territorial cooperation in transnational areas, between regions and across internal/external borders (2010-2012)

(o) Territorial challenges relevant for ESPON 2013 projects

The development of the European territory is facing several ongoing mega trends and impacts of policies:

- The integration of the EU in global economic competition is accelerating, offering regions and larger territories more options to decide their development path, as development is no longer a zero sum game for Europe.
- Interaction is growing within the EU territory and between the surrounding neighbour countries and other parts of the world. This is apparent through e.g. migration pressure on more developed countries, which are themselves confronted with population decline, and by access to and investment in new markets.
- Market forces and the evolution of society in general support a geographical concentration of activities.
- The ongoing demographic changes with an ageing European population, in addition to migration, affect regions differently and increase the competition for skilled labour.
- The occurrence of hazards due to climate change is increasing and different parts of Europe experience different types of hazards.
- Increasing energy prices and the emergence of a new energy paradigm have significant territorial impacts, some regions being more affected than others. This presents particular development opportunities for the production of renewable energy sources.
- The enlargement of the EU to 27 Member States, and potentially more, presents an unprecedented challenge for the competitiveness and internal cohesion of the Union.

ESPON results have revealed that territorial capital and opportunities for development are inherent in the regional diversity that is a characteristic of Europe. Consequently, different types of territories are endowed with diverse combinations of resources, putting

them in different positions for contributing to the achievement of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas, as well as to Cohesion Policy. Territorial diversity, especially in the economic base, implies that strategies other than opting for a knowledge-based economy might be more appropriate and viable for some regions.

The ESPON 2006 Programme provided integrated analysis and long-term spatial scenarios which enriched the European policy debate and knowledge base. The results and observations on territorial structures, trends, perspectives and assessment of EU policy impacts had not been fully evident before and supported a better understanding of the European dimension of territorial dynamics. This has prompted interest among policy makers and practitioners for even more information, knowledge and understanding that ESPON can offer.

The ESPON 2013 Programme shall bring this knowledge base one step further through applied research and targeted analysis, indicator development and data collection, capitalisation events presenting results, etc. All these actions will be related to an improved understanding of territorial structures, development trends, perspectives and policy impacts.

The European-wide evidence provided by the ESPON 2013 Programme will potentially benefit stakeholders at all levels throughout Europe. Policy makers dealing with territorial development require sound evidence and comparable regionalised information in addition to medium and long-term development perspectives, in order to create sustainable and efficient integrated policy responses for their territories.

Given that the European Union is moving towards a more integrated policy approach, the territorial dimension is particularly important for policy makers. The aim of territorial cohesion proposed by the Commission supports this approach by taking the territory as an element within the framework of policy making. Due to the provision of evidence based on analyses of territorial units, the ESPON 2013 Programme is of strategic importance for European policy development and cooperation.

By further developing and expanding the existing knowledge and indicators, the ESPON 2013 Programme will play a strategic role in supporting the policy process of the 2007-2013 period, and contribute to the development of Cohesion Policy.

(i) General objectives of applied research projects under Priority 1

The general objectives of applied research projects within the ESPON 2013 Programme are the following:

- Building new evidence based on comparable information about European regions and cities, including information on dynamics and flows, and covering the entire territory of EU 27, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

- Addressing major territorial challenges and political priorities providing comparable information covering the entire European territory, its regions and cities.
- Providing comparable regionalised information and possible policy options for making use of opportunities inherent in territorial structures; anticipating and counter balancing negative trends and structures, taking into account the diversity of the ESPON territory and considering institutional, instrumental and procedural aspects.
- Identifying types of territories, regions and cities that share common development challenges and are affected most (positively or negatively) by the identified structures, trends, perspectives and/or policy impacts.
- Contributing to the further identification of structures within the EU territory that represent options for exploring comparative advantages and provide synergy through territorial cooperation arrangements, involving regions and/or cities.
- Contributing to the improvement of the scientific platform for European applied territorial research by refining existing concepts, methodologies, indicators, typologies, European maps and models and by defining new ones.
- Providing the knowledge and competence capabilities needed to ensure scientifically validated results of the applied territorial research with the support of Sounding Boards¹.
- Supporting the use and dissemination of results to an audience of policy makers, practitioners, scientist and experts.

This project shall contribute to these general objectives during its implementation, and in doing so make best use of existing ESPON results, new results in other ESPON projects as well as other research results and relevant studies.

(ii) Relation of this project to the ESPON 2013 Programme

The priorities describing the work-programme of the ESPON 2013 Programme are structured in four strands:

1. **Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion: Evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts**
The applied research projects will create information and evidence on territorial challenges and opportunities for success in the development of regions. Cross thematic applied research will be a major activity integrating existing thematic analysis and adding future analysis of new themes. Territorial impact studies of EU policies will be another focus under this priority.

¹ For each applied research project a Sounding Board will be set up, accompanying the project throughout its life cycle and giving advice to the TPG on both, scientific issues as well as relevance for policy makers. Sounding Boards will normally be made up of one scientist and one practitioner. Their tasks will consist of assessing project proposals, giving continuous feedback to TPGs and commenting on their reports.

2. Targeted analysis based on user demand: European perspective on development of different types of territories

This priority responds to a clear demand of practitioners for user and demand driven actions within the ESPON 2013 Programme. By convening an analytical process where ESPON findings are integrated with more detailed information and practical know-how, new understanding of future development opportunities and challenges may arise, which could be transformed into projects and actions.

3. Scientific platform and tools: Territorial indicators and data, analytical tools and scientific support

The scientific platform and analytical tools built up within the ESPON 2006 Programme will be maintained and further expanded. New actions shall be undertaken to develop current achievements and make use of existing indicators, data and tools.

4. Capitalisation, ownership and participation: Capacity building, dialogue and networking

Under this priority, actions are foreseen that will make the evidence and knowledge already developed operational through raising awareness and involving stakeholders in the results and practical application of them.

This project belongs to the first priority and holds a key position in developing a common understanding of opportunities for territorial cooperation in transnational areas, between regions and across internal and external borders. It combines experiences of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (and their predecessors) and knowledge delivered by former and ongoing ESPON projects. Profound knowledge on territorial cooperation is vital for targeted policy development in the light of cohesion policy aiming at improved regional competitiveness and sustainable and balanced growth of the European territory.

A strong coordination and interlinkage with other ongoing ESPON projects is crucial for achieving comprehensive results. A close cooperation with the appointed Sounding Board and the Coordination Unit must also be established as part of the project implementation.

(iii) Thematic scope and policy context

Territorial cooperation is seen as one of the most important factors contributing to innovation which is key in the achievement of sustainable growth and jobs. European territorial cooperation facilitates the exchange between people and regions on experience and best practice in regional policy, irrespective of existing borders.

Experiences with territorial cooperation have been gathered in different European areas and with different structures. The European Commission granted support for territorial cooperation for the first time in 1989, when 14 groups of pilot projects were designed to tackle the structural development difficulties of border areas. Based on the experience of these pilot projects, the Commission launched in 1990 the INTERREG Community Initiative that was implemented through 31 operational programmes. In subsequent

programming periods the number of operational programmes in the framework of INTERREG continuously increased.

With the current programming period 2007-2013 the status of European territorial cooperation has changed, raising it to the level of one of the three main objectives of Cohesion Policy. The aim of this objective is to reinforce added value through cooperation across borders, transnationally as well as interregionally. Regions and cities from different EU Member States are encouraged to work together to find common solutions in the fields of urban, rural and coastal development, the development of economic relations and the setting up of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Cooperation should focus on research, development, the knowledge-based society, risk prevention and integrated water management. There are currently 52 cross-border and 13 transnational cooperation programmes being supported by the ERDF.

Cooperation across external EU borders with candidate and potential candidate countries is facilitated by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), supporting administrative, social and economic reforms. At the same time, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) promotes cooperation and economic integration between the EU and partner countries, encouraging good governance and social as well as economic development.

Even though INTERREG has been a key tool for the implementation of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), the ESPON 2006 Programme revealed some notable differences in the patterns of transnational cooperation intensity within cooperation areas and regions. In general, inland NUTS 2 regions tend to be involved less in cooperation arrangements (both in absolute numbers and when weighted by population) than border regions.

In its Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion the European Commission also addresses territorial cooperation and attaches great importance to it in the framework of European territorial development and in the “*long-term and sustainable growth performance of the EU as a whole*”². In order to deal with environmental, economic and social challenges cooperation of stakeholders across national borders, different policy sectors and policy levels is required. The European Commission notices that “*...in the new Member States ...much remains to be done to develop coherent policies for infrastructure and economic cooperation*” and that “*...external border regions lag further behind in economic development and GDP per head*”³.

Future considerations concerning the strengthening of territorial cooperation may benefit from facts concerning potential drivers for cooperation, determinants and governance structures. These could spark further interest of regions, cities and countries in entering

² Commission of the European Communities (2008): Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion. Turning territorial diversity into strength. Brussels

³ *ibid.*

into cooperation arrangements. More evidence in this field can also serve as support in defining future EU Structural Funds contribution to territorial cooperation areas.

Against this backdrop, the project should strive to achieve a better understanding of the following key policy questions, for which it should produce supporting information and evidence:

- Are existing territorial cooperation areas still adequate to meet current challenges of territorial development (e.g. global competitiveness, cohesion, climate change, demographic change), and if not, why is that so? What could be more meaningful new cooperation areas throughout Europe on transnational, interregional as well as cross-border (internal and external) level? Is it possible to facilitate more European strategies such as the Baltic Sea Strategy by means of territorial cooperation and cohesion?
- What would be the right scale for territorial cooperation? Which themes are appropriately dealt with in territorial cooperation and on which scale?
- What are favourable framework conditions and good governance models (at different scales) for territorial cooperation to be realised and to succeed? How can such cooperation be supported by policy makers? What are existing governance experiences (both, positive and negative) in territorial cooperation in Europe and what can be learnt from them? Can cases of best practices be translated to and applied in other (potential) cooperation areas?
- Should cooperation programmes include infrastructure investments? What kind of infrastructure is needed where to enable fruitful cooperation arrangements? Is a different approach required in this respect regarding old and new EU Member States?

The perspective of applied research under this measure shall be guided by the objective to identify broad development perspectives and trends for the different types of transnational cooperation areas, also in the light of the Lisbon/Gothenburg agenda.

Coordination should take place with other relevant ongoing ESPON projects (above all the projects on “Cities and urban agglomerations: Their functionality and development opportunities for European competitiveness and cohesion”, the targeted analysis on “Cross-border polycentric metropolitan regions (Metroborder)”, and the projects that will start in parallel to this one, namely “European perspective on specific types of territories”, and “Continental territorial structures and flows (globalisation)” (both being applied research projects).

(iv) Analytical framework and deliveries expected

The project shall start off with a clear definition of “territorial cooperation” and an analysis of the appropriateness of European regions for territorial cooperation, be it transnational, interregional or cross-border. In this respect it shall take into account the existing areas of European territorial cooperation mentioned above, i.e. 52 cross-border

and 13 transnational cooperation areas. The identification of regions that might be most appropriate for territorial cooperation shall consider common characteristics of regions, critical mass and possible fields of cooperation. Relevant sector results might be integrated in characterising regions and identifying fields of cooperation.

When looking into existing areas of territorial cooperation, the project shall also highlight cases of good practice in models of territorial cooperation that could be transferred to other cooperation areas. More than that, it shall be analysed whether general lessons can be learnt from these positive examples, e.g. whether there are know-how benefits also for non-cross-border respectively non-transnational cooperation areas.

Another focus of the project should be on the analysis of potential European macro-regions (e.g. Baltic Sea Region), possible delimitations of such areas, their development opportunities and common challenges they are confronted with. The project is requested to clarify which policy domains would be the most suitable for shared integrated macro-regional strategies such as the Baltic Sea Strategy that the European Commission is currently developing. The work on the latter strategy could also serve as a basis of reference for this project.

The Transnational Project Group (TPG) should consider existing data and indicators for the analysis. The data, indicators and maps of the ESPON 2006 Programme are one important source in this respect. This project shall in particular be informed and make use of relevant results from the following previous and current ESPON projects:

- ESPON project 2.4.2 on “Integrated analysis of transnational and national territories” zoomed in on different territorial contexts and scales in order to identify existing spatial patterns and territorial specificities and complementarities.
- ESPON project 2.3.2 on “Governance of territorial and urban policies” holds an important position in the definition and elaboration of a common ground for investigating the institutional and instrumental aspects of implementation of territorial and urban policies in Europe, focusing on the question of how effective different systems are.
- ESPON project 1.1.1 on “Urban areas as nodes in a polycentric development” that also looked into transnational networks and cooperation.
- ESPON project 1.4.3. on "Urban Functions" could provide a possible typology on cross-border urban areas.

The project shall strive for a comprehensive and integrated research approach, taking into account social, cultural, environmental, economic and institutional aspects. In addition, a 3-level-approach (European, transnational/national and regional) to the analysis, commonly used by all ESPON applied research projects, should be applied in order to support a clear presentation of results, which might vary depending on the geographical scale.

The project shall also strive for delivering innovative results which can support the policy development in the field of territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion. It should demonstrate an inventive approach with regard to the scientific answers to the policy questions and should aim at showing new development opportunities for the European territory. There should be a combination and interrelation of various sectors and territorial insights on the development in order to contribute to the creation of new development paths and visions.

In the concrete design of the applied research project and its work packages, the project is expected to answer the following key research questions:

- **Identification of territorial cooperation areas**
 - What European regions are from a scientific view most appropriate for territorial cooperation a) transnationally, b) interregionally, c) across borders, and why (taking into account that cooperation requires equity in opportunities)?
 - Where would a joint performance of regions across different territories and/or across internal/external and/or maritime borders facilitate increasing the combined competitiveness by performing together? Could such cooperation arrangements also contribute to more European cohesion and to better European competitiveness in the world?
 - How could physical barriers like maritime borders be overcome to enable cooperation?
- **Identification of domains for cooperation**
 - Which domains are most appropriately addressed in the identified territorial cooperation areas?
 - For which domains synergies can be created and/or better exploited? What are the benefits for the EU as a whole, deriving from such synergies?
 - Should infrastructure investments play a role in this respect (in old and/or new EU Member States)?
- **Identification of adequate territorial structures for cooperation and analysis of specific border situations**
 - What territorial structures (e.g. river and maritime basins, Euro-corridors, urban areas) and typologies can be recognised as suitable areas for cooperation and which strengths, weaknesses, potentials and challenges do they share?
 - What are the specific development opportunities along external EU land and maritime borders (incl. demographic development, accessibility, SMESTOs, etc.) that could provide a strategic basis for cooperation arrangements? In this respect, the EU's Western external borders should be looked at, too, due to the existing strong functional ties with North and Latin America.

- **Identification of driving forces of and governance structures for cooperation**
 - What are the driving forces behind and the determinants of cooperation?
 - What kind of investments might be needed to facilitate territorial cooperation?
 - Which legal instruments and governance structures are in place in different cooperation areas? Are specific legal instruments and governance structures more appropriate for territorial cooperation than others?
 - What roles do institutional framework conditions like national laws, regulations, etc. play in cooperation? How can potential institutional difficulties be overcome?
 - Can “models of cooperation” be derived that work in practice?

In order to receive some more focused information on governance structures, a limited number of targeted case studies shall be included in the research. The case studies should serve to analyse in greater detail how mechanisms for decision making are established in different territorial cooperation areas and should assess the experiences made and the potential transferability of cases of good practice.

The geographical coverage of the project should encompass all the countries participating in the ESPON 2013 Programme. Furthermore, the TPG should assess the data situation for their field of research in the EU candidate countries (i.e. Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey) and/or the other countries of the Western Balkans (i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244) and report on their findings in the inception report. Depending on the respective data situation these countries would then be included in the analysis.

The deliveries of the project should make use of and complement the existing scientific platform and tools of ESPON, which are accessible on the ESPON website.

The deliveries of the project should make use of and complement the existing scientific platform and tools of ESPON, which are accessible via the ESPON website. The project is expected to enhance the scientific platform of ESPON through the following deliveries:

- Data input to the development, update and extension of the ESPON database by additional data on (common) characteristics and critical mass for transnational and cross-border cooperation areas, particularly in relation to the new Partner States Iceland and Liechtenstein. Indicators need to offer compatibility with a map-making facility, to provide a consistent, homogenous, reliable, and up-datable database.
- Indicators offering additional information on the different types of European cooperation areas, and new complex indicators, revealing these areas’ development opportunities, their socio-economic situation as well as their competitiveness.
- Typologies of transnational and cross-border cooperation areas classified by territorial evidence based characteristics, strengths, weaknesses, potentials and challenges.

- European maps revealing (1) a typology of different (possible) cooperation areas, (2) the current territorial state per possible cooperation area (characteristics, strengths, and weaknesses), (3) territorial potentials and challenges per possible cooperation area.

Regarding the development of new data and maps and/or the use of existing data, the TPG is expected to cooperate closely with the TPG in charge of the development of the ESPON 2013 Database.

The results and conclusions of the applied research within the project should be formulated in relation to policy orientations present at European level and make use of the new maps resulting from the project.

In order to create coherence with project findings of other ESPON applied research projects, the project should present the main final results in relation to different types of regions and cities, using existing typologies for the urban system, rural areas, mountain areas, islands, coastal areas and outermost regions.

Following the logic of the Territorial Agenda of the EU, orientations for policy makers should refer to the respective territorial development opportunities and the available options to mobilise these for the benefit of the regions in question. In this respect, references to future policy options should take account of European Cohesion Policy orientations, in particular expressed in the Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion 2007-2013 and the Fourth Report on Cohesion.

Finally, the project should consider avenues for further applied research on the theme.

(v) Outputs and timetable

One of the main objectives of the ESPON 2013 Programme is to focus on research with policy relevance and to contribute to the development of relevant policies. Therefore, the outputs of the research project should be highly operational and coordinated in time, as far as possible, to fit into the relevant political agenda.

The proposal for the project is expected to reveal individual work packages on project coordination, research activities, and dissemination, as well as a schedule for project implementation based on the following indicative⁴ timetable and specification of outputs:

June/July 2010 (Inception report):

Twelve weeks after the Kick-off meeting, a more in-depth concept should be submitted by the TPG allowing for a detailed overview on the research approach to be applied, the methodology and hypothesis for further investigation, as well as a review of the main

⁴ The final timetable for the project will depend upon the exact date of the project's Kick-off Meeting. At this meeting, the exact delivery dates for all project reports will be agreed upon with the Lead Partner.

literature, data sources, etc. The Inception report shall also inform about the selection of case studies that will be conducted on existing governance structures. It shall as well include an overview of more detailed deliveries and outputs envisaged by the project as well as an indication of likely barriers that the project implementation might face. The report shall give clear orientation for the applied research previewed towards the Interim report. The research team should also report on the findings regarding the assessment of the data situation in the EU candidate countries (i.e. Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey) and/or the other countries of the Western Balkans (i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244) and, on that basis, determine the geographical coverage of their research. Finally, the TPG should outline how it envisages making use of existing ESPON results that are relevant for this project.

November/December 2010 (Interim report):

The content of the Interim Report shall reflect the orientations given in the Inception Report as well as the results of the discussions having taken place with the Sounding Board. The report is envisaged to include elements such as:

a) Preliminary results on the basis of available data, developed indicators, typologies, and European maps, including

- First assessment of the development opportunities of different types of European cooperation areas.
- First indicative identification of territorial structures and typologies, including an indication on common characteristics.
- First indicative identification of (territorial) potentials and challenges of the identified territorial structures, typologies and complementary regions.
- First overview on different models of territorial governance in cross-border and transnational cooperation areas.
- First elaboration and indicative identification of both, good and bad practices in territorial cooperation.
- Data collection achieved, including an overview on statistical and geographical data collected by EUROSTAT, and national Statistical Institutes etc.
- Draft European maps of (1) a typology of different (possible) cooperation areas, (2) the current territorial state per possible cooperation area (characteristics, strengths, and weaknesses), (3) territorial potentials and challenges per possible cooperation area.
- First indications on the conclusions and policy relevant options that could be the outcome of the project.

b) Plan for the applied research towards the draft Final Report as well as the Table of Content envisaged.

November/December 2011 (Draft Final Report):

The Draft Final report will take into account feed-back on the Interim report from an ESPON seminar and by the Sounding Board. The report is supposed to include elements such as:

- c) Report (max. 50 pages) on the main results, showing possible cross-border and transnational territorial cooperation areas, their existing characteristics and development potentials, including key analysis and findings and the most relevant indicators and maps (any additional information should be included in a scientific report). In this respect, an evaluation of governance and cooperation structures in existing territorial cooperation areas should be provided, including an interpretation of best practices. Particularly important are options for policy makers, which could provide the basis for interventions related to opportunities for improving European competitiveness and cohesion.
- d) An executive summary (max. 10 pages) summarising the main results of the applied research that can be communicated to a wider audience of stakeholders. This summary should be based on the Report mentioned above.
- e) Scientific report documenting the scientific work undertaken in the applied research including elements such as:
- Literature, definitions and methodology/theory used.
 - Methodologies, typologies and concepts developed and used, including projections developed revealing diverse territorial potentials of the different types of cooperation areas.
 - Data collected and indicators used, including calculation algorithms and tables with the exact values of indicators.
 - Maps produced in support of the results, covering the territory of EU 27, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
 - Tools and models used or developed.
 - Future research avenues to consider, including further data requirements and ideas of territorial indicators, concepts and typologies as well as on further developments linked to the database and mapping facilities.

April/May 2012 (Final Report):

- f) Revision of the Draft Final report on the basis of comments received.

May/June – November/December 2012 (Dissemination):

- g) Dissemination of project results by the TPG in the framework of international conferences and seminars, e.g. transnational activities of the ECP Network, events organised by the CU. These activities need to be reflected in the budget proposed by the TPG for the implementation of the project.

The ESPON 2013 Programme foresees in Priority 4 also capitalisation of project results including events, printed reports, website facility, etc. The Programme includes, in other words, substantial dissemination activities at Programme level which all projects should make use of and support. This means that the project's dissemination activities shall ensure consistency and avoid overlaps with and repetition of respective activities organised at Programme level. The project team shall refer to the objectives of Priority 4 of the ESPON 2013 Programme "Capitalisation, ownership and participation: Capacity building, dialogue and networking" when considering dissemination activities and closely coordinate these with the ESPON CU.

Irrespective of the above mentioned reports to be submitted at certain stages in the project life cycle, the TPG is expected to give presentations on the state of their research or/and the results in the framework of internal and external ESPON seminars. Therefore, when setting up the project proposal, the TPG should also allow for travel expenses for the attendance of ESPON seminars.

(vi) Budget for the applied research project

The maximum budget foreseen for this applied research project amounts to € 850.000, including VAT if applicable. Proposals exceeding this value will not be considered.

All real eligible costs incurred for carrying out the approved project will be refunded 100% by the ESPON 2013 Programme.

(vii) Existing access points

Synergies and use of results from outside the ESPON regime shall be sought. In particular, research activities by international bodies like the OECD and the European Commission Joint Research Centre might be valuable for this project.

The other access points listed below can serve the purpose of providing the TPG useful information for preparing a proposal. It is by no means meant to be exhaustive, but should be considered as information that can be helpful in tracing additional useful background information.

- ESPON projects results, data and maps: www.espon.eu
- Commission of the European Communities (2008): Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion. Turning territorial diversity into strength
- European Commission (2000): Practical guide to cross-border cooperation. Third Edition
- An overview of INTERREG III programmes and results throughout Europe (<http://archive.interact-eu.net/604900/604902/0/0>)
- The Interact programme which provides information on all European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (<http://www.interact-eu.net/>)
- Committee of the Regions (2008): EGTC: State of play and perspectives http://www.cor.europa.eu/COR_cms/ui/ViewDocument.aspx?siteid=default&contentID=0a56278e-9c53-437d-8cdf-969063b344ea
- Committee of the Regions (2007): The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation - EGTC
- Committee of the Regions (2002): Strategies for promoting cross-border and inter-regional cooperation in an enlarged EU – a basic document setting out guidelines for the future

- Gabbe, Jens (2005): Governance and cross-border cooperation. Speech on the occasion of the RFP Annual Conference in Joensuu, North Karelia, Finland
- MOT's web site: <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/> in particular for Manifesto, Proceedings of 2007 conference and the guide about EGTC.