

Defining optimal scopes for partnership

The complexity of government action and of interactions between the public and private sectors in the area of economic development is amplified in a cross-border context by asymmetry between the different sides of the border.

It is therefore a challenge to create efficient governance of cross-border economic development.

It means first of all defining the optimal scope for partnerships for cross-border economic development, by identifying the essential players and skills, means of action, complementarities between players, unifying elements, etc. The fields under consideration (access to innovation, labour market, etc.) may call for initiatives at different levels.

Next, it is important to improve coordination between territorial levels and the different thematic aspects of economic development. A set of areas of competence and themes are attached to each level of government authority; in this regard, the territorial reform underway in France is a sign of the shift towards a greater economic role for regions and conurbations.

Lastly, the partnerships must be sustained. To have a real effect on the territory, economic development initiatives must be conceived over the long term; which is why sustainable governance is one of the factors that determines the success of public policy in this area.

