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09A15 workshop report

Code of the Workshop: 09A15

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

Date and time:

9 October 2012

14:30-17:30

Organiser/leader: Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)

Chair/moderator: Jean Peyrony, Director General, MOT, France

Speakers:

Agata Kotkowska, European Commission, DG REGIO, Unit E2

Griet Noë, Project Manager, Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, France-Belgium

Nicolas Evrard, Vice-President, Communauté de communes de la Vallée de Chamonix Mont-Blanc, France-Switzerland-Italy

Zoltan Bara, Director, Pons Danubii EGTC, Hungary-Slovakia

Outline:

The workshop aimed at presenting the new tools for territorial development initiatives (Community-Led Local Development - CLLD and Integrated Territorial Investment - ITI) of the 2014-2020 programming period in a cross-border context. The focus was put on the cross-cutting approach of these tools. They allow to link both the Europe 2020 objectives and the thematic dimension with the territorial dimension of cooperation. The workshop built upon three good practices of cross-border local development initiatives to debate on the implementation of these instruments. The EGTC Eurometropolis, the Pons Danubii EGTC and the Espace Mont Blanc are three cross-border local development structures. By their specificities in terms of territory, needs of the inhabitants and type of organisation, they provided interesting examples of strategy and project development, tackling all aspects of local development.

Debate/Panel discussion:

Jean Peyrony introduced the workshop by focusing on some good practices of tools for integrated local development. He stated the integrated cross-border plan (PIT) of the current Alcotra Operational Programme at the French-Italian border allowing to combine projects from several priority axes within the programme, and the “EGTC” URBACT project “Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations”, which produced local action plans for each project site by associating a large number of actors.

Agata Kotkowska presented the two new tools ITI and CLLD. The ITI allows an integrated funding from different priority axes or programmes to support functional territories. It is a governance tool, the way how to develop a territorial strategy not the operation itself. Used in a cross-border context it may support, for instance the implementation of a cross-border conurbation strategy. The CLLD allows to develop a multisectoral bottom up strategy. It is based on the LEADER approach. Local action groups make it possible to link with other local competencies and actors.

Griet Noë presented the experience of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, the first EGTC in Europe, at the France-Belgium border. The Eurometropolis is currently developing its strategic programme 2014-2020. First orientations focus on economic potential, internal mobility and accessibility, and territorial attractiveness. A working group “Europe” anticipates the opportunities of the new programming period. The Eurometropolis looks with interest at the new instruments for territorial development. However, as the latter still need fine-tuning, the definition of a territorial strategy has been prioritized.

Nicolas Evrard explained that the Espace Mont Blanc at the France-Switzerland-Italian border was set up in 1991. Their work is based on two innovative tools, a common sustainable development scheme (SDD) and an integrated cross-border plan (PIT). The first is the result of a long analysis of the cross-border territory, the second has been set up in the context of the cross-border programme Alcotra, and concerns different priority axes. A new project focuses on legal structuring (EGTC). The PIT 2 may be built with the support of an ITI combining funding from different programs (cross-border, ESF, EAFRD).

Zoltan Bara presented the Pons Danubii EGTC at the Hungary-Slovakian founded almost two years ago by 7 cities on both sides of the border. Its aims are to establish a cross-border cohesion within its territory, to implement joint projects and to improve the life of its inhabitants. 11 projects have been identified on the basis of a joint development plan. Three main projects are a media project, a labour market project and a common cycle path. Via the new integrated local development tools they may set up an integrated approach between those different projects.

Conclusions:

The European Commission announced that it is preparing a guide to the implementation of these new tools and that it is encouraging their incorporation into cross-border cooperation programmes. Synergies between cooperation programmes and regional programmes are expected. The moderator concluded that the European Union is now clearly taking territorial cohesion into account in the

programming of the regional policy. Many cross-border territories could benefit from ITI or CLLD, and every person involved is invited to take action at their level to implement them. He closed on the importance of networking to exchange on best practices and capitalize experiences, supported by the four network programs (Urbact, Interreg C, Interact, Espon).

More information, links:

www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

www.eurometropolis.eu

www.espace-mont-blanc.com

www.ponsdanubii.eu

One representative quote from your workshop with author:

“European Union is now clearly taking territorial cohesion into account in the programming of the regional policy. Many cross-border territories could benefit from the new tools for integrated local development, and each person involved is invited to take action at their level to implement them.”

Jean Peyrony, Director General of Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière