

# **EGTC Monitoring Report 2011**

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# List of abbreviations

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Full term</b>
AECT	Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Territorial
CBC	Cross-border cooperation
CEO	Central Executive Officer
COPIT	Cross-Border Standing Conference of Inter-municipal Organisations
DG	Directorate General
EC	European Commission
EEIG	European Economic Interest Grouping
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Funds
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
FLC	First Level Control (rather common technical term for financial control according to Reg. (/EC) 1080/2006, Article 16)
GNP	Galicia – Norte Portugal
JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
MA	Managing Authority
OP	Operational Programme
SGEI	Services of General Economic Interest

# Member States

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Full term</b>
AT	Austria
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CY	Cyprus
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
EE	Estonia
ES	Spain
FI	Finland
FR	France
GR	Greece
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
LV	Latvia
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxemburg
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
UK	United Kingdom
RO	Romania
SE	Sweden
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia



# **Acknowledgements**

We would like to express our thanks to all interviewed EGTC contact persons for their valuable contributions, and to the contact persons from the Committee of the Regions for their helpful tips, contacts and critical feedback on our report.



# Introduction

The EGTC Monitoring Report 2011 corresponds to a yearly exercise of the Platform of the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) of the Committee of the Regions of the EU, which is meant as a follow-up to Regulation (EC) 1082/2006 and is aimed at creating a picture of the reality of the EGTC on the ground.

The large majority of the EGTC that were included in the Monitoring Report 2010 have continued developing and implementing new projects, and thereby confirmed their belief that this structure of cooperation allows for effective cooperation between all relevant stakeholders within their territory. The EGTC Hospital of Cerdanya can be considered an example of good practice in this respect, as the successful development of this cross-border hospital means it is scheduled to open in 2012. However, some of the EGTC described in the Monitoring Report 2010 have faced considerable challenges as a result of the financial crisis (e.g. EGTC Galicia-Norte de Portugal, Ister Granum, ZASNET) which forced projects to be delayed or abandoned and even resulted in individual members deciding to leave an EGTC (EGTC Ister Granum).

The major points covered in the EGTC Monitoring Report 2011 can be summarised as follows:

- This report outlines an update based on the EGTC Monitoring Report 2010. All groupings examined in the previous Monitoring Report have been contacted by the Committee of the Regions to adapt the case studies in light of any relevant developments in the meantime.
- The number of constituted EGTC has continued to grow in the EU. Eight new case studies have been elaborated for this report, one EGTC created in 2011 has not been included because it had not been notified to the CoR (EGTC Novohrad-Nógrád) and four new registrations are expected for the first half of 2012 (Pannon, Bodrogközi, Gate to Europe and TRITIA).
- There has also been some progress regarding the national provisions adopted in the Member States. However, in Austria, Belgium and Germany, all three of which federal states, a federal regulation does not exist.
- In order to have comparable and measurable data for key indicators of the functioning of the EGTC, this report and the following ones will include the total annual budget of the EGTC, the number of staff hired directly by the EGTC or subject to other contractual or statutory relations, and the number

of EU-funded projects and programmes being implemented in 2011, including reference to the programme, the project's budget, the total budget implemented by the EGTC and the amount co-funded by the EU.

- One new aspect of the 2011 Monitoring Report is the attempt to elaborate a classification for EGTC. This classification should help to structure future EGTC Monitoring Reports. The reader should be able to quickly understand the stage of development of individual EGTC. The information about the different development stages is presented in a grid with colour codes classifying the groupings.
- In fact, at least 27 EGTC have been identified, and 21 more are in the pipeline. The above mentioned case studies presented in this Monitoring Report share common characteristics and face similar challenges. Similar national seats are particularly worth mentioning here. Hungary seems to be leading in the creation of new EGTC. The main motivation to set up EGTC has not changed since the Monitoring Report 2010: working with geographic neighbours to build an institutional framework for cooperation on projects of common interest that transcend legally defined national borders.

As discussed in the last EGTC Monitoring Report, experience has already shown that direct contact to people working in EGTC is essential to gain new insights and deeper knowledge. It is essential to establish direct contact with staff of the groupings, political representatives as well as institutions involved in the notification procedure. Therefore, the majority of qualitative information presented in this study comes from interviews with stakeholders and experts.

This study has been assisted by the CoR services via the EGTC Platform. The Groupings constituted between 2007 and 2010, from the 'Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai' to 'Bánát – Triplex Confinium', have used the Platform to update the information that they provided in the EGTC Monitoring Report 2010.

# 1. Executive Summary

The CoR regularly publishes a monitoring report of the development of EGTC as the European legal entity for cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation of public entities. The present report is an update of the EGTC Monitoring Report 2010. The objective of the update is to provide an overview of the current state-of-play of all EGTC in the European Union.

By the end of 2011, 27 EGTC have been created grouping more than 570 local and regional authorities in 15 Member States. 21 more are in the pipeline.

## Review of legal provisions

The report describes developments in the adoption of legal provisions in the EU Member States and particular regions as well as the reasons for non-adoption where applicable. In early 2011, national legal provisions were adopted in almost all Member States with the exception of Austria, Belgium and Germany due to their strong federal structures. As such, all Austrian *Länder* have now adopted the legal provisions on EGTC (in contrast to just five in 2010) but the adoption of a federal law is still pending. Similarly, the discussions about federal legislation are ongoing in Germany. Consultations with existing EGTC are currently being carried out in order to feed into future national provision. This national provision is expected to be implemented between 2013 and 2014. In the case of Belgium, an interview with a representative of the Belgian Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs revealed that while the rules have been adopted for the Brussels Capital region, the Walloon region, the Flanders region and the German-speaking community, the adoption for the federal state has been delayed due to the three-year long government crisis. Therefore, adoption is still pending.

For the first time, the monitoring report has collected key information (public/private law, scope of liability, responsible authority) for all Member States and federal regions (where applicable). However, the substance of national provisions is not equal across Member States or across federal regions.

## New EGTC included in the Monitoring Report 2011

The following table includes the EGTC established in 2011<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 1. New EGTC included as case studies**

Name of the EGTC	Countries <sup>2</sup>	Specific features	Constitution
Arrabona	<u>HU</u> , SK	Arrabona plans to incorporate more than 120 municipalities as potential partners.	15/06/2011
Linieland van Waas en Hulst	<u>BE</u> , NL	The EGTC was established to strengthen cooperation between Flemish and Dutch border provinces and municipalities.	18/08/2011
Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino	<u>IT</u> , AT	Supports the historical and cultural bond between the member regions through cooperation across various policy fields including energy, the green corridor, health, education, youth, academia and research.	13/09/2011
EGTC Territory of municipalities: Gorizia (Italy), Mestna občina Nova Gorica (Slovenia) and Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba (Slovenia)	<u>IT</u> , SI	Euroregion with partners from Italy and Slovenia, located in a cross-border area between Italy and the Republic of Slovenia, have decided to set up an enhanced form of cooperation so as to develop their region together, providing a common and structured response to socio-economic challenges, marginalisation and past divisions.	15/09/2011
Pirineus-Cerdanya	<u>FR</u> , ES	The partners are the Communauté de Communes de la Cerdagne (France) and the Consell Comarcal de la Cerdanya (Spain). The seat is in Saillagousse, France.	03/10/2011
Rába-Duna-Vág (RDV)	<u>HU</u> , SK	The objective of the EGTC is to attract European funding to implement projects in fields like infrastructures, transport, logistics, energy, development of the Danube river and its tributaries, sport, culture and others.	21/12/2011
Eurorégion Aquitaine-Euskadi	<u>FR</u> , ES	The objective is to reinforce cooperation between the member regions and strengthen their common identity.	12/12/2011

The new EGTC included as case studies are based on desk research and phone interviews carried out with representatives from all the aforementioned group-

<sup>1</sup> Banat - Triplex Confinium given legal status on 5 January 2011 and exceptionally included in the EGTC Monitoring Report 2010.

<sup>2</sup> The underlined country indicates the country where the legal seat of the EGTC is located.

ings. The EGTC created before and during 2010 have updated their information via the CoR's EGTC Platform<sup>3</sup>.

### **Stages of development categorized**

For the first time, the Monitoring Report has introduced five categories to distinguish between the different stages of setting up an EGTC, namely 1) operational, 2) constituted, 3) awaiting approval, 4) in preparation, 5) idea. This classification should help to assess accurately the situation and the evolution of the EGTC being set up, over which there has been some uncertainty.

In addition to the EGTC identified to date, further EGTC from Hungary have been identified during research. We can say that by the end of 2011, two EGTCs have acquired legal personality but are not yet operational; three EGTC had submitted their project of convention and statutes to their respective national authorities for approval; ten other projects are negotiating their convention and statutes, and six more have been announced. This means a total of 21 EGTC projects are in the pipeline. All EGTC are listed in a single table in the present report and categorised by stage of development, which is marked by the appropriate colour.

### **Major findings**

The eight new EGTC created in 2011 share common characteristics, faced similar challenges and, most interestingly, have similar national seats. The main findings are:

- Hungary seems to be at the forefront of setting up new EGTC. Among the eight new EGTC, two EGTC are seated in Hungary and link the Hungarian and Slovak communities. Five more EGTC under preparation have Hungarian prospective members.
- Three new EGTC are partnerships between France and Spain.
- The EGTC Linieland van Waas en Hulst is the first Belgian EGTC with Dutch partners.

All the new EGTC aim at working with geographic neighbours to build an institutional framework for cooperation on projects of common interest that transcend legally defined national borders. Interestingly, the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC aims to actively contribute to the implementation of activities under the EU Strategy for the Danube Region by statute.

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<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.cor.europa.eu/egtc>

Establishing the EGTC was a challenge for the majority of the new groupings, due to either long waits for official authorizations or incompatibilities between national laws or national laws and EU Regulations.

However, the report confirms that EGTC are set up to empower regions or communities from separate Member States by acting as one legal entity in regional, national and international settings. Moreover, EGTC provide local, regional and national stakeholders with an opportunity for shared decision-making.

The case studies have confirmed that EGTC are established in order to bring together two regions, communities or municipalities, often from different administrative levels, to empower each of them by acting together in regional, national and international settings and by creating a legal framework in which relevant stakeholders can work and take decisions on the same level.

Interviewees expressed a desire to see a proper source of funding for EGTC as well as the possibility for EGTC to apply as partners for EU funding in future.

The EGTC existing before 2011 have progressed steadily, focusing mainly on improving their capabilities of implementing concrete projects. Most of the Groupings have consolidated their staff and their structures during 2011. Although most of the EGTC are implementing many diverse actions, their participation in EU funded projects is still relatively low and the EGTC apply to all kind of EU programmes, not only European Territorial Cooperation. The budget of the Groupings in general has not been higher than EUR 1,500,000 (except for the Hospital of La Cerdanya) although the average ranges between EUR 100,000 and 300,000. Some of these EGTC have reported problems due to the financial crisis, although in general their members have tended to keep their budgetary commitments in spite of their respective difficulties.

### **The EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions**

Since January 2011, the support provided by the Committee of the Regions to the EGTC has experienced a qualitative improvement with the creation of the EGTC Platform, which facilitates exchange of good practice and provides peer assistance, visibility and a direct channel of communication between the EU institutions and all stakeholders.



## 2. State of play of the national provisions

Although there is still work to be done compared to the reporting period 2010, there has been progress in the implementation of the regulation into national legislation. In 2010, three Member States (MS) only partly adopted the EGTC regulation: Austria, Germany and Belgium. In the meantime, all nine Austrian *Länder* have adopted the regulation (against five in 2010) but a federal law is still under discussion and it is not yet clear when these discussions will come to an end. In Germany the discussion about a federal legislation is also ongoing and the public bodies are consulting with existing groupings at the moment with a view to integrating the results into a future national provision. This national provision is expected to be implemented between 2013 and 2014.

In Belgium, an interview with a representative of the Belgian Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs revealed that, while the rules have been adopted for the Brussels Capital region, the Walloon region, the Flanders region and the German-speaking community, the adoption for the federal state has been delayed due to the three-year long government crisis. The adoption is therefore still pending. It was not possible to find out more through desk research alone.

Below we present a grid looking at all available national provisions in the MS. This grid shows whether groupings are constituted under public or private law, with limited or unlimited liability and which national or regional institution is in charge regarding EGTC.

**Table 2. Overview of different options chosen by the Member States in implementing Regulation (EC) 1082/2006**

Member State	Public/ Private law	Limited/ Unlimited liability	Authorising bodies
AT – Land Burgenland	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Regional government – federal state of Burgenland
AT – Land Carinthia	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Regional government – federal state of Carinthia
AT – Land Lower Austria	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Regional government – federal state of Lower Austria
AT – Land Salzburg	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Regional government – federal state of Salzburg
AT – Land Styria	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Regional government – federal state of Styria
AT – Land Tyrol	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Regional government – federal state of Tyrol

<b>Member State</b>	<b>Public/ Private law</b>	<b>Limited/ Unlimited liability</b>	<b>Authorising bodies</b>
AT – Land Upper Austria	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Regional government – federal state of Upper Austria
AT – Vienna	Public	Limited	Regional government – federal state of Vienna
AT - Vorarlberg	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Regional government – federal state of Vorarlberg
BE- Brussels Capital <sup>4</sup>	n.a.	n.a.	Government of the Region of Brussels Capital
BE- Walloon Region	n.a.	n.a.	Ministry of Internal Affairs
BE- German speaking community	n.a.	n.a.	Government of the German-speaking Community
BE – Flanders Region	n.a.	n.a.	Government of the Flanders Region
CZ	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Thematic responsible Ministry
DE – Baden-Württemberg	n.a.	n.a.	Regierungspräsidium Freiburg
DE – Bavaria	n.a.	n.a.	Regierung der Oberpfalz
DE – Berlin	n.a.	n.a.	Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Technologie und Frauen
DE – Brandenburg	n.a.	n.a.	Ministerium des Innern
DE – Bremen	n.a.	n.a.	Senator für Umwelt, Bau, Verkehr und Europa, Referat 60
DE – Hamburg	n.a.	n.a.	Behörde für Stadtentwicklung und Umwelt
DE – Hesse	n.a.	n.a.	Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Verkehr und Landesentwicklung
DE – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	n.a.	n.a.	Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Tourismus
DE – Lower Saxony	n.a.	n.a.	Ministerium für Inneres und Sport

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4 It was not possible to find out further information on the content of the adopted provisions in the Belgian federal regions through desk research. Only abstracts, descriptions or announcements are available rather than complete provisions.

<b>Member State</b>	<b>Public/ Private law</b>	<b>Limited/ Unlimited liability</b>	<b>Authorising bodies</b>
DE – North Rhine Westphalia	n.a.	n.a.	Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Mittelstand und Energie
DE – Rhineland-Palatinate	n.a.	n.a.	Ministerium des Inneren und für Sport
DE – Saarland	n.a.	n.a.	Ministerium für Wirtschaft und Wissenschaft
DE – Saxony	n.a.	n.a.	Regierungspräsidium Dresden
DE – Saxony-Anhalt	n.a.	n.a.	Ministerium für Wirtschaft und Arbeit
DE – Schleswig-Holstein	n.a.	n.a.	Ministerium für Justiz, Arbeit und Europa
DE – Thuringia	n.a.	n.a.	Thüringer Landesverwaltungsamt
DK	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Ministry of Housing, Urban and Rural Affairs.
EE	Public or Private	Limited or Unlimited	Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance
ES	Public	Unlimited	Ministry of Public Administration
FI	Public	Unlimited	Ministry of Employment and the Economy
FR	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Regional Prefects
GR	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Ministry of Home Affairs
HU	Public	Limited	Metropolitan Court
IE	Public or Private	Limited	Ministry of Finance
IT	Public	Limited	General Secretariat of the Prime Minister
LV	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government Affairs
LT	Public	Limited	Ministry of Internal Affairs
LU	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Government responsible for a territory / Local / Regional Government
MT	Public or Private	Unlimited	Ministry of Finance
NL	Public	unlimited	Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
PL	Public	Unlimited	Ministry of Finance

<b>Member State</b>	<b>Public/ Private law</b>	<b>Limited/ Unlimited liability</b>	<b>Authorising bodies</b>
PT	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Ministry for the Environment, Territorial Planning and Regional Development
RO	Public		Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism
SE	Public or Private	Limited or Unlimited	Companies Registration Office
SI	Public	Unlimited	Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy (since early 2012: Ministry of the Economic Development and Technology)
SK	Public	Limited or Unlimited	Ministry “whose competences cover the type of cooperation, for which the EGTC has been or is to be established”
UK	Public or Private	Unlimited	The Secretary of State

The above table is based on the national provisions and legal notifications of each Member State and federal region. The content of these documents differs across Member States and even across the federal regions of a single Member State, which is why the level of information is not the same for each State or region. For instance, many national provisions lack information about limited or unlimited responsibility or whether applicable law is private or public.

### **3. Review of the activity of the EGTCs constituted in 2011:**

The following chapter consists of an in-depth description of the state of play and developments of EGTC. Each case study will include a general overview (“key information”), followed by a section on the “developments on the ground”, and finally a section on “key findings” which shall state the lessons learnt as a reference for other (or future) EGTC, their “contribution to governance and territorial cohesion” and the “challenges” they faced.

The case studies are preceded by an overview on the possible stages of development of certain EGTC.

Furthermore the report includes a short description of the EGTC Pannon seated in Hungary (Pécs), and of the EGTC TRITIA, seated in Cieszyn (Poland). Acceptance of the Convention and the Statute as well as official registration are expected in early 2012.

Moreover, throughout the research period, the Hungarian Ministry of Justice and Public Administration informed us about the development of ‘new’ Hungarian EGTC:

- The ‘Békés – Arad’ EGTC and the ‘Pro Comitatu’ EGTC are currently ‘on hold’ as the members are still waiting for official approval from national authorities.
- The ‘CETC ETT/EGTC’ is in the process of being set up. The members are about to submit their agreement and statutes for approval.
- The registration of the ‘Bodrogköz ETT/EGTC’ is in progress, the Hungarian and the Slovak applications for approval have been sent to the Ministry
- The ‘Európa-kapu ETT/EGTC (Europe gate)’ EGTC is a cooperation with Romanian partners. As soon as the Ministry gets official approval from the Romanian authorities, the EGTC will be officially registered.
- The ‘Európa közös jövő építő ETT/EGTC (Europe - building a common future)’ EGTC is also a cooperation with Romanian partners. Again, as soon as the Ministry gets official approval from the Romanian authorities, the EGTC can be officially registered.

We have also been informed that after the presentation of the idea to establishing an EGTC DonauHanse after the completion of the Interreg project DonauHanse at the Open Days 2007 conference; the idea was not acted upon. It does not seem like the EGTC DonauHanse will be created at all.

The EGTC Euroregion Nisa on the other hand is still under preparation. The Convention has already been signed and the Statute is currently being drafted. It should be ready within few months.

The preparation of the EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine is "on hold". According to a representative of the Euroregion, the approval of the new EGTC regulation may reactivate the process.

The TRITIA EGTC has not been established yet, but is still in preparation. Currently, the representatives are in the process of adapting the convention and statutes to the recommendations of a registering authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Polish Republic, and running the appropriate documents through the regional organs. The process is expected to be completed by the end of February 2012. Upon subsequent notification of relevant Member States of the changes made, the EGTC may then be registered.

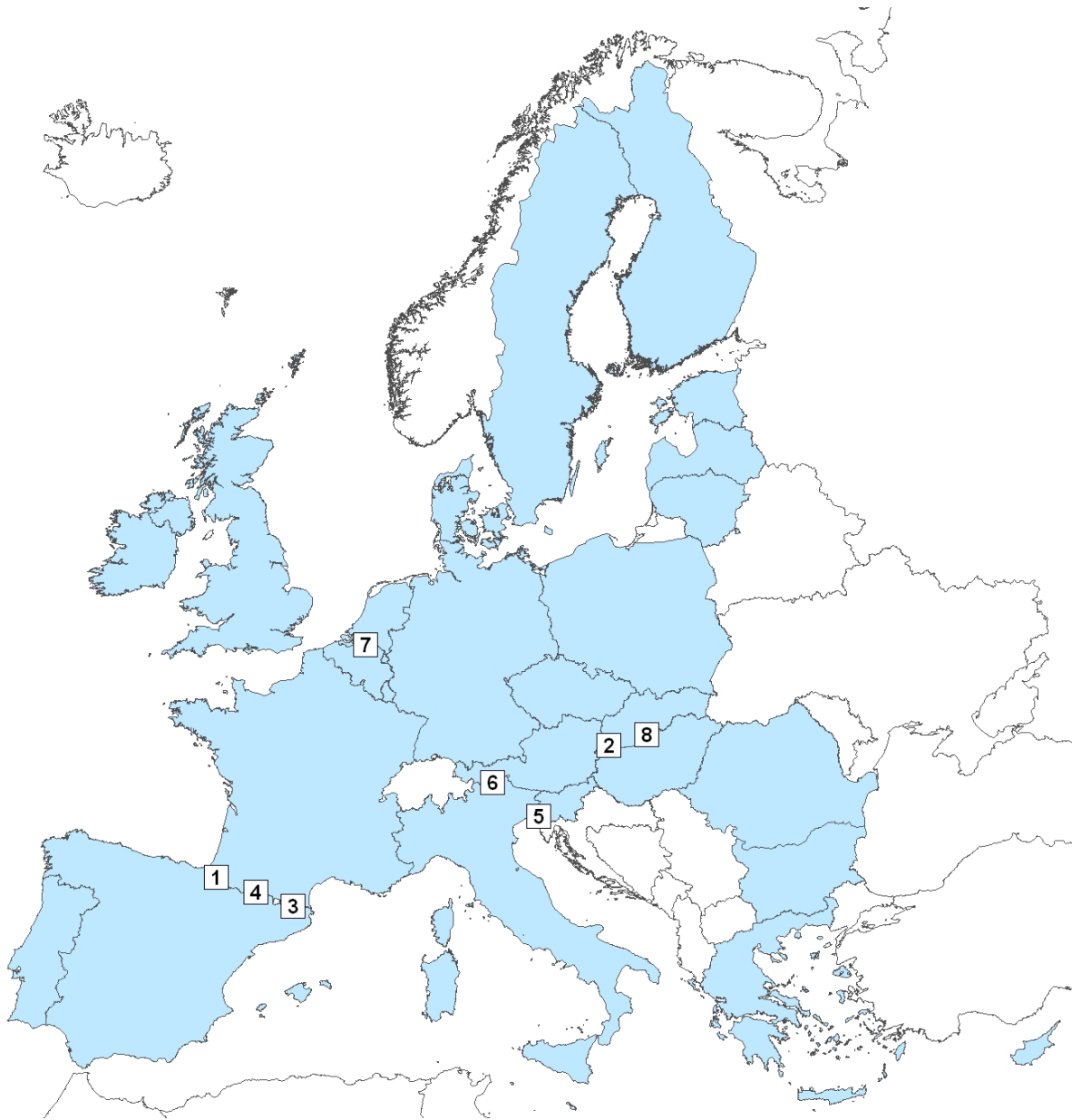
**Table 3. New EGTC constituted in 2011 and included as case studies**

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	<b>Countries<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Specific features</b>	<b>Constitution</b>
Arrabona	<u>HU</u> , SK	Arrabona expects to incorporate more than 120 municipalities as potential partners.	15/06/2011
Linieland van Waas en Hulst	<u>BE</u> , NL	The EGTC has been established to strengthen cooperation between Flemish and Dutch border provinces and municipalities.	18/08/2011
Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino	<u>IT</u> , AT	Supporting the historical and cultural bond between the member regions through cooperation across various policy fields including energy, the green corridor, health, education, youth, academia and research.	13/09/2011
EGTC Territory of municipalities: Gorizia (Italy), Mestna občina Nova Gorica (Slovenia) and Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba (Slovenia)	<u>IT</u> , SI	Euroregion with partners from Italy and Slovenia, located in a cross-border area between Italy and the Republic of Slovenia, who have decided to set up an enhanced form of cooperation so as to develop their region together, providing a common and structured response to socio-economic challenges, marginalisation and past divisions.	15/09/2011

<sup>5</sup> The underlined country indicates the country where the legal seat of the EGTC is located.

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	<b>Countries<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Specific features</b>	<b>Constitution</b>
Pirineus-Cerdanya	<u>FR</u> , ES	The partners are the Communauté de Communes de la Cerdagne (France) and the Consell Comarcal de la Cerdanya (Spain). The seat is in Saillagousse, France.	03/10/2011
Rába-Duna-Vág (RDV)	<u>HU</u> , SK	The objective of the EGTC is to attract European funding to implement projects in fields like infrastructure, transport, logistics, energy, development of the Danube river and its tributaries, sport, culture and others.	21/12/2011
Eurorégion Aquitaine-Euskadi	<u>FR</u> , ES	The objective is to reinforce the cooperation between member regions and strengthen their common identity.	12/12/2011

**Map 1. Overview of established EGTC in the reporting period**



1	EGTC Eurorégion Aquitaine-Euskadi	France and Spain
2	EGTC Arrabona	Hungary and Slovak Republic
3	EGTC Pirineus-Cerdanya	France and Spain
4	EGTC Espacio Portalet	Spain and France
5	EGTC Territory of municipalities: Gorizia (Italy), Mestna občina Nova Gorica (Slovenia) and Občina Sempeter-Vrtojba (Slovenia)	Italy and Slovenia
6	EGTC Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino	Italy and Austria
7	Linieland van Waas en Hulst EGTC	Belgium and the Netherlands
8	Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC	Hungary and Slovakia



*Map 2. Overview of established EGTC included in the EGTC Monitoring Report 2010*



1	Abaúj-Abaújban	Hungary and Slovakia
2	Amphictyony	Greece, Cyprus, Italy and France
3	ArchiMed	Italy, Spain and Cyprus
4	Cerdanya Cross-Border Hospital	Spain and France
5	Duero-Douro	Portugal and Spain
6	Eurodistrict Saar Moselle	France and Germany
7	Eurodistrict Strasbourg - Ortenau	France and Germany
8	Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée	Spain and France
9	Galicia-Norte Portugal	Portugal and Spain
10	GECT- INTERREG - Programme Grande Région	France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg
11	Ister-Granum	Hungary and the Slovak Republic
12	Karst-Bodva	Hungary and the Slovak Republic
13	Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai	France and Belgium
14	West-Vlaanderen/Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale	Belgium and France
15	UTTS	Hungary and the Slovak Republic
16	ZASNET	Portugal and Spain
17	Pons Danubii	Hungary and the Slovak Republic
18	Bánát Triplex Confinium	Hungary, Romania and Serbia

## 3.1 EGTC Eurorégion Aquitaine-Euskadi

### 3.1.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	Eurorégion Aquitaine-Euskadi
<b>Acronym</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	Supranational framework for carrying out common actions to strengthen the economic, social and cultural development of the Euroregion.
<b>History and current status</b>	<p>The authorities of the autonomous Basque community and the regional Council of Aquitaine had been trying to obtain a cross-border agreement to be able to create a supranational entity for Euskadi and Aquitaine for two decades.</p> <p>In November 2009, the Regional Council of Aquitaine and the autonomous Community of Euskadi have agreed to the creation of the EGTC. The EGTC was officially created on 12 December 2011 with the signing of the convention and the statute.</p>
<b>Countries involved</b>	<u>France</u> and Spain
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	The seat is in Hendaye, Aquitaine, France (no other operational units).
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comunidad Autónoma del País Vasco</li> <li>▪ Région Aquitaine</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b>	<p>Inhabitants: Around 5.5 million inhabitants</p> <p>Surface: 48,543 km<sup>2</sup> (Aquitaine: 41,309 km<sup>2</sup>, Euskadi: 7,234 km<sup>2</sup>)</p>
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The EGTC brings together two neighbouring regions and their communities to empower each of them by acting together in regional, national and international settings.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	The EGTC is open to enlargement through neighbouring regions.
<b>Duration</b>	According to the Convention, the duration is undetermined.
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>According to the Convention, the objective is to strengthen the economic, social and cultural development of the Euroregion and to promote economic and social cohesion. Another objective is to represent the interests of the Euroregion in local, regional, national, international and European settings.</p> <p>According to the Statute, the EGTC aims to implement programmes or projects of territorial cooperation co-financed by the EU (funded mainly by the ERDF, the ESF and Cohesion Funds) in order to strengthen economic and social cohesion. In short, the aim is to strengthen political and economic cooperation and social as well as economic cohesion in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Innovation</li> <li>▪ Environment</li> <li>▪ Accessibility</li> <li>▪ Sustainable urban development</li> </ul> <p>The EGTC has three priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To make infrastructure more sustainable</li> <li>▪ Sustainable, smart and inclusive growth (more effective but also greener and more competitive economic growth)</li> <li>▪ Development of the identity of the Euroregion (mobility of students and children through university and school exchange programmes; culture; sports, etc).</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	The EGTC is currently preparing a strategic plan and a working plan.

<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	No projects have been implemented yet.
<b>Budget for 2011</b>	The initial budget amounts to 120,000 €. For 2012 the budget will amount to around 900,000 EUR. It will be voted on March.
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	At the moment, there is only a director. The staff is employed under French law.
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Public law of France.
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	The EGTC is composed of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Assembly.</li> <li>▪ A Bureau</li> <li>▪ A President</li> <li>▪ A Director</li> </ul> The decisions are taken by consensus with a qualified majority of three fifths of participants.
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish, Basque, French.
<b>URL</b>	The EGTC does not yet have a website.
<b>Contact</b>	Mr Miguel A. Crespo Eusko Jaurlaritza - Gobierno Vasco Mugaz Gaindiko Lankidetzarako ordezkaria Delegado de Cooperación Transfronteriza Délégué de Coopération Transfrontalière Lehendakaritza Navarra, 2 - 01007 Vitoria-Gasteiz tlf +34-945 017817 <a href="mailto:ma-crespo@ej-gv.es">ma-crespo@ej-gv.es</a>

### 3.1.2 Developments on the ground:

#### The EGTC as a working structure

The most important factors have been the institutional respect between the regions, the personal involvement and political engagement of the presidents.

#### Financing and managing the EGTC

The sources of the budget are regional funds, the Autonomous Community of Euskadi and the Regional Council of Aquitaine. The contributions are shared equally among the members of the EGTC.

The French local authority of Hendaye will be the responsible for carrying out financial control.

- The Assembly is the most important body of the EGTC “Eurorégion: Aquitaine-Euskadi”. The Assembly is composed of 20 members (50% from the

Regional council of Aquitaine, 50% from the autonomous Community of Euskadi). It meets twice a year and has responsibility for decisions in such key areas as the budget, commissions of work, etc. It can also delegate other decision-making processes to the Advisory Committee or to the President.

- A Bureau composed of six members. It meets three times a year and before each Assembly meeting. It decides upon the agenda of the Assembly and ensures that the activities are well executed. The Bureau is responsible for hiring staff.
- A President (elected by the Assembly; rotates every two years between partner regions). The President chairs the Assembly, represents the EGTC, decides on expenses, and manages the Bureau.
- A Director nominated by the President. He is responsible for the general administration and the activities of the EGTC decided upon by the Assembly and the President. He is responsible for staff management.

### **Current major activities**

No projects have been implemented yet. The EGTC is currently preparing a strategic plan and a working plan.

### **Future milestones**

The milestones of the EGTC include implementing planned projects, applying for EU funding and carrying out communication and PR activities.

### **3.1.3 Key findings:**

#### **Lessons learnt**

The EGTC provides the members with an institutional framework law to work as a single entity and to be admitted into international bodies as well. Members can now obtain competitive advantages and a better international position.

#### **Challenges**

The main challenges have been to adapt both legal systems and to obtain the permission of both States.

Concerning financial control, it was important to find a French authority used to deal with Spanish and French financial documents.

## **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

The authorities of the autonomous Basque community and the regional Council of Aquitaine had been trying for two decades to obtain a trans-border agreement in order to create a supranational entity for Euskadi and Aquitaine. The EGTC is believed to be an adequate framework for carrying out joint activities.

## 3.2 EGTC Arrabona

### 3.2.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	<p>Complete name in Hungarian: Arrabona Korlátolt Felelősségű Európai Területi Együtműködési Csoportosulás, Abbreviated name: Arrabona EGTC;</p> <p>Complete name in Slovak: Európske zoskupenie územnej spolupráce Arrabona záhrada s ručením obmedzeným, Abbreviated name: EZÚS Arrabona;</p> <p>Complete name in English: Arrabona European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability, Abbreviated name: Arrabona EGTC</p>
<b>Acronym</b>	EGTC Arrabona
<b>Summary</b>	The EGTC was created to achieve the shared regional development goals of the two border regions. Since its creation in June 2011, the EGTC has already been enlarged by 17 members and it aims to eventually incorporate more than 120 municipalities as potential partners.
<b>History and current status</b>	Unlike other EGTC, the EGTC Arrabona did not have any predecessors. The EGTC Arrabona was registered by the Hungarian Metropolitan Court in Budapest on 15 June 2011 (date of publication: 4 July).
<b>Countries involved</b>	Hungary and Slovakia
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	The seat is in Győr, Hungary (9021 Győr, Városház tér 1) There are no additional operational units.
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<p>19 members from Hungary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Municipality of Győr Town of County Rank</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Mosonmagyaróvár Town</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Halászi Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Vámoszabadi Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Kisbajcs Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Vének Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Pér Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Rábapatona Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Mosonszolnok Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Dunaszeg Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Abda Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Győrújbarát Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Dunaszentpál Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Böny Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Kunsziget Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Győrújfalú Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Mecsér Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Ikrény Township</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Börcs Township</li> </ul> <p>Two members from Slovakia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Municipality of Somorja Town</li> <li>▪ Municipality of Dunaszerdahely Town</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b> (inhabitants, surface area)	<p><u>Inhabitants:</u> The population of the municipalities adds up to more than 230,000 inhabitants, most of them in Győr (ca. 131,000). Mosonmagyaróvár (ca. 33,000), Somorja (ca. 12,600), Dunaszerdahely (ca. 24,000), and the 17 members that joined the EGTC recently (33,000).</p> <p><u>Surface, territory:</u> The total area of the four founders is 336.15 km<sup>2</sup>, the total area of the 17 members that joined recently is 394.63 km<sup>2</sup>, so ARRABONA ECTC incorporates a total area of 730.78 km<sup>2</sup>.</p>

<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The EGTC was created to represent the interests of the Hungarian and Slovak municipalities and to ensure that these interests appear with the same importance in development documents and in the composition of projects proposed for implementation. At the same time, the decisive role of Győr and Dunaszerdahely also has to be taken into consideration.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	The EGTC was initially composed by the municipalities of Győr and Mosonmagyaróvár in Hungary, and Šamorín – Somorja and Dunajská – Dunaszerdahely in the Slovak Republic. It was enlarged by 17 new members in Hungary on 4 October 2011, which are the following: Municipality of Halászi Township, Municipality of Vámoszabadi Township, Municipality of Kisbajcs Township, Municipality of Vének Township, Municipality of Pér Township, Municipality of Rábapatonna Township, Municipality of Mosonszolnok Township, Municipality of Dunaszeg Township, Municipality of Abda Township, Municipality of Győrújbarát Township, Municipality of Dunaszentpál Township, Municipality of Böny Township, Municipality of Kunsziget Township, Municipality of Győrújfalu Township, Municipality of Mecsér Township, Municipality of Ikrény Township, Municipality of Börcs Township. Arrabona EGTC plans to incorporate more than 120 municipalities as potential partners.
<b>Duration</b>	Undetermined.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The general objective of the Grouping is to promote cooperation beyond borders among its members within the area specified in point 3, clause I, in order to reinforce economic and social cohesion, and to collaborate in preserving and maintaining the balance of the Danube Valley as an ecological system.</li> <li>2. The particular objective of the Grouping is to initiate and reinforce economic and social cohesion, as well as preserve and maintain the balance of the Danube Valley as an ecological system through direct and indirect initiatives jointly funded with the European Union, and through assistance in executing programs and projects in regional cooperation and developing elements of the social and technical infrastructure.</li> </ol>
<b>Tasks</b>	<p>Long-term tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The primary task of the Grouping is to implement programmes and projects being created through regional cooperation cofinanced by the European Union.</li> <li>b. Concerning co-financed actions given by the European Union, the appropriate laws regarding the control of the community funds have to be applied.</li> </ol> <p><u>Further tasks of the Grouping:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. in line with its objectives, to implement other individual actions, programmes, projects with or without financial contribution from the European Union;</li> <li>b. in line with its individual management, in order to achieve its aims, and taking into consideration its limited liability role, to pursue business activities;</li> <li>c. to make everyone aware of the competitive advantages of the regional cooperation appearing at local and national level and crossing borders, aimed at reinforcement of the economic and social cohesion in connection with the tasks emerging from the preparation and implementation of the European Danube Strategy in its area of operation, and the basic conditions of achievement of those competitive advantages, the process of their achievement, and the members' tasks that can be undertaken</li> </ol>



	<p>therein;</p> <p>d. to ensure the personal and material conditions needed for achieving and implementing the aims and tasks, know-how, and the free flow of data and information, and that the activities and results of the Grouping can be widely disseminated.</p> <p>e. to validate the interests of the Grouping within the institutional framework established by the European Union during preparation of the decisions on regional policy and the European Danube Strategy;</p> <p>f. provided there is a common will and the necessary financial and professional resources, to create representation in Brussels.</p> <p>The Grouping does not yet have an annual work programme.</p>
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	<p>To date, the EGTC has submitted 3 project proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hungary-Slovakia ETC, 1.3.1 Measures, development of tourist products and attractions, destination management, set-up of organisations and related infrastructure (planned total cost: around EUR 2 million)</li> <li>▪ Hungary-Slovakia ETC, 1.5.1 Development of network, partnership, programme and project planning and management capacities (planned total cost: around EUR 120,000)</li> <li>▪ Hungary-Slovakia ETC, 1.7.1 Measures, actions between people (People to People) (planned total cost: around EUR 150,000).</li> </ul>
<b>Budget for 2011</b>	In 2011, the receipts amounted to EUR 99,353 and the expenditures amounted to EUR 57,182.
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	At present, one Director and one Economic Manager perform the tasks by a commission contract and one Project Manager on a full-time, permanent contract. All three are Hungarian residents.
<b>Applicable law and legal personality</b>	Public law of Hungary. The Grouping is an independently managed non-profit organisation, which acquires legal status through its registration, and as such has full legal capacity. This means that it can acquire rights, undertake obligations, obtain personal properties and real properties, and proceed before the Court.
<b>Organs and their main responsibilities</b>	<p>Bodies of the Grouping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General Assembly,</li> <li>▪ Chair,</li> <li>▪ Director,</li> <li>▪ Professional Committees,</li> <li>▪ Supervisory Board.</li> </ul> <p>The members of the General Assembly have equal voting power. In the event of a tie, the Chairman casts the deciding vote.</p>
<b>Languages</b>	Hungarian, Slovak.
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.arrabona.eu">http://www.arrabona.eu</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<p>Director: Mr. Péter Sárkány  Economic manager: Mrs. László Csáki  Project manager: Erika Béres  Seat: H-9021 Győr, Városház tér 1. – Hungary  Postal address: H-9024 Győr, Baross Gábor utca 61-63. – Hungary  Tel: +36 96 515 630  Fax: +36 96 515 639  E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@arrabona.eu">info@arrabona.eu</a></p>

### **3.2.2 Developments on the ground:**

#### **The EGTC as a working structure**

The EGTC was established in June 2011 and has already started implementing projects and applying for EU funding, and has even been enlarged by 17 new members.

Establishing the EGTC however took over a year, mainly due to the Slovak authorities (Ministry), in spite of the fact that the Grouping has a Hungarian seat and was registered in Hungary. This resulted in several months of delay.

#### **Financing and managing the EGTC**

The EGTC is composed of five bodies. The main decision-making body of the Grouping is the General Assembly. The General Assembly passes its resolutions on the basis of consensus. The members make every effort to establish a common standpoint, which can be accepted by everyone, as a result of which every member agrees with the content of a given decision.

If a decision cannot be made by consensus, the Hungarian and Slovak members of the General Assembly shall vote on the issue or motion for resolution separately. Depending on the issue or motion to be decided upon, a valid General Assembly resolution has been taken only if both the Hungarian and the Slovak members separately approve the issue or motion for resolution by a qualified majority vote (2/3) with the same content.

The budget is decided on an annual basis. It is composed of an annual membership fee paid by all municipalities, as well as foundation and operation costs earned from tenders.

#### **Current major activities**

Since its creation, the EGTC has implemented two successful projects in a tender called Wekerle Sándor Alapkezelő on behalf of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice in order to support the European Regional Associations in 2011.

- Support for administrative costs incurred in the establishment of European Regional Associations seated in Hungary: Component “A” (HUF 1 million).
- Operational support: Component “B” (HUF 20 million).

The following tenders have been submitted so far. They have not yet been evaluated.

- **HU-SK 1.3.1 Measures, development of tourist products and attractions, destination management, setting up of organisations and related infrastructure** (Together with Ister-Garnum EGTC seated in Esztergom and Pons-Danubii EGTC seated in Révkomárom, Arrabona EGTC submitted a common tender within the framework of the Magyarország-Szlovákia Határon Átnyúló Együttműködési Programme (Hungary-Slovakia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme). The total cost is approximately EUR 2 million.
  
- **HU-SK 1.5.1 Development of network, partnership, programme and project planning and management capacities** (By establishing an innovative strategic partnership, the EGTC Arrabona aims to reinforce sustainable and integrated development of the border region, and to strengthen economic competitiveness. By reaching and involving the main regional stakeholders of education, employment, traffic, interest protection, occupational safety and health and disaster management and encouraging them to recognise their common interests, determine common aims, change their approach, the aim is to show the advantages and value of cooperation. An overall aim is to strengthen the role of Arrabona EGTC as a catalyst in realising the strategic aims of Európa 2020). The planned cost of the project is EUR 120,000.
  
- **HU-SK 1.7.1 Measures, actions between people (People to People)** (It relates to a Hungarian-Slovak wine and gastronomic festival, which consists of three programmes. Taking the experience of the wine and gastronomic festivals and programmes in four parts the region based on well-established traditions, and extending them, the Grouping would like to establish common regional wine and gastronomic programmes. The aim is to provide an opportunity for the well-known wineries of Kisalföld, Sokoróalja, Csallóköz and Mátyusföld as well as the less-known local wine-growers to get to know one another. A connected aim is to introduce and popularise the products of local agriculture and food industry and traditional local specialities. The planned total cost of the project is EUR 150,000.

### **Milestones ahead**

The EGTC does not yet have a communication strategy or any PR activities. Moreover, it plans to undergo future enlargements as well as apply for further EU-funded projects.

### **3.2.3 Key findings:**

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

The EGTC has been set up to more easily realise projects of common interest to all members of the border region between Hungary and Slovakia. In this new framework, all forms of regional co-operation can be carried out:

- Cross-border cooperation
- Trans-national cooperation
- Realisation of projects and developments that directly benefit the member settlements and the inhabitants of the region
- Creating new jobs
- Strengthening the relationship between the mayors, municipalities and those living on the two sides of the border
- Hungarian, Slovakian and international strengthening of EGTC
- More efficient source withdrawal, more organised cooperation framework, EGTC can independently submit tenders for sources

#### **Challenges**

The EGTC has faced difficulties on its way to official establishment due to legal/administrative hindrances on the Slovak side. These barriers have delayed the establishment of the EGTC despite the fact that the EGTC is seated in Hungary.

Moreover, up until now, the EGTC staff is merely of Hungarian nationality. The next steps will consist in hiring staff from the Slovak partner members.

#### **Lessons learnt**

The EGTC has trod a difficult path to establishment but has managed to increase its number of members and implement and apply for new projects since it was established in less than half a year after its creation.

## 3.3 EGTC Pirineus-Cerdanya

### 3.3.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	EGTC Pirineus-Cerdanya
<b>Acronym</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	It is the common culture and history of the communities living in the border region that led to their decision to form an EGTC. The objective of the members is to identify common interests that need to be pursued in the framework of a common strong entity.
<b>History and current status</b>	The decision to form an EGTC was based on the willingness of both members to implement common projects. The EGTC gives the members a more legitimate framework for cooperation beyond administrative barriers.
<b>Countries involved</b>	<u>France</u> , Spain
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b> (and operational units)	Saillagousse (FR) There are no other operational seats.
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communauté de Communes de la Cerdagne (France)</li> <li>▪ Consell Comarcal de la Cerdanya (Spain).</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b>	Number of Inhabitants: 23,354 Surface (in km <sup>2</sup> ): 760.5
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The EGTC is formed by communities living in the border region sharing common interests, culture and history.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	The EGTC does not plan to increase or reduce its territory at the moment. However, the EGTC may cooperate with other communities in the form of partnerships for specific projects.
<b>Duration</b>	undetermined
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The main objectives, as defined in the Convention of the EGTC, is to facilitate and encourage territorial cooperation among the members of the EGTC in order to support economic and social cohesion, mainly through the development of tourism and cultural heritage. More specifically, the EGTC focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Managing cross-border projects in the area of tourism to increase the number of visits to the Cerdanya region. This translates into actions such as creating and managing footpaths, touristic events and ways to promote the region and its cultural heritage.</li> <li>▪ Implementing the necessary infrastructure to allow for cross-border economic activities.</li> <li>▪ Carrying out studies to identify common needs and interest.</li> <li>▪ Managing and implementing common cross-border cooperation projects in the areas of environment and natural heritage.</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	<p>The first assembly meeting took place on 17 of January 2012. At that meeting, four commissions were created to manage the four key themes of the EGTC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Cross-border infrastructure</li> <li>2) Environment</li> <li>3) Cultural and historic heritage</li> <li>4) Tourism</li> </ol>

<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	The EGTC has not applied for EU funding yet, but is planning on submitting the planned and implemented projects once they are more developed.
<b>Budget for 2011</b>	The budget is composed of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annual contribution from the members (voted by the Assembly)</li> <li>▪ Subsidies</li> <li>▪ Loans (by unanimous decision)</li> <li>▪ Income from services provided</li> </ul>
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	The EGTC does not yet employ its own staff but works with employees from the two member-communities.
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Public law of France.
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	The EGTC is composed of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An Assembly</li> <li>▪ The President</li> <li>▪ A Board</li> <li>▪ A Director</li> </ul> The Director and the President have already been appointed. Decisions are taken by majority vote plus one.
<b>Languages</b>	French, Spanish and Catalan
<b>URL</b>	No website yet.
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:fanny.montagne@pyrenees-cerdagne.com">fanny.montagne@pyrenees-cerdagne.com</a> GECT « Pyrénées-Cerdagne » 1, Place Del Roser 66 800 Saillagousse, France

### 3.3.2 Developments on the ground:

#### The EGTC as a working structure

The process for establishing the EGTC was rather long given that the members started working on the project in 2008 and the EGTC was officially registered on 16 September 2011. The reason for the delay was that, mainly due to difficulties in translating and aligning the French, Spanish and EU regulations, the act of signing the Statute was delayed by the relevant French authorities.

The first Assembly meeting took place on 17 January 2012.

#### Financing and managing the EGTC

The EGTC does not have a proper budget yet. The first Assembly meeting took place shortly before the interview for this case study. The EGTC has not yet collected its initial budget for administrative operations. Project costs will be financed by the communities themselves.

The working structure has been established in the Convention and Statute of the EGTC.

- The Assembly is composed of 10 representatives of the members of the EGTC and appointed for a period of four years (five from France, five from Spain). It meets at least twice a year. The President (or Vice-President) chairs the meetings and decides on the agenda. The Assembly deliberates only if a quorum is reached which corresponds to half of the members plus one. The Assembly deliberates on the strategy of common development and the general orientation of the actions of the EGTC. It takes decisions on the budget (administration and management) presented annually by the President; decides on changes in the convention or statute and membership, elects the Board, the President and the Vice-President; takes decisions related to staff, approves the annual work programme.
- President: Elected by the Assembly. The President represents the EGTC and is responsible for preparing and carrying out the actions decided by the Bureau and the Assembly. He decides on the expenses, administration, staffing and legal issues of the EGTC.
- The Board is composed of the President, the Vice-president and eight members (four from Spain, four from France). The President and the Vice-president must also be of different nationalities. The President and the Vice-president are elected for a period of two years while the other members are elected for four years. The Assembly delegates part for its duties to the Board. The Board is mainly responsible for deciding on the actions to be carried out inside the EGTC such as determining the administrative and technical positions, approving the choice of Director, creating and managing working groups and setting their objectives.
- A Director is appointed by the Board upon a proposition from the President for a period of 2 years. He/she mainly manages and coordinates the activities of the EGTC under the authority of the President. He ensures the administrative and financial management of the EGTC, manages and coordinates the actions of territorial cooperation, and elaborates the annual budget and accounting.

Decisions are taken by majority vote plus one.

### **Current major activities**

At the first meeting, four commissions were established with two representatives each; two manage the activities in the four thematic priorities of the EGTC (Infrastructure, Heritage, Tourism, and the Environment). Each commission will be represented by two persons who, with the President and the Vice-President, form the Board (with a total of ten members).

Several projects were already in place before the EGTC was created but this new form of cooperation will facilitate their implementation:

- Footpath through the common cross-border territory
- Organising a marathon in the area, in which participants from all over the world would participate. The idea is to promote the area and strengthen its appeal as a tourist destination. This project had been planned by the Spanish member earlier, but the structure of the EGTC is believed to facilitate its development and implementation.
- Analysis of the territory (in terms of the economy, tourism, the environment etc).

### **Milestones ahead**

The first assembly meeting took place shortly before the EGTC was interviewed in the framework of this report. Therefore, several milestones lie ahead of the EGTC including the development and implementation of common projects but also strengthening the financial framework. Moreover, a communication strategy is yet to be established. PR and media presence is currently run on an ad hoc basis when projects are carried out or completed.

### **3.3.3 Key findings:**

#### **Lessons learnt**

Overcoming the legal barriers between Spain and France is the decisive factor for the existence of the EGTC. The members have been able to witness in the framework of concrete projects that cooperation and collaboration in certain fields was not possible outside the framework of the EGTC.

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

The EGTC gives the members a more legitimate framework for cooperation beyond administrative barriers.

#### **Challenges**

The EGTC still does not have a proper budget. In order to implement and develop planned projects, its financial basis is yet to be strengthened, which includes applying for EU funding.



## 3.4 EGTC Espacio Portalet

### 3.4.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial “Espacio Portalet” Groupement Européen de Coopération Transfrontalière “Espace Pourtalet”
<b>Acronym</b>	EGTC Espacio Portalet
<b>Summary</b>	The EGTC aims to identify, promote and develop joint programmes and actions of sustainable development to eventually reinforce social and economic cohesion. In order to do so, the parties commit to developing all necessary initiatives to manage and maintain the trans-border passage of Portalet, which includes the regional road A136 in Spain and the road D934 in France to ensure good maintenance of infrastructure.
<b>History and current status</b>	The idea of creating the EGTC was born in 2010. However, the path towards establishing the EGTC was very long due to the lengthy authorization process of the Ministries, (in France, for example, there is no legally determined time period). The authorization for establishing the EGTC was finally given in May 2011. Date of registration: 17 June 2011 Publication in the Official State Journal: 17 June 2011 Signing the Convention: 19 May 2011. The working structures of the administration and the structure of cooperation with the regional and local governments have already been established.
<b>Countries involved</b>	<u>Spain</u> , France
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b> (and operational units)	Sabiñánigo (ES) No other operational units but closer cooperation with the regional and local governments of the members.
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comunidad Autónoma de Aragón (ES)</li> <li>▪ Departameneto de Pirineos Atlánticos (FR)</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b> (inhabitants, surface area)	Inhabitants: Comunidad Autónoma de Aragón (ES): 1,347,095 Département des Pyrénées Atlantiques (FR): 600,018 Surface: Comunidad Autónoma de Aragón (ES): 47,719 km <sup>2</sup> Département des Pyrénées Atlantiques (FR): 7,645 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The Autonomous Community of Aragon is one of the 17 territorial entities of the Kingdom of Spain which has autonomous legislative and executive powers. The Department of Atlantic Pyrenees is one of the five Departments of the Aquitania Region essentially composed of the former province of Béarn and the Basque country. It is divided into three Districts: Bayonne, Oloron-Sainte-Marie and Pau.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	None at the moment.
<b>Duration</b>	According to the Convention, the duration is limited to ten years, and can be prolonged by ten years.

<b>Objectives</b>	<p>To stimulate and reinforce joint cooperation and activities within the territory.</p> <p>Sustainable development with programmes and activities of common interest to its members aiming to eventually reinforce social and economic cohesion, especially in the fields of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of tourism</li> <li>▪ Accessibility</li> <li>▪ Heritage and culture</li> <li>▪ Development of economic activities of common interest</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	<p>The most well developed actions planned so far are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improvement of the infrastructure on the border between the two regions</li> <li>▪ The EGTC has applied for an Interreg project and is waiting for official approval. The Project proposes the transformation of the former border-guard offices on the frontier between Aragon and the Atlantic Pyrenees into cross-border centres of cooperation in various fields.</li> <li>▪ Identifying the priorities, problems and needs of the inhabitants of the regions in order to develop a common strategy with concrete actions.</li> </ul> <p>The first work programme is to be approved in the General Assembly meeting in June 2012.</p>
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	<p>The EGTC has applied for an Interreg project but is still waiting for its approval. The Project proposes the transformation of the former border-guard offices on the frontier between Aragon and Atlantic Pyrenees into cross-border centres of cooperation in various fields (EFA 176/11 – ESPALET).</p>
<b>Budget for 2011</b>	<p>The budget is composed of an allocation of funds from both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Autonomous Community of Aragon (ES) and</li> <li>▪ The Department of the Atlantic Pyrenees (FR)</li> </ul> <p>The budget finances on the one hand the administration, staff and amenities, and on the other hand, the realisation of projects.</p> <p>The budget is decided on an annual basis.</p>
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	<p>The EGTC does not employ staff at the moment but works with employees from the two regional governments.</p>
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	<p>Public law of Spain</p>

<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<p>The EGTC is composed of an Assembly, a President and a Director.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Assembly is the main decision-making and management body of the EGTC. It consists of eight full-member representatives and eight alternate representatives from the Autonomous Community of Aragon, as well as eight full-member representatives and eight alternate representatives of the Department of Atlantic Pyrenees. The Assembly nominates the Director, approves the internal rules as well as the budget and accounts, management and staff, monitors the management by the Director, and approves the work plan. It meets at least twice a year.</li> <li>▪ There is a system of rotating Presidency between the members of the EGTC. The President is a member from the Assembly from the EGTC member that currently holds the Presidency. The President is elected for a period of two years but his post can be prolonged exceptionally by one year upon unanimous agreement by the Assembly. The President chairs the Assembly meetings and debates; sets meetings and decides on the agenda, proposes the annual work programme in the Assembly and carries out administrative and judicial activities.</li> <li>▪ The Director is elected by the Assembly. He/she represents the EGTC, proposes the annual and multi-annual work plan to the President and ensures the implementation of the activities planned.</li> </ul> <p>Assembly agreements are taken by two-thirds majority vote. Some matters require a unanimous vote by Assembly representative members.</p>
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish and French
<b>URL</b>	None at the moment.
<b>Contact</b>	<p>Natalia Blázquez Larraz, Managing Director of the Fundación Transpirenaica: <a href="mailto:nblazquez@aragon.es">nblazquez@aragon.es</a>  Tel. (+34) 976715182  Eva Lamothe, Manager of Cross-Border Pole, Conseil Général des Pyrénées-Atlantiques : <a href="mailto:eva.lamothe@cg64.fr">eva.lamothe@cg64.fr</a>  Tel : (+33)05.59.11.45.07</p>

### 3.4.2 Developments on the ground:

#### The EGTC as a working structure

The decisive factor for establishing the EGTC was the necessity to abolish the physical border between the two regions. In fact, the infrastructure of the border passage that is situated in the mountains is often blocked due to difficult weather conditions. This makes cooperation between the regions very difficult for carrying out common activities despite the existence of other means of communication. This is why the improvement of the state of the infrastructure between the two border regions is even stated as a key objective in the Convention of the EGTC. Other objectives include the development of initiatives with the aim of strengthening economic and cultural cooperation.

## **Financing and managing the EGTC**

The budget is composed of a contribution from the two member regional governments as well as donations and EU-funding. The EGTC has planned different projects, one of which is to be financed by EU-funds.

The organization of the EGTC has been set up and the first meeting of the Assembly took place in December 2011. Assembly agreements are taken by two-thirds majority vote. Some matters require a unanimous vote by Assembly representative members. The work programme will be decided upon in the Assembly meeting of June 2012.

### **Current major activities**

The EGTC is still setting up its structures, the Director has not been elected yet and PR and communication activities are in the pipeline.

### **Milestones ahead**

The main milestone to be reached as quickly as possible is the improvement of roads and infrastructure between the two regions in the mountainous region.

## **3.4.3 Key findings:**

### **Lessons learnt**

While concrete plans for establishing the EGTC had already been made, the creation of the EGTC was hindered by administrative and legal barriers between the EU regulation and the national legal systems in France and Spain.

### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

Setting up the EGTC took longer than foreseen. However, the members are convinced that the EGTC structure will allow them to act together to develop and implement joint strategies and facilitate cooperation and integration in a concrete political and legal framework.

### **Challenges**

The challenges faced in the initial phases of setting-up the EGTC were hindered by the lack of a common regulation and the difficulty of applying EU laws to national legal systems. Moreover, there is no legally defined timeframe for French authorities to officially approve the establishment of the EGTC.

## 3.5 EGTC “Territory of municipalities: Gorizia (Italy), Mestna občina Nova Gorica (Slovenia) and Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba (Slovenia)”

### 3.5.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	EGTC “Territory of municipalities: Gorizia (Italy), Mestna občina Nova Gorica (Slovenia) and Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba (Slovenia)” GECT “Territorio dei comuni: Comune di Gorizia (I), Mestna občina Nova Gorica (SLO) in Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba (SLO) “ EZTS “Območje občin Comune di Gorizia (I), Mestna občina Nova Gorica (SLO) in Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba (SLO)”
<b>Acronym</b>	Gorizia-Nova Gorica
<b>Summary</b>	The aim of this EGTC composed of Italian and Slovenian neighbour municipalities is to overcome the difficulties in the development and management of territorial cooperation activities within different national legislation and procedures.
<b>History and current status</b>	The decision to establish the EGTC is based on the long-standing history of cooperation between the member municipalities dating back to 1964, which marks the date of the first meeting between the administration of Gorizia and Nova Gorica. Both the Convention and the Statute of the EGTC provided for by articles n. 8 and 9 of EC regulations n. 1082/2006 have been unanimously approved by the City Councils of its members: the Municipality of Nova Gorica with a resolution from the City Council of 21 January 2010, the Municipality of Gorizia with a resolution from the City Council n. 1/2010 of 21 January 2010, the Municipality of Šempeter-Vrtojba with a resolution from the Town Council of 18 February 2010. Approval from the Slovenian Government: 24 June 2010 Approval from the Italian Government: 12 May 2011 Registration in Italy: 15 September 2011.
<b>Countries involved</b>	<u>Italy</u> and Slovenia
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	Gorizia, Italy (no other operational units)
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comune di Gorizia (Italy)</li> <li>▪ Mestna Občina Nova Gorica (Slovenia)</li> <li>▪ Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba (Slovenia)</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b>	<u>Inhabitants</u> : 35,996 inhabitants on the Italian side, 37,754 on the Slovenian side, Total: 73,750 inhabitants <u>Surface</u> : 365.11 Km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The EGTC focuses on the strategic coordination of policies within the common metropolitan area. The aim is to promote the region within the European context and to share and promote the experiences of the territory within the EU.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	None at the moment.
<b>Duration</b>	Undetermined
<b>Objectives</b>	According to the Statute, the objective is to support and develop territorial cooperation aiming to reinforce economic and social cohesion. The objective is coordinating and developing strategies related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Management of the infrastructure, transport systems, mobility</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Public transport</li> <li>c. Energy and environmental resources</li> <li>d. Elaboration of a plan for the sustainable environment of the area</li> <li>e. Economic and social cohesion between the partners (also transborder) and in comparison to more competitive regions</li> <li>f. Improving the quality of life</li> <li>g. Implementing specific actions, programmes and projects financed by the EU</li> <li>h. Information and transparent communication to the citizens of the area</li> <li>i. Represent the interests and opinions of the territory in regional, sectoral and EU decision-making process</li> <li>j. Development of the culture and tourism sectors and better use of the natural and cultural heritage</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	<p>The long-term tasks of the EGTC are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ management,</li> <li>▪ development and modernization of the infrastructure, transportation systems, public transport, mobility and logistics;</li> <li>▪ coordination of the urban transportation policies through common and coordinated management of public transport;</li> <li>▪ management of the logistic and intermodal junctions of the metropolitan area;</li> <li>▪ exploitation of the local and environmental energy resources;</li> <li>▪ formulation of a metropolitan energy plan;</li> <li>▪ developing joint intervention plans which concern other sectors aimed at strengthening social and economic cohesion.</li> </ul>
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	The EGTC does not yet have an annual work plan and has not yet implemented any EU projects.
<b>Budget for 2011</b>	<p>According to the Convention, 50% of the budget is provided from Italy and 50% from Slovenia. The initial capital is proportional to the number of inhabitants of the respective municipalities. Participation in projects financed by the Structural Funds or other funds will be subject to a resolution of the Assembly.</p> <p>The EGTC draws from its own funds to implement projects that are co-financed by the EU.</p> <p>The budget currently amounts to EUR 40,000.</p>
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	The EGTC is not operational yet and does not employ any staff.
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Public law of Italy
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<p>The EGTC is composed of an Assembly (with the President and Vice-President), a Director and two Permanent Committees (for now). The Assembly has 14 members: seven from the Italian side and seven from the Slovenian side (approved by the Town Councils).</p> <p>Decisions are taken by qualified majority.</p>
<b>Languages</b>	Italian, Slovenian
<b>URL</b>	<p>Website of the Municipality of Gorizia:</p> <p><a href="http://www3.comune.gorizia.it/it/gect-gruppo-europeo-di-cooperazione-territoriale">http://www3.comune.gorizia.it/it/gect-gruppo-europeo-di-cooperazione-territoriale</a></p>
<b>Contact</b>	<p>E-mail address: <a href="mailto:gect@comune.gorizia.it">gect@comune.gorizia.it</a></p> <p>Contact: Mr. Matej Arčon, Mayor of Nova Gorica City Municipality</p>

### **3.5.2 Developments on the ground:**

#### **The EGTC as a working structure**

The member municipalities believed that setting-up an EGTC is the best way to develop their cooperation, which dates back to 1964, when the first meeting between the administration of Gorizia and Nova Gorica took place. This exchange of opinions shed light on both the most important problems and the main goals of the region.

As time passed, the cooperation started to involve other municipalities and institutions along the border. This cooperation led to the so-called ‘Cross-Border Agreement’ in 1998, which later on became the ‘Protocol of Cooperation’ further to the acknowledgement from the Italian and Slovenian Governments. In March 1999, this protocol expanded to the new Municipality of Šempeter-Vrtojba. In time, cross-border cooperation among the three border towns focused above all on the situation of this vast urbanized area located between the two states. Therefore, in 2002 the mayors of the municipalities of Gorizia, Nova Gorica and Šempeter-Vrtojba created the “three Towns Council”. The “three Towns Councils” was accompanied by a more direct cooperation programme among the three municipalities. It was based on periodical meetings throughout the year aiming at facing the most important problems of common interest, in order to take joint decisions. Thanks to the review in 2008 of the Agreement formalised in 2005 by the three municipalities regarding the activity of the “three Town Councils,” the cooperation has become even more frequent over the past two-year period. The Agreement aimed at rationalising the functions of the “three Town Councils”.

The EGTC was finally created in September 2011 and is not yet entirely operational.

#### **Financing and managing the EGTC**

The initial budget was based on contributions from the municipalities. The budget currently amounts to EUR 40,000. A supervisory committee has financial control.

The EGTC is not yet entirely operational. The first meeting of the Assembly is scheduled for the 3 February 2012.

## **Current major activities**

Given that the EGTC is not yet operational, its priorities are to set-up the management structure, securing its financial framework and planning its first projects and activities.

## **Milestones ahead**

The first official meeting of the EGTC is to take place in early February 2012. Decisions on the work plan, the management and financing as well as PR and communication activities will be taken then.

### **3.5.3 Key findings:**

#### **Lessons learnt**

The decision to establish the EGTC was based on the need to strengthen the framework of cooperation between the members that have been working together for several decades.

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

The objective of cooperating in the framework of the EGTC is to facilitate territorial cooperation activities within different national legislation and procedures of member municipalities and countries.

#### **Challenges**

The challenge in setting up the EGTC consisted in the long wait for approval by the Italian Government.



## 3.6 EGTC Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino

### 3.6.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	EVTZ “Europaregion Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino” GECT “EUREGIO Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino”
<b>Acronym</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	Supporting the historical and cultural bond between the member regions through cooperation across various policy fields including energy, the green corridor Brenner, economy Brenner, health, tourism, education, youth, academia and research.
<b>History and current status</b>	<p>The members have a long history of cooperation. Before becoming an EGTC in 2011, the members had just formed a European Region and worked on concrete common projects (e.g. a common stand at the World Exhibition 2000).</p> <p>While the application for the regulation took place in 2006, the three Provinces’ Government (Dreier Landtag) decided in October 2009 to create an EGTC.</p> <p>On the 23 December 2009, the joint office was established in Bolzano (for the Euroregion). On the 28th of April 2011, the Euroregion got the official permission from the Italian Government to establish the EGTC. The Statute and the Convention were signed by the heads of the regional governments on 14 June 2011. The documents had then to be sent back to the authorities in Rome and the EGTC could only be officially registered on 13 September 2011. Also, in September 2011, the establishment of the EGTC was published in the Official Journal of the European Union.</p> <p>The first meeting of the Board and the Assembly took place on the 13 October 2011.</p>
<b>Countries involved</b>	<u>Italy</u> , Austria
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	The seat of the EGTC is in Bolzano, Italy (no other operative units).
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<p>a. Land Tyrol</p> <p>b. The Autonomous Province of Bolzano – South Tyrol</p> <p>c. The Autonomous Province of Trento</p>
<b>Key indicators</b>	<p>1,695,130 Inhabitants</p> <p>Surface: 26,255 km<sup>2</sup></p>
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The members have a long history of cooperation and the EGTC provides a stable and concrete legal basis for acting as one in national, international and European settings.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	None at the moment.
<b>Duration</b>	According to the Convention, the duration is limited to 15 years with a possibility to prolong for 15 years. The duration of an EGTC must be limited according to Italian public law.
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>According to the Convention and the Statute, the key objectives are to strengthen the economic, social and cultural cooperation between the citizens of the member regions and to strengthen territorial development, with a focus on the following policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education (strengthening communication between pupils; development of language classes, joint training for teaching staff)</li> <li>▪ Culture (e.g. create a cross-border culture prize)</li> <li>▪ Energy (e.g. support alternative energy sources)</li> <li>▪ Sustainable mobility (e.g. support the green Corridor Brenner)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health (common initiatives and prevention campaigns)</li> <li>▪ Research and Innovation (common networks)</li> <li>▪ Economy (support entrepreneurship, especially SME; tourism)</li> <li>▪ Mountain agriculture and environment.</li> <li>▪ Youth.</li> </ul> <p>Other objectives include the participation of the member regions in ETC and other EU programmes as well as their representation in community and national institutions.</p>
<b>Tasks</b>	The EGTC became operational in January 2012. Part of the planned projects are directly carried out and financed by the EGTC. In contrast, eight ‘coordinated’ projects are financed by the regional governments.
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	The EGTC plans to apply for EU-funding, however not as lead partner yet in 2012.
<b>Budget for 2011</b>	The 3 members financed the staff and the common office. With the constitution of the EGTC there is a yearly budget that has to be approved by the Board. The budget consists of a membership fee. The membership fee amounts to EUR 100,000 per member for 2012 adding up to a total of EUR 300,000. If approved by the Board, the membership fee is foreseen to amount to EUR 450,000 in 2013 and EUR 600,000 in 2014. The ‘coordinated’ projects are financed by the three members without influencing the EGTC budget.
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	There are four employees (one from Trento, one from Tyrol and two from South Tyrol). The EGTC is also supported by the regional governments.
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Italian public law.
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Assembly is composed of 12 members: the governors and one additional member from each of the three regional governments, the President and one additional member from the three regional parliaments. Each member has one vote. Decisions are made by two-thirds majority. The Assembly meets at least once a year. It decides on major developments of the EGTC (membership, changes in the Convention/Statute) and the budget.</li> <li>▪ The Board is composed of the governors of the members. Each of them has one vote; the decisions are also taken by a two-thirds majority. The Board decides upon expenses, the budget and monitors the developments of the EGTC.</li> <li>▪ The President rotates every two years between partner regions (the order of rotation is: the Autonomous province of Bolzano-South Tyrol, Tyrol, the Autonomous Province of Trento). The President chairs the Assembly, represents the EGTC, decides on the expenses and the budget, and proposes the yearly work programme.</li> <li>▪ The Secretary General, who rotates every two years in the same order as the President, is mainly responsible for all changes in the budget, prepares the Assembly meetings, supports the President in his duties, and organizes the duties to be carried out by the staff.</li> <li>▪ College of Auditors: It is set up every six years. It is responsible for accounting and financial management and monitoring.</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	German, Italian.
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.euoparegion.info">http://www.euoparegion.info</a>

<b>Contact</b>	Drususallee 1 I-39100 Bozen Tel.: +39 0471 402026 Fax.: +39 0471 405016 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@europaregion.info">info@europaregion.info</a>
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### **3.6.2 Developments on the ground:**

#### **The EGTC as a working structure**

The partners of this EGTC have had a relationship that “goes beyond good neighbourhood” according to the welcome message on the official website.

In fact, the members have been working together within the framework of a Euregion and have decided to establish an EGTC in order to have a proper joint office and a legal identity. This allows the members to act together jointly as one legal unity.

On 14 October 2010 the request to participate to an EGTC was sent to the Council of Ministers in Rome. On 28 April 2011, after some modification of the Convention and Statute, the Euregion received official permission by the Italian Government to establish the EGTC. With the registration of the EGTC in the registers at the Italian Council of Ministers on 13 September and in the register at the Committee of the Regions and the publication of the convention and statute of the EGTC in the Official Journal of Italy and of the European Union, the process was completed.

The EGTC is operational starting from January 2012. The first meeting of the Board took place on the 13 October 2011.

Several projects are planned to be carried out, and the EGTC plans to apply for EU-funding (as project partners rather than lead partners in 2012). The first work programme has been adopted. The activities included in the programme mainly relate to communication/ PR activities, as well as organisational and administrative tasks. Furthermore, cross-border conferences are planned to be held on the topics of culture, education, youth, health, etc.

#### **Financing and managing the EGTC**

There is a yearly budget that has to be approved by the Assembly and it is composed of a membership fee and public funds from the regional governments. The membership fee amounts to EUR 100,000 per member for 2012 adding up to a total of EU 300,000. If approved by the Board, the membership fee is foreseen to amount to EUR 450,000 in 2013 and EUR 600,000 in 2014.

According to Italian law, the duration of EGTC cannot be undetermined, which is why the EGTC must be limited to 15 years and can be prolonged for 15 years again.

### **Current major activities**

The EGTC is still in its starting phase and therefore focuses on setting up its organisation, administration and PR/communication activities. For PR and communication activities, the EGTC will provide a budget of EUR 140,000 and for the planned direct projects it will provide a budget of EUR 160,000.

According to the recently adopted annual work programme, the EGTC plans to undertake activities related to:

- Corporate identity
- Homepage and media presence
- Euroregion day
- Energy alliance conference
- Magazine on the Euroregion
- Map of the Euroregion
- Tourism (focus on skiing)
- History book (one bi-lingual and one English version)
- Exhibition of contemporary artists from the Euroregion
- Youth festival and exchange of pupils
- Education forum (with focus on further education for teaching staff)
- Participation in the European Forum Alpbach.

In addition, the EGTC will carry out eight ‘coordinated’ projects financed by the regional governments on various topics, including mobility, health, social security and tourism.

The EGTC is planning to apply for EU cofinancing, but not in the role of the lead partner at least in 2012.

### **Milestones ahead**

In addition to setting up and developing the EGTC in terms of organisational management, financing, corporate identity and PR, the EGTC hopes to apply for EU funding and to cooperate with other EGTC on common projects as well as European networks.

### **3.6.3 Key findings:**

#### **Lessons learnt**

The regions are certain to benefit from the characteristics of the EGTC in acquiring a legal identity and strengthening their joint position in national, European and international settings.

#### **Challenges**

The changes that will come from the new regulations will determine the future developments of the EGTC. For instance, the EGTC hopes to be able to cooperate with other EGTC on joint projects of common interest. This will also influence the access to EU funds.

During the process of founding the EGTC “Europaregion Tirol – Alto Adige – Trentino”, the evaluation process regarding the EGTC regulation (1082/2006) has started. Due to the intense discussions at European, national and regional level, the first improvements have already been proposed. The EGTC “Europaregion Tirol - Alto Adige – Trentino” suggests ensuring that, in future, the EGTC have access to direct financing from the European Union to guarantee the realisation of all the various cross-border projects for which they are constituted.

In addition, it would be necessary to specify in detail that the EGTC could act independently on behalf of several States (Members of the EGTC), for example, whenever there are project requests by lead partners for INTERREG V programs Italy-Austria (2014-2020).

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

The EGTC strengthens a long-standing area of cooperation and thereby supports the economic, social and political cohesion of the entire territory.

## 3.7 Linieland van Waas en Hulst EGTC

### 3.7.1 Key Facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	Linieland van Waas en Hulst EGTC with limited liability
<b>Acronym</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	Reducing administrative, political and economic borders between Flanders and the neighbouring Dutch regions.
<b>History and current status</b>	<p>The cooperation between Dutch and Flemish local and regional governments dates back to the early 1990s in an informal form named the ‘International Government Organisation’ (IGO). This form of cooperation, however, was not concrete. When a study on the region (the topic being the environmental impacts of the Port of Antwerp) was commissioned two years ago, the local and regional governments in question realised that projects concerning the whole border region could not be carried out individually but merely in a concrete structure of cooperation. Creating the EGTC was the best way to build a concrete framework for implementing common projects, in a form of cooperation that allows for all stakeholders (authorities from various administrative levels) to take decisions as equals.</p> <p>The constitutive act of the EGTC was published last 18 August in the Belgian Official Journal (Belgisch Staatsblad – Moniteur Belge). This is the first EGTC created under Belgian Law, and the first one created with Dutch partners. The signature of the convention took place last 15 June 2011.</p> <p>The EGTC is still in its starting phase; working on two main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Setting-up the organization of the EGTC (administration, functioning)</li> <li>▪ Activating the programmes and projects planned.</li> </ul> <p>The convention and statute of the EGTC are available in Dutch at the moment.</p>
<b>Countries involved</b>	<u>Belgium</u> , Netherlands
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	The seat and all operational units are located in Sint-Gillis-Waas (Flanders, Belgium).
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<p>The EGTC encompasses four towns, and is supported by the two provinces in which these towns are situated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Municipality of Beveren (BE)</li> <li>b. Municipality of Sint-Gillis-Waas (BE)</li> <li>c. Municipality of Stekene (BE)</li> <li>d. Municipality of Hulst (NL)</li> <li>e. Province of Oost-Vlaanderen (BE)</li> <li>f. Province of Zeeland (NL)</li> <li>g. Interwaas (Intermunicipal partnership for the Waasland region in Flanders)</li> </ol> <p>The EGTC works within and therefore in close cooperation with the local government of Sint-Gillis-Waas.</p>
<b>Key indicators</b> (inhabitants, surface area)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Population: approx. 110,000 inhabitants</li> <li>b. Surface: The territory of the EGTC is limited to the territories of its four towns: Beveren (150.15 km<sup>2</sup>), Hulst (251.09 km<sup>2</sup>), Sint-Gillis-Waas (54.98 km<sup>2</sup>), and Stekene (44.8 km<sup>2</sup>). Consequentially, the total territory of the EGTC is 501.02 km<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ol>
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	<p>The decisive factor for establishing the EGTC was to create a framework in which relevant stakeholders can work and take decisions on the same level. In the framework of the EGTC, local governments have more opportunities to apply for EU funding and to participate in decision-making processes than in the past.</p>

<b>Enlargement intents</b>	At the moment, the EGTC is still in its starting phase and therefore does not have any concrete enlargement plans yet. However, the idea is for more municipalities and border-regions to join and enlarge the EGTC.
<b>Duration of the EGTC</b>	According to its Statute, the EGTC Linieland van Waas en Hulst was established in June 2011 for a period of eighteen years. However, its operational time can be prolonged.
<b>Objectives</b>	There are two main objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support trans-border dialogue and trans-border cooperation between the participants</li> <li>▪ Carry out common projects</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	There are 11 projects that are either currently being carried out or planned for implementation within the next months and years.
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	The EGTC aims to strengthen cooperation and reduce the administrative, economic, political and social borders between the Flemish and Dutch partner regions. For the moment, there is only one project (on mobility and transport) co-financed by the EU (Interreg). The Interreg project is called “Project R5A – verbeteren grensovergang Kapellebrug” (Project R5A – improving the border crossing at Kapellebrug), and it is part of the larger Project R5, dealing with transport and mobility in the border region. (see: <a href="http://vnsc.eu/uploads/2011/01/aangepasteindrapportbeverenulst.pdf">http://vnsc.eu/uploads/2011/01/aangepasteindrapportbeverenulst.pdf</a> ) The EGTC is, however, planning to apply for EU funds for some of its other projects as well.
<b>Budget for 2011</b>	The budget is separated in two parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administrative costs (staff, administration, physical resources, etc): around EUR 115,000.</li> <li>▪ Project costs: Project costs are determined separately for each project. For Project R5A, dealing with transport and mobility in the border region, the budget is around EUR 1 million.</li> </ul>
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	There is currently only one person working for the EGTC which is the Director himself. Given that the Director works for and within the local government of Sint-Gillis-Waas, administrative and accounting tasks are carried out by staff of the local government. The staff situation is expected to change as the EGTC develops.
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Belgian public law.
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	The EGTC is composed of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One Assembly composed of 1 representative (mayor or deputy) from each partner region/municipality. The Assembly meets once every three months. Up until now, the Assembly has met three times. The next meeting is to take place in February 2012.</li> <li>▪ One Director</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	Dutch
<b>URL</b>	The EGTC is currently working on its website. It should be launched in the summer of 2012.
<b>Contact</b>	Richard Meersschaert, Projectdirecteur EGTS Linieland van Waas en Hulst Burgemeester Omer De Meyplein 1, 9170 Sint-Gillis-Waas - België Tel.: 0032 (0)3 727 17 18 / 0032(0)479549623; fax 0032 (0)3 707 03 40 <a href="mailto:richard.meersschaert@sint-gillis-waas.be">richard.meersschaert@sint-gillis-waas.be</a>

### **3.7.2 Developments on the ground:**

#### **The EGTC as a working structure**

The establishment of the EGTC in both legal and political terms has been very smoothly and quick. This is thanks to the preexistence of cooperation (the information organization ‘International Government Organisation) between the partner regions, and thanks to the fact that the partners had concrete objectives and projects in mind for the EGTC. Moreover, the partners share a common language. The EGTC has been set up in merely eight months.

Having been founded in mid-2011, the EGTC is still in its starting phase; working on two main points:

- Setting-up the organisation of the EGTC (administration, functioning)
- Activating the programmes and projects planned.

#### **Financing and managing the EGTC**

The EGTC is composed of one Director and an Assembly composed of a representative from each partner town or region. Decisions are taken by consensus, but it has been agreed in the statute that whenever there is a problem, a decision can only be taken if a majority of the Dutch partners agree. The system seems to be working very well, bearing in mind that the EGTC is still in its starting phase.

The EGTC is rather small at the moment, which is why there are no operational units beyond the seat in Sint-Gillis-Waas in Flanders. The EGTC is under the responsibility of the Flemish authority/government and located within the local government of Sint-Gillis-Waas.

The budget is separated in two parts:

- Administrative costs (staff, administration, physical resources, etc): The administrative costs are paid yearly by each partner in proportion to their number of inhabitants. This part of the budget amounts to around EUR 115,000.
- Project costs: The budget for implementing programmes and projects is covered only by those partners who participate in a given project. This part of the budget is determined specifically for each project. For Project R5A, dealing with transport and mobility in the border region, the budget is around EUR 1 million.



For the moment, there is only project (on mobility and transport) co-financed by the EU (Interreg). The EGTC is, however, planning to apply for EU funds for some of its other projects as well.

### **Current major activities**

There are 11 projects at the moment that are either currently implemented or to be carried out in the coming months and years.

The main projects are the following:

- One project with three sub-projects: common libraries; after-school activities and cultural cooperation
- Project on education: Given that children in Belgium start school at the age of 2 and children in the Netherlands start school at the age of 4, the region has witnessed many children from the Netherlands being sent to Belgian schools. This resulted in empty class rooms in Dutch border- towns and border-regions. The project consists of a study analysing this phenomenon in order to find common solutions.
- Project on tourism and recreation: This project consists of creating a master plan for tourism and recreation and is to be carried out within the next months. The project highlights the importance of the cultural and historic heritage that is common to the partner regions. The idea is to show that the borders that had been created in 1600-1700 between Flemish and Dutch regions are now fading in the framework of more intense cooperation and connections. This idea is at the origins of the name of the EGTC ‘Linieland’.
- Project on economic cooperation: This project consists of increasing the knowledge of economic and entrepreneurial opportunities that exist within the regions of the EGTC. The ultimate aim is to strengthen economic cooperation between the partner regions. The project is scheduled to be carried out in the second half of 2012.

The EGTC is also currently implementing an Interreg project called “Project R5A – verbeteren grensovergang Kapellebrug” (Project R5A – improving the border crossing at Kapellebrug), which is part of the larger Project R5, dealing with transport and mobility in the border region. The project R5A started in 2010 and it should be entirely finished by the end of 2014. The budget is EUR 1,025,000.

The EGTC is planning to apply for co-financing for its other projects too, such as the economic project, given that it has a strong aspect of regional cooperation.

### **Milestones ahead**

A communication plan and strategy are to be decided upon in the assembly meeting in February 2012. The EGTC plans to undertake communication activities (e.g. newsletter, information events) to inform the inhabitants of the region on the nature, goals and activities of the EGTC.

### **3.7.3 Key findings:**

#### **Lessons learnt**

- The EGTC constitutes an effective way to establish a framework for fast, concrete and easy cooperation in areas of common interest to all parties.
- Establishing an EGTC can take only a few months if the parties involved have cooperated in the past and if founding members are familiar with the administrative, cultural and political characteristics of the partner-country.

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

Creating the EGTC was the best way to build a concrete framework for implementing common projects, in a form of cooperation that allows for all stakeholders (authorities from various administrative levels) to take decisions together.

The EGTC aims to strengthen the cooperation and reduce the administrative, economic, political and social borders between the Flemish and Dutch partner regions.

#### **Challenges**

Establishing the EGTC has run rather smoothly. The next steps include implementation of planned projects, and access to EU-funds will allow future developments.

## 3.8 Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC

### 3.8.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC
<b>Acronym</b>	RDV EGTC
<b>Summary</b>	The objective of the RDV EGTC is to strengthen cooperation and support the regions' development in a wide range of policy areas.
<b>History and current status</b>	<p>The representatives of the governments of the Győr-Moson-Sopron County, the Komárom-Esztergom County and the Trnava District recognised that the international cooperation offers efficient and lasting solutions for EU, regional and district level tasks and challenges. Taking into consideration that there are many common useful cross-border project ideas prepared to ameliorate the life standards of the inhabitants in the regions concerned, the presidents of the member counties signed the Declaration of Intent on establishing the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC on 10 June 2011. The member counties also recognised that the area of operation between the parties almost entirely covers the Hungarian-Slovak joint section of the Danube, with a natural and useful frame to be provided for its utilization by the European Danube Strategy as of 2014.</p> <p>The EGTC's Convention and Statute were signed on 20 September 2011 and the EGTC was officially registered on 10 December 2011. The operational structures of EGTC were set up by the end of 2011. The works contracts with director and the secretary of the RDV EGTC were concluded and the office of EGTC in Tatabánya was opened by the end of December 2011. Currently the EGTC is working on organizing a cross-border conference to present the establishment of the EGTC.</p>
<b>Countries involved</b>	<u>Hungary</u> , Slovakia.
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	Tatabánya (HU) There are no operational units in either city, but the secretary of the EGTC is flexible and communicates on a daily basis with all founders and actors.
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The county of Győr-Moson-Sopron (HU)</li> <li>▪ The county of Komárom-Esztergom (HU)</li> <li>▪ The Self-governing Region of Trnava (SK)</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b>	<p><u>Inhabitants:</u> The EGTC territory counts 1,360,000 inhabitants in total.</p> <p><u>Surface:</u> County of Győr-Moson-Sopron (HU): 4 088,70 km<sup>2</sup> County of Komárom-Esztergom (HU): 2 265,08 km<sup>2</sup> Self-governing Region of Trnava (SK): 4 148 km<sup>2</sup> Total: 10 501,78 km<sup>2</sup></p>
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multi-level governance</b>	According to the Declaration of Intent on establishing the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC, one of the main goals of the EGTC is the utilisation and cooperation in the frame of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

<b>Enlargement intents</b>	In order to eventually cover the whole border territory between Slovakia and Hungary, the EGTC would like to include the Nitra county. The founders of the EGTC will take the necessary steps after the first General Assembly meeting towards the enlargement of the EGTC.
<b>Duration</b>	According to the Convention, the duration is undetermined.
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>According to the statute, the objectives are to support and develop the territorial cooperation with a view to reinforcing economic and social cohesion. The objective is to coordinate and develop strategies related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Energy</li> <li>▪ Information technology</li> <li>▪ Mobility and transport</li> <li>▪ Tourism</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Culture</li> <li>▪ Sports</li> <li>▪ Managing joint projects of common interest</li> <li>▪ Better use of the natural and cultural heritage of the Danube Region</li> <li>▪ Developing entrepreneurship and supporting SMEs</li> <li>▪ Environment and agriculture</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the EGTC aims to focus on accessing EU cofinancing through programmes and projects of regional cooperation.</p>
<b>Tasks</b>	<p>The main task of the EGTC is to attract EU and other funding in order to implement planned activities and achieve its ultimate objectives. As the RDV EGTC is brand-new, the management is still working on annual work programmes. The EGTC has a short-term plan with activities to be carried out until the 31 May 2012. The main document to be prepared within this period is the Common Development Strategy of the EGTC, which will be the basis for preparing new projects of EGTC.</p>
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	No projects have been implemented so far.
<b>Budget for 2011</b>	<p>The budget has not been collected yet. According to the Statute of the RDV EGTC, EUR 1000 Euro/member will be collected immediately after the start of the activities of the EGTC. The membership fee is EUR 3,500/year/county.</p> <p>The annual budget is composed of membership fee of EUR 3,500/member/ year, and from projects and operational activities (HUF 13,000,000).</p> <p>Financial control is carried out according to Hungarian national rules.</p>
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	<p>The EGTC currently employs two employees (work contracts):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The director of EGTC - from Slovakia</li> <li>▪ The secretary of the EGTC - from Slovakia</li> </ul>

<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Public law of Hungary.
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<p>The EGTC is composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The General Assembly,</li> <li>▪ The director,</li> <li>▪ professional committees,</li> <li>▪ the secretary and</li> <li>▪ the board of supervision.</li> </ul> <p>The executive officers of the EGTC are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the president,</li> <li>▪ the vice-president,</li> <li>▪ the heads of the professional committees,</li> <li>▪ the members of the board of supervision.</li> </ul> <p>According to the Statute of Rába- Duna –Vág EGTC the president and the vice-president of the EGTC is elected for two years. The director of the EGTC is nominated for ensuring the everyday working of the EGTC.</p> <p>The decisions of the general assembly are made unanimously.</p> <p>No meetings have taken place so far.</p>
<b>Languages</b>	Hungarian, Slovak and English
<b>URL</b>	The website of the RDV EGTC is currently under preparation.
<b>Contact</b>	Ms. Gabriella Nagy ( <a href="mailto:nagy.gabriella@kemoh.hu">nagy.gabriella@kemoh.hu</a> ) Ms Zusana Andrassy ( <a href="mailto:zuzanaandrassy@yahoo.co.uk">zuzanaandrassy@yahoo.co.uk</a> )

### 3.8.2 Developments on the ground:

#### The EGTC as a working structure

The idea to establish the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC was born at the end of 2010. The Declaration of Intent on establishing the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC was signed on 10 June 2011. The Court of Budapest adopted the decision on establishing the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC on the 24 November 2011. The decision became legally binding on the 10 December 2012. The operational structures were set up by the end of 2011. Next, the work contracts with the director and the secretary were concluded and the office of EGTC in Tatabánya was opened.

The long process of establishment was not due to the incompatibilities between the regional/national legislations of the two member countries. Instead, the long lasting process of adoption of the EGTC's Convention and Statute by the Slovak Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development presented the main challenge in this process.

## **Financing and managing the EGTC**

The budget is composed of membership fees, an operational budget and project-based budget. One of the main goals of the EGTC is accessing EU funding (EU or other) in order to implement planned projects. In March 2012 the Ministry of Public Affairs and Justice of Hungary is planning to publish Calls for ideas for covering the operational costs of EGTC, and Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC will prepare a project within with a minimum budget of HUF 20,000,000.

The EGTC currently counts two employees (of Slovak nationality) who were employed by Hungarian law. There were some administrative difficulties with arranging the tax numbers for Slovak citizens, but all problems have been resolved.

### **Current major activities**

Up until now, no meetings have taken place and no projects have been carried out. As the RDV EGTC is still brand new, the management is still working on an annual work programme. The EGTC has a short-term plan with activities to be carried out until 31 May 2012. The main document to be prepared within this period is the Common Development Strategy of the EGTC, which will be the basis for preparing new projects of the EGTC. The areas of intervention are:

- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Information technology
- Automotive business
- Tourism
- Education
- Culture
- Sports
- The program management of joint projects
- Developments related to the Danube and its tributary
- Logistics
- Support for SMEs
- Environmental protection and agriculture

### **Milestones ahead**

- PR: A conference will be organised in the beginning of 2012 to advertise the new EGTC. A publication about the EGTC will be issued in Hungarian, Slovak and English. Within the project for setting up the EGTC, a part of the

budget is foreseen for financing publicity/public relations activities. The secretary of the EGTC is responsible for the PR activities.

- Identifying, developing and implementing projects
- Possible enlargement (the goal is to ultimately include the county of Nitra into the EGTC)

### **3.8.3 Key findings:**

#### **Lessons learnt**

The value-added of the EGTC is that thanks to its legal and political power, it will be able to attract national and EU funding more easily than if each member were to apply individually.

#### **Challenges**

The challenges faced by the EGTC at the moment are still at a purely organisational/establishment level. In fact, first meetings and the first steps towards implementing projects and activities or applying for funding will show the functioning of the decision-making and financing structure of the EGTC.

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

The projects implemented by EGTC will contribute to the overall social cohesion of this territory.

Moreover, the Declaration of Intent on establishing the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC clearly states that one of the main goals of the EGTC is to cooperate within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.





## 4. Review of the activity of the EGTCs constituted before 2011:

### 4.1. EGTC Eurométropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai

#### 4.1.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	Groupement européen de coopération territoriale Eurométropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai
<b>Acronym</b>	Eurométropole / Eurometropool
<b>Summary</b>	Functional area of the metropole of Lille (FR, Nord - Pas de Calais; Lille Metropole), Picardian Wallony (BE, Wallony; Tournai, Mouscron and Ath arrondissements) and South and Middle West Flanders (BE, Flanders; Kortrijk, Roeselare, Ieper and Tielt arrondissements).
<b>History and current status</b>	<p>The EGTC was established in January 2008</p> <p>From 1991 on the Franco-Belgian metropolitan project was covered by the Cross-border Standing Conference of Inter-municipal Organisations (COPIT). In 2001, COPIT was structured into a voluntary association under French Law.</p> <p>2002: French-Belgian Treaty for the cross-border cooperation between local authorities</p> <p>2005-2006: Working group composed of 12 members of the French and Belgian Parliaments (6+6), which resulted in June 2006 in the proposal to build up a cross-border governance with 14 members</p> <p>28 November 2006: First meeting of the Comité Constitutif with elected representatives of the 14 members</p> <p>19 March 2007: Common declaration for the setting up of the Lille Kortrijk Tournai Eurométropole</p> <p>October 2007-January 2008: Official decisions of the 14 members to join the EGTC</p> <p>22 January 2008: Creation of the legal body by the French Regional Prefect</p> <p>28 January 2008: First Assembly meeting: election of the Board, the President, the three Vice-Presidents and vote of budget for 2008</p> <p>Halfway 2010 the EGTC installed a permanent director general and the operational seat in Kortrijk, Belgium</p> <p>During 2011 a multi-cultural team of 11 staff members started to create and to coordinate the implementation of a 3-step plan for coherent and durable cross-border actions and strategy</p>
<b>Countries involved</b>	FR, BE
<b>Seat of the EGTC (and operational units)</b>	<p>Operational Headquarters of the Agency of the Eurométropole : Kortrijk, Casinoplein 10, 8500</p> <p>Official Seat: Lille, 1, rue du Ballon – BP 745 – F 59034 Cedex</p> <p>Seat of the Eurometropole Forum of Civil Society : Tournai, Hotel de Ville</p>
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FR: French State, La Région Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Le Département du Nord, Lille Métropole Communauté urbaine (intermunicipal public entity including city of Lille and 84 municipalities)</li> <li>▪ BE: Federal State; Flemish Région and Community, the Province of West-Flanders; Leiedal Intercommunality; WVI Intercommunality wvi; Walloon Region, the French Community of Belgium, the Province of Hainaut, Ideta Intercommunality, IEG Intercommunality</li> </ul>

<b>Key indicators</b>	Surface area: 3.533,5 Km <sup>2</sup> (France: 612 Km <sup>2</sup> , Wallonia: 1.367,7 Km <sup>2</sup> , Flanders: 1.553,8 Km <sup>2</sup> ) Inhabitants: 2,1 million (France: 1,2 million, Wallonia: 0,3 million, Flanders: 0,6)
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The territory covers 147 municipalities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FR: Lille Métropole Communauté urbaine (87);</li> <li>▪ BE-Wallonia: Three arrondissements (Mouscron, Tournai, Ath); communes de Lessines, Silly et Enghien.</li> <li>▪ BE-Flandre: Four arrondissements (Kortrijk, Ieper, Roeselare, Tielt).</li> </ul>
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	Municipalities which are not situated in the reference area and are either bordering or near may become “associate working members”. No enlargement scheduled.
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited
<b>Objectives</b>	Promoting and supporting cross-border co-operation. Involving competent institutions, ensuring harmonization, dialogue and favoring political discussion; producing cross-border coherence; facilitating, developing and carrying out projects according to the commonly prepared development strategy; improving the quality of life of the inhabitants of the French-Belgian reference area. Developing a coherent strategic approach for the specific dynamics of iconic cross-border area on the Old Continent with a strong bottom up lever for the local authorities, to link up their priorities as much as possible with the policies of the higher authorities and with the EU 2020 objectives
<b>Tasks</b>	Decision-making mechanisms of the EGTC: Firstly there are two main operating principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Double Parity : Parity between France and Belgium; and within Belgium parity between the French- and Dutch-speaking regions</li> <li>▪ Application of the French/Dutch bilingualism</li> </ul> There are four principle tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring inter-institutional dialogue and promoting political debate</li> <li>▪ Producing cross-border consistency throughout the entire territory</li> <li>▪ Facilitating, managing and realising projects</li> <li>▪ Facilitating the daily life of citizens</li> </ul>
<b>ETC projects</b>	No data
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	In 2011, total expenses are at around 1.413.000 EUR, while in 2012 the Eurrometropole has budgeted to spend for about 2.004.000 EUR. Revenues are mainly the contributions of the 14 partners, according to the principle of parity among partners – 50/50 split between FR and BE partners, with the following allocation within the two states: France: LMCU 25%, Région 10%, Département 10%, State of France 5% Belgium: Flandre 21,43%, Wallonie 21,43%, State of Belgium 7,14% Other revenues are coming from project-oriented funds like Interreg. For 2013, total normal expenses are scheduled at 1.867.000 EUR, of which 1.500.000 should be covered by the contributions of the partners.
<b>Staff</b>	Eleven persons
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Public law
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Executive Management Committee with one president and three vice-presidents</li> <li>▪ The Bureau, consisting of 32 members and the executive body of the EGTC</li> <li>▪ An Assembly with 84 members (elects the Bureau, the president, the 3 vice-presidents, annual budget and launches the recruitment of the technical team)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cross-Border Agency, which ensures the administrative and technical work of the Eurométropole)</li> </ul> <p>The agency is a.o. responsible for six permanent thematic working groups, wich develop the specific tasks and strategic issues for the EGTC.</p>
<b>Languages</b>	French and Dutch
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.eurometropolis.eu">www.eurometropolis.eu</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:ira.keirsbilck@eurometropolis.eu">ira.keirsbilck@eurometropolis.eu</a>

## 4.1.2 Developments on the ground

### The EGTC as a working structure

The current management team of the Eurometropolis consists of eleven persons. The team has a mixed nationality with members of each participating country.

The official seat of the EGTC is located in Lille, France; whereas the operational services are based in Kortrijk, and the seat of the Forum of Civil Society is based at Tournai. The principle of double-parity applies to the functioning and composition of the organs, between the French and the Belgian sides, and parity between the Flemish and the Walloon sides within Belgium.

The EGTC comprises 14 partners (see fact sheet) and all institutional levels are involved in this cross-border cooperation process. There has also been established a **conference of all the Mayors** of the municipalities.

The **Eurometropolis Forum** ensures the link with the civil society. It brings together 60 representatives comprising the fields of economy, social policy, education or cultural networks.

The **Assembly** of the Eurométropole with its 84 members elects the Executive Management Committee with the president and three vice-presidents (Ms Martine Aubry, Mr Stefaan De Clerck, Mr Rudy Demotte and Mr Gilles Pargneaux). It also votes the annual budget and is responsible for recruitment issues. The Executive Management Committee, the Assembly and the Bureau (32 members) are based on the double parity system.

**The Agency** counts 11 staff, under the management of the director-general Mr Stef Vande Meulebroucke, seconded by ywo deputy directors, four policy integrators, two project coordinators, and two secretaries. The recruitment of a specialist for audiovisual and multimedia management is under way.

## **Financing and managing the EGTC**

Given the fact that the Agency started working gradually, there was a budgetary surplus in 2011 that will reduce the normal quota for 2012.

### **Current major activities**

There are six thematic working groups of the Eurométropole:

- Economic development, jobs, professional training, research
- Cultural development and influence
- Accessibility and mobility
- Public services
- Territorial strategy
- Tourist development and attractiveness

Each official working group is composed by one political and one technical delegate of each member, complemented with four delegates of the Forum of Civil Society.

More than 70 concrete actions are included in the document 'Eurometropolis: Actions and Strategy 2012-2013' available in the website of the Grouping.

### **Milestones ahead**

- The political group 'Europa' has entrusted the Agency to prepare a strategic program 2014-2020, to be drafted by the members of the Eurometropolis and the Civil Society Forum.
- A Task Force 'Eurometropolis 2030' composed by senior officials, politicians and experienced planned work on the long term perspective, in a three-fold action: Vision of the Eurometropolis; involvement of the population in a tangible way via the 'Blue Network'; 'Metropolisation', organization of local conferences followed by an international scientific conference about cross-border areas, leading to the 'General States' of the Eurometropolis.

### **4.1.3 Key findings**

#### **Lessons learnt:**

In the context of the implementation of the Action Plan 2012-2013, it is important to make a clear division between the role of the Agency and the role of the members. The Agency often adopts a role of facilitator and coordinator, and the members implement the projects.

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

The Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai is a multi-level governance structure, involving from local to national level, and has a direct link with the civil society via the Forum. This ensures that the projects are fully supported. The actors gradually build a real cross-border integrated territory. The legal personality as EGTC represents a leap forward to the long-term perspective.

#### **Challenges**

A strategy in three steps: The Eurometropolis intends to begin with short-term concrete projects ('Actions and Strategy 2012-2013'), then work on the Strategic Program 2014-2020, and finally the document 'Eurometropolis 2030' will allow to consolidate the Eurometropolis of the 21st century.

Secondly, with a view to the next programming period, is it important to reinforce the recognition of the EGTC at EU level so the groupings can be considered as transnational partnerships when applying to calls for proposals. The EGTC has to be provided a place in the next generation of EU programmes and projects.

## 4.2 Ister Granum

### 4.2.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	(HU) Ister-Granum Korlátolt Felelősségű Európai Területi Együttműködési Csoportosulás (SK) Európske zoskupenie územnej spolupráce s ručením obmedzeným Ister-Granum. (EN) Ister-Granum European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation Ltd.
<b>Acronym</b>	Ister-Granum EGTC
<b>Summary</b>	Functional area around the cities of Esztergom (HU) and Štúrovo (SK)
<b>History and current status</b>	The twin cities Esztergom (Hungary) and Štúrovo (Slovakia) were connected by the Mária Valéria Bridge rebuilt in 2001 as the last of the bridges that were demolished in World War II. In 2000, the two frontier micro regions (33 settlements) concluded a cooperation agreement. The Ister-Granum Euroregion was later formed in 2003 by 100 local governments. In 2005 the euroregion prepared its own strategic. On 6 May 2008 the Ister-Granum EGTC was founded. The registration process of the EGTC terminated on 29 November 2008 when the announcement was published in the Official Journal of the EU.
<b>Countries involved</b>	Hungary and Slovakia
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	HU: 2500 Esztergom, Széchenyi tér 1
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	At the time of its establishment, the EGTC had 46 Hungarian and 39 Slovak members. Currently, the EGTC counts 85 members, 45 from Hungary and 40 from Slovakia.
<b>Key indicators</b>	85 members, around 189,000 inhabitants Maps and key figures can be found on the following link: <a href="http://istergranum.eu/ige_maps.pdf">http://istergranum.eu/ige_maps.pdf</a>
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	Administrative territories of the 85 member local governments. No further levels of government are involved.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	The EGTC currently counts 85 members but 3 of them intend to leave the co-operation. Since the former Euroregion was composed of 102 municipalities the goal is to reach the initial number.
<b>Duration</b>	Undetermined
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishing and maintaining the co-operation over the full range of regional development activities</li> <li>▪ Promoting and strengthening economic and social cohesion</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation of territorial cooperation projects co-financed by the European Union</li> <li>▪ Implementation of other specific actions and projects</li> <li>▪ Raising awareness of the competitive advantages of its operational territory</li> <li>▪ Strengthening the social and economic cohesion of the region</li> </ul>
<b>ETC projects</b>	No data

<b>Budget in 2011</b>	<p>The annual budget is composed ca. 80% of national payments and ca. 20% contributions from the members. It is only since late 2010, that the EGTC receives national funding. The 2011 annual budget of the EGTC was over 20 million HUF (close to EUR 74,000).</p> <p>Member authorities pay a membership fee of 20 Ft (ca. EUR 0,065) per inhabitant on annual basis. It is primarily used for the operational purposes. The sum of the membership fees in 2011 was 14,705.78 EUR.</p> <p>The expenditure of the EGTC in 2011 was 72,329.07 EUR.</p> <p>The financial control and the approval of the budget are undertaken by the General Assembly.</p> <p>In the future, the EGTC plans obtain its own revenues.</p>
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	3 employees and external experts (project-dependent). The EGTC undertakes outsourcing as much as possible.
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Public law (HU)
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<p><b>Main bodies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ General Assembly: main decision-making body; composed of the mayors from the member authorities. Most decisions are taken by simple majority, except for financial issues, questions on the participation in projects and the annual work plan, which require a 2/3 majority.</li> <li>■ Senate: The preparation of the decisions is the task of the eight-member Senate, and this body decides on more far-reaching matters in between the meetings of the General Assembly. The members of the Senate are the executive chair and deputy chair, and 6 further mayors (3 from Hungary and 3 from Slovakia) elected by the General Assembly for two years.</li> <li>■ Director: The operational work is carried out by the Director elected by the GA for 4 years with support of an administrative body with 2 further employees.</li> <li>■ Supervisory Board (3 members).</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned institutions and own enterprises:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Regional tourist destination management organization. The objective of the RTDMO is to promote the territory of the EGTC as an independent and unified tourist destination. This requires joint PR activities, to ensure the infrastructure, to create the organisation as well as the joint packages. This might be started within the framework of a CBC project common with neighbouring EGTCs.</li> <li>■ Common Energy Agency. With two development offices on both sides of the border (in Gbelce in Slovakia and in Máriahalmon in Hungary). The energy agency is to help the municipalities and institutions operating on the territory to switch their energy consumption to renewable energy resources.</li> <li>■ Ister-Granum enterprise-logistics zone. The Esztergom-Dorog-Lábatlan triangle (HU), is poor in transport and logistics endowments. On the contrary, the second largest freight railway station of Slovakia is situated in Štúrovo and the paper factory of Štúrovo has also a cargo port. The goal is to create a cross-border enterprise-logistics zone by exploiting these commodities and the commercial use of the airport of Esztergom. The feasibility study of the zone and of a new freight Bridge are prepared.</li> <li>■ Cross-border service providing advice and support to the NGOs since 2008.</li> <li>■ Integrated Health System. Since 2005 the hospital of Esztergom has been able to receive patients from Slovakia following a MoU concluded with a Slovak insurance company. There is a joint project to create a mo-</li> </ul>

	<p>re rational, cross-border outpatient care system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ister-Granum EXPO. Business Support System. The project aims to establish two permanent exhibition sites, one in Želiezovce in Slovakia and one in Piliscsaba in Hungary. In addition to this we are going to create an information providing office network to support the SMEs' operation and setting up beyond the border, to generate partnerships and supplier networks as well as to facilitate the flow of labour force across the border.</li> <li>■ Cross-border integrated public transport system. The first step consisted in coordinating the timetables of different service providers. The second stage is the development of a regional tariff system and launch of new lines as well as the establishment of a transport alliance allowing people to commute across the border. Electronic payments would solve the currency problems.</li> <li>■ Ister-Granum news agency. Those communication tools will play a crucial role in the raise of public awareness of the issue of the EGTC and Europe without borders. The news agency will have an own bilingual on-line radio transmission, bilingual television, weekly newspaper and other facilities.</li> <li>■ Regional solidarity fund. The City of Esztergom decided return 1 % of the business tax (total income EUR 16,000,000) to the surrounding cities, since many workers commute daily. The EGTC issued a tender so its members could implement small developments (bus stops, co-funding for other projects). The financial crisis has suspended this action.</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	Hungarian and Slovak
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.istergranum.eu">www.istergranum.eu</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:egtc@istergranum.eu">egtc@istergranum.eu</a>

## 4.2.2 Development on the ground

Due to the global financial crisis the EGTC has gone through a deep crisis too. The city of Esztergom, main supporter of the operation, has bankrupted. Three ETC awarded projects have not been implemented due to financial problems. As a consequence of this, some local authorities decided to leave the EGTC.

Since the end of 2011 a new management has started to rebuild the cooperation based on new financial solutions and with a new impetus

### Current major activities

The EGTC has started to re-enforce the will of cooperation within the members and has created the Regional Development Council involving the actors from the business, civil society and other experts. The external presence of the EGTC has been re-launched.

In 2011 the management of the EGTC prepared 2 larger projects: "Limes", to create a multilevel system of tourist destination management organisations along the Hungarian-Slovak Danubian area. "Cyclists' paradise" foresees to build a



cycle lane along the Danube (25 km in Slovakia), planning of further sections of the EuroVélo 6 corridor (112 km on both sides), planning and realisation of a hobby cycling route and service system including the whole territory of the EGTC (approx. 700 km).

## 4.3 Galicia – Norte de Portugal

### 4.3.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Territorial (AECT) Galicia - Norte de Portugal
<b>Acronym</b>	GNP
<b>Summary</b>	Executive branch of the Working Community
<b>History and current status</b>	<p>The EGTC was officially established on 23/10/2008</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ September 2008 – Signing of the Convention</li> <li>▪ February 2010 – Inauguration of the Executive Organisms</li> <li>▪ March 2010 – starting activities</li> <li>▪ Starting from March 2010: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visibility: Development of several institutional promotion meetings</li> <li>- Operability: Establishment of contacts with Galician and Portuguese institutions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Inspired by the strong model of French-Spanish cooperation in the Pyrenees, Galicia-Norte de Portugal initially was a working community based on the formal grounds provided by the Madrid Convention.</p> <p>The consequent stability and continuity of regional leadership allowed for further evolution and helped to bridge the asymmetries between a administrations, decentralized in Spain and centralized in Portugal.</p> <p>However, the absence of a body with legal personality was a problem. Hence, this was a decisive factor to create the EGTC with a legal personality and its own budget, marking a turning point in inter-border relationships and triggering another predisposition in the cross-border cooperation process.</p> <p>The period between the administrative act to the start of the operational structures took around one year. In fact, the Territorial Cooperation Agreement was signed in September 2008, and the EGTC became operational in March 2010. This delay was due to an electoral process in the Autonomous Community of Galicia resulting in a change of government.</p>
<b>Countries involved</b>	Spain, Portugal
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	City of Vigo, Spain
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PT: Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte (CCDR-N)</li> <li>▪ ES: Xunta de Galicia</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b>	<p>Surface: 51,000 Km<sup>2</sup> (Galicia: 29,575 km<sup>2</sup>, Norte de Portugal: 21,284 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>Inhabitants: 6.4 million (Galicia: 2,796,089; Norte de Portugal: 3,745,439)</p>
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	<p>2 regions which present several similarities as well as differences in their socio-economic situation.</p> <p>The EGTC aims to support and further the development and the social, economic and institutional coherence of the regions. Principle of parity.</p> <p>The headquarters is located in Vigo, Spain.</p> <p>The director is from Portugal and the sub-director is from Spain.</p> <p>The EGTC operated in three official languages although the people speak a common language in the area. The translation of the documents is not compulsory.</p>
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	No perspective of enlargement at the moment
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited

<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To promote cross-border relations in order to support the development of the regions</li> <li>▪ To promote economic development and competitiveness through supporting innovation and the exchange of knowledge</li> <li>▪ To further the attractiveness of the territory through improving basic transportation systems and accessibility, and through strengthening the link between the economic growth and sustainable development</li> <li>▪ To strengthen social, economic and institutional cohesion of the Euroregion</li> <li>▪ To establish more efficient instruments for programming, management and evaluation of cohesion policies</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ treating topics of common interest,</li> <li>▪ Exchange of information,</li> <li>▪ Coordinating initiatives and finding opportunities</li> <li>▪ Implementing actions of public interest,</li> <li>▪ Common management of public services and public works</li> <li>▪ Joint management and set-up of services of general interest</li> </ul>
<b>ETC projects</b>	No data
<b>Budget</b>	<p>Annual budget financed by the members' own resources, EU funds, ERDF, and for some projects by the partners involved.</p> <p>When the EGTC was established, the initial contribution of both partners amounted to EUR 100,000, as established by the convention.</p> <p>The EGTC financed programmes through ERDF support budget for CBC between Spain and Portugal. Several major investments had already been covered (e.g. four additional bridges over bordering rivers).</p> <p>The annual operational budget amounts to approx. EUR 350,000 (in the first year including office equipment, in subsequent years the staff costs for the five persons).</p>
<b>Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1 Director</li> <li>▪ 1 Deputy Director</li> <li>▪ Technical support staff and administration (4 persons),</li> </ul>
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Public law
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<p>Presidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Alberto Núñez Feijóo – Xunta de Galicia President;</li> <li>▪ Dr Carlos Lage – CCDRN President;</li> </ul> <p>Board of Governors: Mr Jesús Gamallo and Mr Nuno Almeida</p> <p>GNP Assembly, approved the annual work programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Xunta de Galicia Representatives: Mr Norberto Urzal, Mr Jose Vásquez, Mr Francisco Seijo, Mr Jesús Gamallo</li> <li>▪ CCDR-N Representatives: Ms Teresa Lehman, Dr Nuno Almeida, Mr Paulo Gomes, Mr Rui Monteiro</li> </ul> <p>Executive Members (appointed by the regional policy makers, the presidents of the region Galicia and CCDRN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Director: Dr Elvira Vieira</li> <li>▪ Sub-director: Mr Juan Lirón</li> </ul> <p>High Council, formed by the general coordinators of the Working Community of Galicia - North Portugal</p>
<b>Languages</b>	Portuguese, Galician, Spanish
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.gnpaect.eu">http://www.gnpaect.eu</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:gnpaect@gnpaect.eu">gnpaect@gnpaect.eu</a>

## **4.3.2 Development on the ground**

### **The EGTC as a working structure**

The staff is hired according to the laws of Galicia. The employees do not have the status of public officials.

The Assembly meets twice a year and the Board meets on a quarterly basis. Decisions are taken unanimously. All kinds of strategic decisions are usually taken on the advice of the Directorate of GNP, together with the EGTC Board. The directors are nominated by CCDR-N and Xunta de Galicia.

Decisions on projects are taken by consensus. The governing body is the Assembly, where the directors of the EGTC, even though assigned an important role, are not entitled to vote.

### **Financing and managing the EGTC**

The EGTC faces problems in raising structural public investment.

The annual budget allocated to the GNP EGTC is composed of own resources, EU funds - the ERDF and other funding sources that are related to the project. A number of smaller projects are funded with the resources of the EGTC. Other partners contribute to specific projects.

Initially, the funds from the Working Community were used. Later, the EGTC applied for the 2nd Call of POCTEP (CBC Programme Spain-Portugal), resulting in the funds that are in use since January 2011. In 2010, the funds approved in the first call of the POCTEP - Launch of EGTC were used.

Since January 2011, these funds were integrated into the regional funds, as well as funds from Brussels and the portion allocated to the second POCTEP EGTC program.

According to the statutes, the Superior Council designates an external auditor. The annual budget review and verification of accounting corresponds to the Directorate of the EGTC and it is subsequently submitted to the Council.

### **Current major activities**

The Convention requires regular reporting and annual business plans for the ensuing years and beyond.

The main priority was to continue the good work that had already been developed by the Working Community under the strategic plan set for the Euroregion for the period of 2007-2013. Under the strategic plan, there are two strategic priorities:

The first axis, 'fostering competitiveness and promoting employment', is a priority as both regional economies have been significantly affected by the economic crisis. It was considered crucial to support and encourage projects promoting entrepreneurship, modernization, efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of businesses. The EGTC works in partnership with local and national public authorities, universities and companies.

Under the second priority axis of 'Environment, heritage and risk prevention' projects were developed in the areas of energy and tourism. The aim was to promote projects involving the use of alternative energy production and to improve energy efficiency. In the area of tourism, joint efforts are undertaken to preserve the richness of the territory in terms of landscape, wildlife and nature. The most prominent activities undertaken were the application for the 2nd POCTEP call, including inter alia:

#### In 2010:

- Creation of databases of hotel establishments;
- System of financial management for Public Administration (CPA);
- Study on interoperability among toll systems in Galicia-Portugal;
- Survey on the perception that citizens have about the Euroregion Galicia-Norte Portugal;
- Monitoring of cross-border workers in the Euroregion;
- Study on Labour Mobility in the Euroregion: Recognition of vocational training titles;
- Study of the Sources of Financing for the GNP-EGTC;
- Strategic vision for communication and positioning of the GNP-EGTC 2010-2013;
- Advertising and public relations.

#### In 2011:

- Study on the impact of the Portuguese political situation on Galicia;
- Workshop on mobility;
- 1st OPEN DAYS – Local Event of the Euroregion;
- Organization of the visit of Mr Daniel Campelo, Portuguese State Secretary of Forests and Local Development, to Bantegal – Real Estate Bank of Galicia;

- Workshop on indigenous forest
- Organization of the XXV Edition of the Galaico-Duriense Games;
- Presentation of the study "Tourism Database of GNP Euroregion";
- Workshop “Business Angels: informal investors in risk capital. Entrepreneurial initiatives in the Euroregión Galicia-Norte de Portugal” with the Business Association of Porto (AEP).

#### Previsions for 2012:

- International meeting on creative and cultural industries (Santiago de Compostela and Guimarães);
- Roundtable on of the study on recognition of professional titles;
- Tourism roundtables;
- Workshops about Entrepreneurship and Innovation;
- Information Office of the Euroregion (GIE);
- 2nd OPEN DAYS – Local Event in Santiago and Guimarães;
- Contest of ideas for a cooperation project in the Euroregion;
- Workshop on Territorial Marketing in the Euroregion;
- Smart Growth Workshop;
- Workshop about Sustainability in the Euroregion.

### **4.3.3 Key findings**

#### **Lessons learnt**

The EGTC largely benefited from the network established within the Working Community. The EGTC also had clear functions attributed in its role as executive arm of the Working Community, which resulted in its increasing stability and de facto establishment within the region.

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

The EGTC executes the policies and guidelines of the Working Community through specific tasks. Its creation was very beneficial for the regions, which are overcoming successive hurdles mainly due to the lack of an independent regional power on the Portuguese side.

Moreover it benefits from the progressive projection given to regional development policies by the EU authorities, resulting in the progressive increase in budgetary allocations for regional cooperation and convergence.

Finally, it gains from the huge boost promoted by the Treaty of Valencia and the progressive formalization and standardization bodies that result from agreements of cooperation in border areas.

The EGTC is perceived as an effective instrument to execute specific tasks. The structure of the EGTC and the tasks undertaken under its leadership gives an impetus for new initiatives in cross-border cooperation in the territory.

### **Challenges**

The wage levels differ between Spain and Portugal and the EGTC offers limited contract duration (2 year contracts).

The regions moreover suffered during the crisis and tasks mainly concentrate on mitigating the effects.

## 4.4 Amphictyony

### 4.4. 1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	AMPHICTYONY of Twinned Cities and Areas of the Mediterranean, European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
<b>Acronym</b>	E.G.T.C AMPHICTYONY
<b>Summary</b>	Cooperation of 53 municipalities from Cyprus, Greece, Italy and France.
<b>History and current status</b>	<p>The members cooperated before the EGTC was created for 17 years as loose network of 93 Local authorities from 9 Mediterranean countries. The procedure for registering the EGTC took roughly a year with administrative procedures starting in January 2008 and the official registration of the EGTC having been finalized on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2008.</p> <p>The General Assembly, the Administrative Board and the Executive Committee are operational.</p> <p>The EGTC resulted from a Mediterranean network of twinned towns and regions, composed of 93 municipalities and nine countries. According to the Director, Mr Vassilis Xenos-Gavrielis, “when we strengthened our legal structure, we weakened in number”, since municipalities from Turkey, Albania, Serbia, Israel and Palestine were not allowed to be part of the founding members.</p>
<b>Countries involved</b>	Greece, Cyprus, Italy, France
<b>Seat of the EGTC (and operational units)</b>	GR: Athens 10558, Byronos 29, Plaka
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<p>The members of the EGTC are municipalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 42 from Greece</li> <li>▪ 7 from Cyprus</li> <li>▪ 3 from Italy</li> <li>▪ 1 from France</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b>	The surface and number of inhabitants corresponds to the population and area of the 53 member-municipalities from Cyprus, Greece, Italy and France.
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	<p>The EGTC consists of Twinned Self-government Organizations of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, Associations of a Self Government nature as well as Regions of the countries in the Mediterranean and is organized as a civil company of a not for profit nature.</p> <p>The main challenge is in relation to the procedures for accepting-municipalities from third countries. The eligibility criteria would have to be reformed in order for the EGTC to integrate a gateway towards the Mediterranean area in a wide range of policy areas.</p>
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	The EGTC is open to enlargement especially towards pre-accession and third countries. The EGTC already received requests from Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Israel and Palestine for participation.
<b>Duration</b>	25 years with a possibility of extension
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create and maintain an environment of peace, sustainable development, cohesion and security through a financially effective, socially fair, environmentally sustainable entity</li> <li>▪ Promote freedom, democracy, justice, security and protection of the environment.</li> <li>▪ Strengthening the participation of the Citizen and the agencies of the Local Societies</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	According to the Statute, the EGTC aims to undertake the following tasks:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promotion of cross border, interstate and/or interregional co-operation</li> <li>▪ Implementation of programs co-funded by the European Union (E.U.) through the ERDF, ESF, CF</li> <li>▪ Implementation of actions of territorial co-operation with or without the E.U.'s financial contribution</li> <li>▪ Exchange of information, experiences, promotion and practices among its members</li> <li>▪ Access to information and knowledge</li> <li>▪ Preservation, promotion and utilization of the cultural identity for safeguarding the intercultural dialogue</li> </ul> <p>Moreover, the Board of Directors, in cooperation with the Municipality of Chios, organized a three-day conference on: 'Cultural Policy and Local Government' from 21/05/2010 to 23/05/2010. The conference was held in Greek and English and mainly explored suitable ways for Local Governments to develop long term Cultural Policy with the goal of sustainability. Several speakers from Greece, international speakers, as well as policy makers discussed the political, social and economic development of cultural life, local economy and tourism.</p>
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	None
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	<p>The annual budget of the EGTC amounts to around € 135.000. The financial control is carried out by the Greek Ministry of Internal Affairs. According to the Statute, the financial resources are composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The annual contribution of the members, the amount of which as well as the criteria for its estimation is determined by the General Assembly with its resolution following a feasibility study and a proposal by the Board of Directors.</li> <li>▪ Grants provided by the state either by Self government agencies, the EU or by National and International Organizations, ETC funding</li> <li>▪ Donations or property given by agencies or private citizens</li> <li>▪ Exploitation of the real or movable property of the EGTC</li> </ul>
<b>Staff in 2012</b>	<p>The EGTC does not have permanent staff. According to the Statute, the EGTC could employ persons according to the rules that govern the civil companies of a non-profit nature of the Greek Organization of Local Self Government. The EGTC can also enter into contracts of work or provision of services for special issues with third parties as well as through program contracts for the execution of programs and projects of territorial cooperation with Local government agencies and agencies of the public sector.</p>
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Private
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<p>Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The General Assembly is the main decision making body of the EGTC. It defines the main policies and approves the administrative and financial report of the Administrative Board, the annual budget and the entry of new members. The statutes can only be modified by a <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> majority of the members of the General Assembly;</li> <li>▪ The Board of Directors (13 members), elected by the General Assembly and has the right to create sub-committees and working groups;</li> <li>▪ The President of the Board of Directors represents the EGTC, acts on its name;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Director manages all requests coming from the President;</li> <li>▪ The Executive Committee is composed of 3 members elected in parallel with election of the Administrative Board for two years, controls the financial management of the EGTC at the end of the financial year and before the approval of the new budget by the General Assembly;</li> <li>▪ The Audit Committee;</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	Greek, Italian, French, English
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.amphictyony.gr">http://www.amphictyony.gr</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:amfiktio@otenet.gr">amfiktio@otenet.gr</a>

## 4.5 Karst Bodva

### 4.5.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	Limited Liability European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation KARST-BODVA
<b>Acronym</b>	Karst-Bodva EGTC
<b>Summary</b>	Management of a nature reserve between Hungary and Slovakia
<b>History and current status</b>	<p>The area of Gömör-Torna karst and the Bódva valley is a very valuable and unique geographical unit in Central Europe, with over 90 villages and national parks on both sides of the border. In 2001, their cooperation resulted in the creation of a Euroregion (Kars Euroregion) whose objective was to foster rural development in the area. In order to further strengthen the cooperation and increase the array of possibilities, the members finally decided to form an EGTC.</p> <p>Despite initial some political difficulties, the EGTC was registered on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 as a result of the political alliance of the mayors of the numerous municipalities in the territory.</p>
<b>Countries involved</b>	Hungary and Slovakia
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b> (and operational units)	Hačava 47, 044 02 Turňa nad Bodvou (Slovak Republic)
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<p>Initially, the EGTC was supposed to be composed of 19 Slovak and 2 Hungarian municipalities, but the membership of the micro-region Domica consisting of 18 Slovak municipalities was not accepted.</p> <p>The EGTC therefore has only 3 founding members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hrušov (SK)</li> <li>▪ Perkupa (HU)</li> <li>▪ Varbóc (HU)</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b> (inhabitants, surface area)	The territory targeted is the Slovak-Hungarian border area in National park Slovak Karst (SK) and in National park Aggtelek (HU). Currently, the EGTC solely manages the territory and population of its 3 member municipalities.
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The EGTC is solely composed of municipalities, although the Slovak micro-region Dominica consisting of 18 municipalities was not accepted as an eligible member by the notification authorities.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	The plan is to cover the Slovakian and Hungarian border settlements on the historic Gömör-Tornai Karszt (including the two National Parks) and along the river Bódva. The EGTC is open to further enlargement and is in negotiations with possible new members. Non-member municipalities regularly attend meetings and are invited to take part in the preparation and realization of new projects.
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To support the cooperation and harmonious development through strengthening economic and social cohesion between cross border territories.</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ develop and realize a common development programme based on a shared strategy integrating economic, social and environmental activities</li> <li>▪ support entrepreneurship, especially for SMEs in tourism, cultural development and the cross border business</li> <li>▪ joint protection of environmental and cultural values and prevention of</li> </ul>

	<p>environmental and technological risks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ assist partnerships between communal and rural areas of cities and villages;</li> <li>▪ improve local and regional infrastructure;</li> <li>▪ joint infrastructure in health service, culture, travel and tourism and education.</li> <li>▪ use resources from Slovak, Hungarian governments and EU funds (ERDF, ESF, cohesion funds and policy)</li> </ul>
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	No data
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	So far the EGTC did not achieve to establish a stable budget, and does not currently have a budget line. Due to an internal agreement all members were initially obliged to contribute €500 within two years of registering the EGTC. The EGTC is now financed solely through member contributions.
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	The EGTC does not have any internal staff at the moment. The EGTC is considering hiring part-time employees in the future.
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Private
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	The EGTC has a President (SK) who represents the EGTC in public and is responsible for signing all official documents. The General Assembly is the main decision-making body. It is composed of one Chairman from SK and two co-chairs from SK and HU. Decisions are taken by simple majority. In case of equal number of votes the vote of the president takes the final decision. The General Assembly is supervised by the Monitoring Committee.
<b>Languages</b>	Hungarian and Slovak
<b>URL</b>	None
<b>Contact</b>	+421 58 7884680 <a href="mailto:euokras@stonline.sk">euokras@stonline.sk</a>

## 4.6 Duero-Douro

### 4.6.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	Agrupación Europea De Cooperación Territorial Duero – Douro
<b>Acronym</b>	AECT Duero-Douro
<b>Summary</b>	Grouping of over 170 towns in Spain and Portugal
<b>History and current status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ July 2007: informative meetings</li> <li>▪ December 2007: Informative assembly in Trabanca (attended by 150 Portuguese and Spanish mayors)</li> <li>▪ February to April 2008: Preparatory meetings and negotiations</li> <li>▪ April 2008: Presentation of Convention and Statutes to the Spanish Ministry for Public Administration</li> <li>▪ May 2008: Presentation of EGTC Conventions and Statutes to the Portuguese Institute for Funding of Regional Development</li> <li>▪ September 2008: meeting of the assembly in Mogadouro (PT), attended by about 150 local representatives from Spain and Portugal</li> <li>▪ 7 March 2009: Registration of the EGTC</li> <li>▪ September 2011: Duero-Douro becomes a member of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)</li> </ul>
<b>Countries involved</b>	Spain and Portugal
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b> (and operational units)	ES: Trabanca, (Salamanca), Plaza Egido s/n CP 37173
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 104 Spanish local entities</li> <li>▪ 72 Portuguese local entities</li> <li>▪ 2 associations of municipalities</li> <li>▪ 1 intermunicipal body governed by public law</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b> (inhabitants, surface area)	Population: 103,435 inhabitants in total with 50,554 inhabitants in Spain and 52,881 inhabitants in Portugal. Surface: 8785 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The following territories are part of the EGTC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Province of Salamanca;</li> <li>▪ Province of Zamora</li> <li>▪ Nuts 3 Tras os Montes</li> <li>▪ Nuts 3 Douro</li> <li>▪ Nuts 3 Deira Interio Monte</li> </ul>
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	7 members have applied for membership.
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited
<b>Objectives</b>	The overarching objectives, as defined in the Statute, are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation</li> <li>▪ Reinforce social and economic cohesion.</li> </ul> More specifically the topics extend over a broad number of subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Equal opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Economic and Local Development.</li> <li>▪ Public Transport</li> <li>▪ New Technologies, especially ICT.</li> <li>▪ Environment and sustainable development.</li> <li>▪ Education, Training and Employment.</li> <li>▪ Health, Social Services.</li> <li>▪ Tourism, Culture and Cultural Heritage.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sports, Leisure time.</li> <li>▪ Agriculture and Stockbreeding.</li> <li>▪ Local Administration, transports, telecommunications.</li> <li>▪ RDTI.</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	<p>The EGTC aims to develop, coordinate, manage and implement EU-funded ETC projects (ERDF and ESF, Cohesion Fund). It should develop actions and strategies strengthening territorial and social cohesion. In conjunction with this task the following tasks are being highlighted in the documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Undertake and manage contracts and agreements</li> <li>▪ Undertake specific territorial cooperation programmes and actions.</li> <li>▪ Create and manage social services and infrastructures</li> <li>▪ Promote research, Innovation and Development.</li> <li>▪ Study the current state and development priority actions in infrastructure and health services.</li> </ul>
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Project "Frontera Natural" – Integrated and sustainable recovery of the border. Co-funded by the CBC Operational Programme Spain-Portugal POCTEP 2007-2013. This initiative seeks to recover, preserve and bring the natural heritage into value. The actions include restoration and maintenance of degraded areas, promotion of employment and social actions. Total budget: 800,000 € Co-funded (75%): 600,000 €</li> <li>■ Project "Cross Border non-formal education web for the Enhancement of Endogenous Resources for Youth". Youth in Action programme, action 4.6 Support systems for youth associations. Estimated beneficiaries: 600 young people from the territory European funding by the EAEAC: € 21,770 Total cost of Project: € 121,770</li> <li>■ Project "Integrated strategy for effective access to the labour market". ESF awarded: € 150,000.00</li> <li>■ Project "Intercultural cross-border education network". Comenius action in Lifelong Learning programme. Beneficiaries: 300 students. EU funding € 34,000 Total budget of the project € 48,280</li> <li>■ Project "Creating Networks of equality in the Duero-Douro border". Youth in Action programme, action 1.3 Democracy projects. EU funding: € 50,000 Total Project Cost: € 66,666.67</li> <li>■ Project "Youth in Hell", in cooperation with the city of Hell (Norway) and the Children and Youth Council of North Trøndelag. Action: Youth in Action 5 Support for European Cooperation in the field of youth-Sub-Action 5.1 - Meetings of young and charges responsible for this field.</li> </ul>
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	<p>The annual contribution is €1,000 per member. The annual turnover of the EGTC is € 654,000</p>
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	<p>The average number of staff stands at 15 employees.</p>
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	<p>Public law</p>
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The General Assembly (composed of the President, the Vice-President, the Territorial Coordinator, the Director, the Secretariat, and a representative from each member of the EGTC)</li> <li>▪ The President and the Vice-President of the Assembly and of the EGTC</li> <li>▪ The Coordination Council (composed of the Presidents of Sectorial Councils, the EGTC President and Vice-President, the Territorial coordinator and the Director).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There are 6 sectorial councils (8 members each with 50% from Spain and 50% from Portugal): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equal Opportunities and economic development</li> <li>- Research, Innovation and Development</li> <li>- Local Development and New technologies</li> <li>- Education, Training and Employment,</li> <li>- Environment, Sustainable Development, Agriculture</li> <li>- Health, Social services and social policy</li> <li>- Tourism, Culture and cultural heritage, sports, leisure</li> <li>- Local administration, transports and telecommunications</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The Director</li> <li>▪ The Secretariat, composed of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Service staff</li> <li>- Administrative and financial staff</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Assembly meets at least once a year; the President may call extraordinary meetings. The Assembly sets the general course of action of the EGTC and approves the work programme as well as the projects, elects the Director, and authorizes the constitution of Sector Councils.</p> <p>The Coordination Council supports the elaboration of work programmes, approves and supervises the implementation of programmes of the EGTC and approves the staffing and services rendered by the EGTC Technical Secretariat which forms the technical staff of the EGTC.</p>
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish and Portuguese
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.duero-douro.com/">http://www.duero-douro.com/</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:duero-douro@duero-douro.com">duero-douro@duero-douro.com</a>

## 4.6.2 Development on the ground

### The EGTC as a working structure

The General assembly and the EGTC President and Vice- President are subject to a rotary system of office of three years between a member from Spain and a member from Portugal.

Decisions in the Assembly are taken by consensus. The EGTC is functional thanks to the active participation of the EGTC members in the Sector Councils.

The executive role is taken by the Director and the Territorial Coordinator. They decide on daily activities and priorities. The work is undertaken efficiently and effectively, and is regularly monitored by the Sector Councils.

### Financing and managing the EGTC

The EGTC funds come basically via public subsidies and membership Fees.

Actions under development:

Project PROVERTE R&D +i "Enhancement of endogenous resources".

Project "Self prevention" re-introduction of goat livestock to prevent forest fires and generate sustainable smart growth and jobs. Constitution of the companies "Duero-Douro Goats Holdings" anonymous society and "Frontera Sostenible" anonymous society; professional training in meat and dairy products, goat farming and shepherd techniques applied to fire prevention; finding of the land to install farms and processors. The project aims to be co-funded by the ERDF, EARDF and national and regional governments.

### **Milestones ahead**

The primary objective for the period starting in 2013 continued to be to be a managing authority of a territorial cooperation program for the EGTC area. This will ensure that relevant regional actors define their future, in terms of designing a comprehensive approach for cohesion.

### **4.6.3 Key findings**

#### **Lessons learnt**

The EGTC has largely benefited from its former activities and cooperation as a Working Community. Moreover, the EGTC has largely benefited from having focused on building its profile by launching public debates and citizen initiatives across the area, for the citizens to have a say on various policy areas.

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

The advantage of the EGTC is the holistic perspective of having the opportunity to work together with all stakeholders in the territory. This way, the members can strengthen territorial cohesion by developing common social and economic actions.

#### **Challenges**

The challenge is to ensure sustainable and stable funding in the future. The EGTC should be able to ensure stable funding which should not solely result from programs and projects.

Another challenge has been, and remains, that some EU and national programmes do not recognize the EGTCs: There is a lack of awareness about the nature of the EGTC in the regional, national and even European public administrations. Also, in certain calls EGTCs can enter as a partner but only representing one country, thus leaving part of its territory outside of the development of the action. The EGTC Duero-Douro can apply for government subsidies in



Spain but not in Portugal, as it only has the national fiscal ID of the country of the seat.

Finally, hiring Portuguese workers require them to change their residence and apply for the NIE (Foreigner ID) in Spain.

## 4.7 West Vlaanderen / Flandre – Dunkerque – Côte d'Opale

### 4.7.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	West Vlaanderen / Flandre – Dunkerque – Côte d'Opale
<b>Summary</b>	Strategy building, project planning and implementation in a cross-border region
<b>History and current status</b>	On the 12 <sup>th</sup> of September 2008 the first agreement on the convention and the statue was formulated. On the 25 <sup>th</sup> of March 2009 the convention and statue were approved and the EGTC became operational on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> of April 2009. The grouping of the region of Flanders (Vlaanderen) and Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale is based on a long history of cooperation. Initially an informal Platform created in 2004, the cooperation launched several cross-border projects in the 1980s and within the framework of INTERREG I. The stakeholders then decided to intensify their cooperation at the end of INTERREG II. The consultations which started in 2000 resulted in the establishment of a cross-border platform in 2004 and the formulation of a Common Strategy Charter on sustainability, which was approved by all local authorities of the cross-border area. Supported by strong political backing, in September 2006 a legal framework for cooperation was started. The following year saw the launch of technical preparation including several experts and the <i>Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)</i> .
<b>Countries involved</b>	Belgium, France
<b>Seat of the EGTC (and operational units)</b>	Dunkirk (Pertuis de la Marine), France
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	The EGTC counts 13 members in total. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 8 members in France: The French State, The Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region, Dunkirk Urban Community, the Departments of Nord and Pas-de-Calais, the "Pays" Moulins and Coeur de Flandre, The Urban Planning Agency Flandre Dunkirk (AGUR);</li> <li>▪ 5 members from Belgium: The Federal Belgian State, the Flemish Region, The Province of West-Flanders, the Intercommunality of West-Flanders (wvi), Resoc Westhoek (non-profit organisation).</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators (inhabitants, surface area)</b>	Population: 2,000,000 inhabitants Surface area: 7,000 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The EGTC is composed of various types of members with differing competences. In fact, it brings together the national /federal government with regions, provinces, communities as well as organisations/agencies. The multilevel character of the EGTC allows for a realisation of projects at different policy levels aiming at achieving strong cohesion between the communities and regions in the area. All governments involved participate directly (local, provincial, departmental, regional and other levels) The EGTC is based on the principle of parity between Belgium and France in relation to representation in its political organs and financial distribution.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	The possibility of enlargement has been discussed in the last meeting in late 2010. An enlargement is in consideration but not foreseeable in the near future.
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited

<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The objective of the EGTC is to promote and support efficient and coherent trans-border cooperation within its territory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure coordination and promote networking between all members of the EGTC and relevant institutions</li> <li>▪ Promote the harmonisation of territorial policies</li> <li>▪ Define joint strategies and action programmes</li> <li>▪ Define and implement common projects</li> <li>▪ Set up various initiatives with a view to developing cross-border cooperation between the stakeholder in the area</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Design and implementation of joint projects and actions in areas such as culture, economy, local trade, health (establishment of a cross-border PET-scan), employment and transport (introducing, for example, a cross-border public transport card).</li> <li>▪ Represent the territory vis-à-vis third parties.</li> </ul>
<b>Function in ETC</b>	No data
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	The budget amounted to €260.000 in 2009 and to €300.000 in 2010. No data for 2011.
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	2-3 employees (secretariat and administration)
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	French public law
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<p>In all organs the principle of parity (50% FR-50% BE) is respected. The EGTC is composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <u>General Assembly</u>, the EGTC's decision-making body, composed of 28 members and the Director (appointed by the president upon approval by the Board). The Assembly approves the budget, the annual work plan, decides on the amount of member contributions, takes financial decisions, elects the President, the Vice-President and the Board, adopts and modifies the rules of procedure, and decides on the admission of members, the representation of the EGTC in external bodies.</li> <li>▪ The <u>Board</u>, composed of 18 members, approves the decisions of the Director, prepares the annual budget, the work plan, the financial accounts and the annual report.</li> <li>▪ The <u>President and the Vice-president</u> (co-presidents, one Belgian, one French) are in the Assembly, take decisions on the expenses, sign staff recruitment documents, present the budget, the work plan, financial accounts and the annual report to the Assembly, sign the conventions and contracts, officially represent the grouping. France and Belgium have to alternate their roles as President and Vice-President.</li> <li>▪ The <u>Director</u> is responsible for the coordination of activities, represents the EGTC and acts in all roles which are not part of the Assembly's, the Board's or the co-presidents' responsibilities. The Director can undertake activities delegated by the President.</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	French, Dutch
<b>URL</b>	Under construction
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:Sigrid.verhaeghe@west-vlaanderen.be">Sigrid.verhaeghe@west-vlaanderen.be</a> <a href="mailto:k.defruyt@wvi.be">k.defruyt@wvi.be</a>

## 4.8. Euroregion Pyrenees-Méditerranéan

### 4.8.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	EGTC Euroregion Pyrenees-Méditerranéan
<b>Summary</b>	Determine and manage territorial cooperation projects and actions
<b>History and current status</b>	<p>The EGTC was built on a strong political will for strengthening the cooperation between the constitutive regions of Midi Pyrénées, Languedoc-Rousillon and the autonomous communities of Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, based on the long-standing history of cooperation as a Euroregion since 2004.</p> <p>The establishment of the EGTC however took two years despite historical ties and an already-existing structure.</p> <p>The EGTC was eventually registered in August 2009.</p>
<b>Countries involved</b>	Spain, France
<b>Seat of the EGTC (and operational units)</b>	Toulouse (France), Barcelona (Spain) and a representative in Brussels
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regional authority Midi-Pyrénées</li> <li>▪ Regional authority Languedoc-Roussillon</li> <li>▪ Autonomous community of Catalunya</li> <li>▪ Autonomous community of the Illes Balears</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators (inhabitants, surface area)</b>	Number of inhabitants: 13 million
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	<p>Two French border regions, two Spanish autonomous communities</p> <p>The Euroregion has achieved a lot since its creation in 2004, and the development of common projects shows the good functioning of transnational cooperation. The projects cover different policy areas (e.g. education, business, tourism and culture) and involve public administrations and civil society.</p>
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	The EGTC is not planning to include additional members for the moment, but such a political decision would be discussed in the Assembly General.
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited
<b>Objectives</b>	The objective of the EGTC is to determine and manage territorial cooperation projects and actions, with a view towards sustainable development, approved by its members within their competencies.
<b>Tasks</b>	<p>Mission statement according to Statutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Launch and implement programmes, projects and actions in the area of interregional economic activities, innovation (technological, research, training and culture mainly in form of language-training), tourism, environment, accessibility (improving common transportation and telecommunication).</li> <li>▪ Strengthen and improve the economic, judicial and administrative cooperation.</li> <li>▪ Provide technical support</li> <li>▪ Manage national and community funds</li> <li>▪ Participate in projects of territorial cooperation of interest for all members and going beyond the territorial borders of the EGTC</li> <li>▪ Propose, initiate, develop and manage common services, projects and actions to strengthen economic and social cohesion of the territory.</li> </ul> <p>The projects will be inscribed mainly but not solely in the framework of</p>

	<p>cooperation of the EU.</p> <p>The EGTC facilitates and structures the cooperation between its members, identifies possible projects and partners when necessary, prepares and presents the dossiers to the members and institutions, organs and entities responsible for funding mainly from the EU, and executes the projects.</p>
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	<p>Project "CreaMed", <a href="http://www.creamed.eu">www.creamed.eu</a>. Programme Interreg IVB SUDOE</p> <p>Total Budget: € 1,477,249.61 €</p> <p>EU Contribution € 1,107,937.20 € (75%)</p>
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	<p>Total: around €800,000 - €1m</p> <p>Operational: around €700,000</p>
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	<p>8 employees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4 in Toulouse,</li> <li>▪ 3 in Barcelona</li> <li>▪ 1 in Brussels.</li> </ul> <p>The statute foresees 10-12 employees within the annual budget framework.</p>
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	<p>French public law applicable.</p> <p>In case of disputes which cannot be settled in the joint legal framework, the parties can engage in negotiations mainly through the mediation by a third party not involved in that dispute, or a third neutral party which should aim at settling the issue as to come to a common solution.</p> <p>If the disputes cannot be settled through a negotiated solution, the parties involved will answer to French administrative courts.</p>
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General assembly: political decisions, decides on budget, prepares work plan. Rotating presidency (18 months).</li> <li>▪ Coordination group: prepares Assembly meetings, presents annual report, finding agreement among the participating regions, identifies new projects and promotes them to EU institutions</li> <li>▪ Secretary General: Main operative body. It coordinates actions between members, is responsible for communication between them, and appoints project leaders.</li> <li>▪ EGTC Director</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	French, Spanish, Catalan
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.euroregio.eu">www.euroregio.eu</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:info@euroregio.eu">info@euroregio.eu</a>

## 4.8.2 Development on the ground

### The EGTC as a working structure

The decision-making structure remained unchanged in 2011. The General Assembly takes all political, financial and planning decisions. The Secretary General is the main operative body. It coordinates actions between members, is responsible for communication between them and appoints project leaders. The coordination group, responsible for preparing meetings and identifying projects can now be fully operational and meets less frequently.

The decision-making process runs smoothly as members try to agree on a compromise whenever through discussions about projects and challenges.

The EGTC counts 8 employees, with four in Toulouse, three in Barcelona and one person in Brussels. The statute and the budget do not foresee more than 10 to 12 permanent employees.

The EGTC does not cooperate with the local level.

### **Financing and managing the EGTC**

The annual budget covers the EGTC management costs and costs related to the projects implemented. The financial control is undertaken according to modalities under French law.

The budget is composed of voluntary members' contributions, funds from the EU, Member States or other territorial entities.

The operational budget is shared between the 4 regions for the functioning of the EGTC. The amount is proportional to the size of population.

Regarding the project-related budget, the EGTC aims to launch and implement programmes, which would fit the ideas and objectives of larger programmes at EU-scale (e.g. Interreg, Life, transnational Mediterranean programme). This way the EGTC hopes to be eligible for EU funding.

### **Current major activities**

The following programmes are currently the main projects of the EGTC:

- Eurocampus ([www.eurocampusweb.eu](http://www.eurocampusweb.eu)): In this project, the aim is to launch a website to provide students with practical information on life in the region. Within the framework of this programme, students from universities of either region are given the opportunity for mobility. The project will give students the opportunity to undertake a double Master degree of 4 years between University of Toulouse and the University of Barcelona. Moreover, language courses will be started in order to facilitate student mobility. The aim is to integrate Eurocampus into a larger EU-wide programme such as DaVinci or the Lifelong-learning programme.
- CREAMED ([www.eurocreamed.eu](http://www.eurocreamed.eu)): With a financing share of €1.4 million, the CREAMED project takes up the biggest share of the project-related budget. The programme aims to facilitate the exchange between business incubators. This 2-year project will end on December 2012.

- The EGTC members undertake common cultural projects. There are 9 cultural projects at Euroregion level which always involve partners from at least 3 of the 4 regions.

Other projects are undertaken in the field of research, innovation and sustainable development.

The partners involved in the projects are public authorities, official cultural bodies or associations and non-profit organisations.

All projects are run under overarching, long-term themes.

### **Milestones ahead**

Currently, there is a lot of discussion at political level concerning the reforms for the period between 2014 and 2020. Since 2004, the Euroregion has developed considerably (becoming EGTC in 2009). The goal would be to achieve an increasingly more privileged position reflected in the budgetary volume, the management, the level of cooperation, and the kind of programme operation.

### **4.8.3 Key findings**

#### **Lessons learnt**

The main challenge to overcome is in defining the role, nature, and objectives of the EGTC. These must be defined on the common objectives and interests of the members involved.

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

Setting up an EGTC brought major advantages to the cooperation structure. Compared to the former Euroregion, the cooperation has more legal, political and economic power as an EGTC. Since the creation of the EGTC, the Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée is properly recognised at national and EU level, has a financial budget and employees thanks to its convention and statute which gives it a perspective of a stable structure with long-term perspectives.

The EGTC strongly welcomes the common Platform for EGTCs to exchange experiences, information and good practice.

## Challenges

Despite the developments and the overall success of the EGTCs, some general challenges persist:

- Regarding the regulatory framework, harmonisation is not yet achieved. Member states have different legislative systems and different perceptions of the nature and role of EGTCs.
- Moreover, regulation at EU level should facilitate day-to-day administrative and legislative problems. In fact, the Euroregion EGTC encounters several problems in terms of employment laws as the staff is composed of both employees recruited under Spanish law and employees recruited under French law.

Another issue concerns the differences in eligibility of certain regions for certain programmes. The Euroregion has faced such problems:

- The Balearic Islands are not eligible for the Cross-Border- Cooperation and the “continental” part of the Euroregion is not entirely covered by cross-border cooperation
- Midi-Pyrénées region is not part of the Interreg IVB MED programme (only in SUDOE, so the Euroregion can only apply for transnational cooperation funding within the SUDOE programme , for which all members are eligible.

Finally, the EGTC faces problems in national or EU negotiations since its members i.e. regions and autonomous communities, do not have the same competences and power as national authorities.



## 4.9 Eurodistrict Strasbourg Ortenau

### 4.9.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau Europäischer Verbund für territoriale Zusammenarbeit „Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau“ Groupement Européen de Coopération Territoriale « Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau »
<b>Acronym</b>	Strasbourg-Ortenau
<b>Summary</b>	Strategy building, planning and implementing projects in a cross-border territory
<b>History and current status</b>	The EGTC was created on 4 February 2010. The history dates back to 2003 when the German Chancellor and the French President signed the resolution establishing the Eurodistrict. From then on, the road to establishing the EGTC was remarkably straight.
<b>Countries involved</b>	Germany, France
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	Strasbourg, France (operative unit in Kehl, Germany)
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communauté Urbaine de Strasbourg</li> <li>▪ Stadt Offenburg, Landkreis Ortenau, Stadt Lahr, Stadt Kehl, Stadt A-chern, Stadt Oberkirch</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inhabitants: 868,014</li> <li>▪ Surface : 2,176 km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>▪ Communities : 79</li> </ul>
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	Communauté Urbaine de Strasbourg Landkreis Ortenau
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	Possible incorporation of French municipalities but it would alter the structure of the EGTC
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>According to the Statute and Convention of the EGTC, the Eurodistrict's primary goal is to support, encourage and decide upon trans-border cooperation, by taking care of common interests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generate value-added for the citizens in the area</li> <li>▪ Create the foundations for an innovative Eurodistrict with the vision to strengthen and develop a cross-border grouping of municipalities which is governed by the principle of joint decision-making</li> <li>▪ Strengthen and promote the European dimension of Strasbourg</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	<p>The Eurodistrict aims to undertake cross-border projects in the common areas of competence. Projects should be undertaken to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support sustainable development and a harmonised spatial development</li> <li>▪ Improve the day-to-day lives of citizens by removing barriers and obstacles</li> <li>▪ Support and encourage bilingualism in the territory of the Eurodistrict,</li> <li>▪ Support the development of a cross-border cultural space,</li> <li>▪ Strengthen the attractiveness of the territory,</li> <li>▪ Strengthen cooperation with European institutions and organisations,</li> <li>▪ Develop a joint infrastructure and the common use of existing services,</li> <li>▪ Support citizen initiatives</li> <li>▪ Initiate and support cross-border projects,</li> <li>▪ Apply for national or EU co-financing,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support and facilitate the creation of cross-border economic, social and institutional networks,</li> <li>▪ Participate in cooperation beyond the territory of the Eurodistrict,</li> <li>▪ Exchange information,</li> <li>▪ Represent the Eurodistrict in national, European, and international bodies;</li> <li>▪ Strengthen the European character of the territory</li> </ul>
<b>Function in ETC</b>	In 2012, the EGTC leads a micro-projects funds with a global budget of 800,000 €, with 400,000 € from the INTERREG IV A Upper-Rhine Program.
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	The annual budget amounts to €850,000.
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	The EGTC currently counts five permanent employees. The EGTC now has as General Secretary, Ms Cordula Riedel.
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Public
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <u>Council</u> (Rat, conseil) takes all key decisions, approves the work programme, and makes decisions on the budget and staff. It is composed of the President, 24 members from France and Germany respectively. Decisions are taken by simple majority.</li> <li>▪ The <u>President</u> (Director) is elected for a period of 2 years and France and Germany take turns in proposing a candidate. He prepares the budget and submits the work plan and the budget to the Council (can conclude contracts up to € 25,000), hires staff, and represents EGTC.</li> <li>▪ The <u>Vice-President</u></li> <li>▪ The <u>Board</u> (le bureau, der Vorstand) is composed of the President and 8-12 members (equal number of French and German members). It proposes the work plan and the budget, decides on activities, prepares council meetings, establishes expert groups and conclude contracts ranging between € 25,000 and € 50,000. Decisions are taken by simple majority.</li> <li>▪ The <u>General Secretariat</u> supports the president and is responsible for PR.</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	German, French
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.eurodistrict.eu">http://www.eurodistrict.eu</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:info@eurodistrict.eu">info@eurodistrict.eu</a>

## 4.9.2 Development on the ground

### The EGTC as a working structure

Since November 2010, the French State is part of the Board. In the initial statute, State representatives could solely be 'observers'.

The EGTC now counts 5 permanent employees. The EGTC however faces problems regarding employment Law. The aim would be to amend the statute in order to offer employees the choice of country.

## **Financing and managing the EGTC**

The annual budget amounts to € 850,000. Staff-hiring occurs on a three-year basis. Next to covering staff costs, the budget finances a number of activities. The EGTC intends to obtain additional funds through large-scale projects such as the ERDF micro-projects.

Annual contributions are shared equally between French and German members. The membership fee is based on the number of inhabitants and amounts to €1 per inhabitant.

## **Current major activities**

In autumn 2010 the Eurodistrict launched an online platform to suggest projects and ideas for future developments. The project represented a considerable investment but the participation was quite successful. Participants suggested ideas for projects related to the media (e.g. a bilingual newspaper), language courses, infrastructure, culture, enlargement, etc. The ideas have been assessed and will provide a basis for a roadmap for future projects.

The Platform can still be accessed at [www.mon-eurodistrict.eu](http://www.mon-eurodistrict.eu) and will remain a tool for communication with the citizens of the Eurodistrict.

Furthermore, the Eurodistrict introduced cross-border exchange for apprentices who can complete their practicum in the other country (France or Germany) The objective is to strengthen apprentices' language skills.

The EGTC cooperates with the public sector, as well as the private sector and civil society depending on the projects.

The EGTC is also in permanent contact with other EGTCs and other Eurodistricts. The Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau participated in the URBACT Project 'EGTC' on cross-border governance which ended in May 2010.

## **Milestones ahead**

The Secretary General is in charge of the development of the projects. The online interactive platform has supported partnership-building for projects implemented by the EGTC. Several projects funded from ETC have been undertaken in the Eurodistrict area. The EGTC takes moreover an active role in the management of micro-project funds.

### **4.9.3 Key findings**

#### **Lessons learnt**

In spite of the long history of cooperation, the EGTC underwent a long administrative process of establishment, and had to go through important changes in the decision-making structure.

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

The EGTC is definitely a value added mainly in legal terms. The EGTC has provided to the Eurodistrict with legal statute, budget and one common secretariat instead of two of them.

#### **Challenges**

Differences in national and regional competences sometimes slowdown the smooth functioning of projects in areas which are still handled differently across EU Member states, such as health, employment and social inclusion. For instance, in the apprenticeship exchange-programme, practical questions related to insurance have been an obstacle to the implementation. Similar challenges are expected to arise for health-related projects.

Finally, challenges are expected with respect to enlargement. The territory of the EGTC on the German side is 6 times larger than the French territory, yet, the size of population is balanced. Increasingly more French municipalities want to become members of the EGTC but this would involve many changes at decision-making level, since the seats will have to be redistributed as to maintain a 50/50 balance between German and French members.

## 4.10 Grande Région

### 4.10.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	GECT-INTERREG « Programme Grande Région »
<b>Summary</b>	Managing Authority (MA) for a multi-lateral cooperation programme (initially four cross-border programmes merged) The INTERREG IV A programme in the Greater Region aims at intensifying cross-border cooperation. This goal is to be achieved by means of local and regional projects.
<b>History and current status</b>	The EGTC was created in April 2010 with the aim to strengthen cross-border cooperation between the members. The procedure of establishment was rather lengthy due to differences of competencies between national and regional members (for instance in France) and due to the priority shifts in the crisis (mainly in Luxembourg).
<b>Countries involved</b>	France, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	Metz (France)
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LU: Great Duchy of Luxembourg</li> <li>▪ DE : Länder governments of Saarland and Rheinland Pfalz</li> <li>▪ FR : French State represented by the Préfet of the Region, the Regional Council of Lorraine, the local authorities of Moselle, Meurthe-et-Moselle and Meuse</li> <li>▪ BE : the Regional Government of Wallonia, the French Community and the German-speaking Community</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b> (inhabitants, surface area)	Population: 11.2 million inhabitants (3% of the total EU-15 population) Surface: 65,401 km <sup>2</sup> .
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The Grande Région is marked by differing socio-economic structures: urban, industrial and rural areas. With its diverse multilevel members (National-, regional- and local authorities), the Grande Region is truly an example of multilevel cooperation.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	Requires membership changes of the Interreg programme.
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited
<b>Objectives</b>	The major objective is the smooth and efficient management of the cross-border ETC programme for the Greater Region.
<b>Tasks</b>	See below
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation	The objective according to the convention is to manage the Transnational ETC Interreg IV A- Operational Programme for the Grande Region 2007-2013. The EGTC undertakes all tasks of a Managing Authority for an ETC programme according to Regulations (EC) 1083/2006 and 1080/2006.
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	€ 200 million, of which 50% is covered by the ERDF. The EGTC is financed from Technical Assistance of the programme. The budget for staff amounts to between €500,000 and €650,000.
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	Currently there are 2 permanent employees, 1 employee is in charge of the management of micro-projects fund. 5 persons work in the Joint Technical Secretariat (Luxembourg), organized as an association. 6 persons act as external assistance to support project generation in the regions.
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Public law (France) Préfecture de la région Lorraine, Metz, France

<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General assembly</li> <li>▪ Administrative Council (day-to-day business of the EGTC)</li> <li>▪ Joint Technical Secretariat</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	French, German
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.interreg-4agr.eu">http://www.interreg-4agr.eu</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:melanie.charotte@lorraine.pref.gouv.fr">melanie.charotte@lorraine.pref.gouv.fr</a> <a href="mailto:marco.carpi@interreg4agr.lu">marco.carpi@interreg4agr.lu</a>

## 4.10.2 Development on the ground

### The EGTC as a working structure

The role of the EGTC as a Managing Authority is not entirely clear. In its role as a Managing Authority, the Grande Region has to develop a clear-cut profile with a view to the task division in programme management.

### Financing and managing the EGTC

The EGTC is financed from the Technical Assistance of the programme.

Estimates for the staff (once the final staff numbers are in place) of the EGTC range between € 500,000 and € 650,000 (again, 50% are covered by the ERDF and 50% from national contribution).

The First Level control is under the responsibility of the national states.

The public accountant is designated by the Prefect of the Region of Lorraine, upon suggestion by the General Treasurer of Lorraine.

### Current major activities

The programme involves a wide variety of small-scale projects and local projects at Greater Region level, undertaken within three main areas:

Priority	Objective	%
Economy	enhance and promote the competitiveness and innovation of the inter-regional economy, as well as to protect and strengthen the labour market	46.3
Space	Improve the quality of life, increase the attractiveness of the individual areas and protect the environment.	26.9
People	Increase the exchange and dissemination of knowledge, utilize cultural resources and strengthen social cohesion	26.8

## **Milestones ahead**

Being a relatively recent EGTC, the priority is to define the role of the EGTC as a Managing Authority of the Interreg programme and to establish a clear division of tasks to implement and monitor the programme.

### **4.10.3 Key findings**

#### **Lessons learnt**

- The Greater Region EGTC was the first to act as a Managing Authority for a multi-lateral programme on cross-border cooperation.
- It is of major importance to define the role of the EGTC in the implementation and monitoring of the programme in advance.

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

- The members of the EGTC have been working together for several years.
- The multilevel nature of the EGTC has major advantages as to coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Interreg programme and projects.

#### **Challenges**

- The role of the EGTC as a Managing Authority is not entirely clear. The division of tasks between the General Assembly of the EGTC and the Monitoring Authority has yet to be clarified. It will be interesting to see how the political cooperation between the secretariats of the Interreg programmes will continue.
- Another challenge concerns employment of staff. The administrative and legal procedure should be facilitated and clarified as to accommodate public regulations of all members. The status was clarified and the EGTC could hire staff in 2011
- The differences in competences of the EGTC members (national, regional, local) may at the same time be an obstacle for decision-making.

## 4.11 ZASNET

### 4.11.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Territorial — ZASNET, AECT
<b>Acronym</b>	ZASNET
<b>Summary</b>	Intermediate authorities from Spain and Northern Portugal
<b>History and current status</b>	The border between Spain and Portugal is the oldest and most stable border in Europe. Based on the importance of CB in the territory, the Bragança-Zamora Working Community created in September 2000 serves as a platform for cooperation and networking strengthening the relation between the members. Based on positive experiences the members decided to upgrade the structure through creating the ZASNET EGTC. The EGTC was published on 19 March 2010.
<b>Countries involved</b>	Portugal, Spain
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	Rua Engenheiro José Beça, at 46, 5300-034 Bragança, PORTUGAL.
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Associação de Municípios da Terra Fria do Nordeste Transmontano (PT)</li> <li>▪ Associação de Municípios da Terra Quente Transmontana (PT)</li> <li>▪ Diputación Provincial de Zamora (ES)</li> <li>▪ Diputación Provincial de Salamanca (ES)</li> <li>▪ Ayuntamiento de Zamora (ES)</li> <li>▪ Associação Municípios do Douro Superior (PT)</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b>	Surface: 29,907 Km <sup>2</sup> ; Population: 681,153 inhabitants
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	<p>The EGTC is composed of:</p> <p><u>In Portugal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ regions of Trás-os-Montes and Douro Superior:</li> <li>▪ association of Municipalities of Terra Fria do Nordeste Transmontano including Bragança, Miranda do Douro, Mogadouro, Vimioso e Vinhais.</li> <li>▪ association of municipalities of Terra Quente Transmontana, including Alfândega da Fé, Carrazeda de Ansiães, Macedo de Cavaleiros, Mirandela e Vila Flor;</li> <li>▪ association of municipalities of Douro Superior including municipalities Freixo de Espada à Cinta, Torre de Moncorvo and Vila Nova de Foz Côa.</li> </ul> <p><u>In Spain:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provinces of Salamanca and Zamora including the city of Zamora</li> </ul>
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	Associação Municípios do Douro Superior (PT) asked for resignation on the 16 June 2010. The resignation was not accepted yet by the General Assembly due to the financial obligations that were not fulfilled.
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited
<b>Objectives</b>	The EGTC intends to promote the cross-border relations between the members in the fields of the environment, culture, tourism, infrastructure and economic development. It aims to implement joint projects of co-operation, promote the territory abroad and generate synergies to invert the negative demographic tendencies of the area.
<b>Tasks</b>	<p>According to the Statute, the EGTC aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support local policy development</li> <li>▪ Collaborate with the Bragança-Zamora working community, the Douro Superior - Salamanca Community of Territorial Cooperation as well as other territorial entities of regional and local cooperation projects;</li> <li>▪ Improve the everyday life of the citizens of the territory, attract new residents to the area and reverse the negative demographic trends</li> </ul>



<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	Project "Cross-border Biosphere Reserve": Funded by the CBC Operational Programme Spain-Portugal (POCTEP). Total Budget: 400,000 € (ERDF co-financing rate: 75%)
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	The budget, according to the Statute, is composed of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The initial member- contribution of € 40,000</li> <li>▪ The annual obligatory membership-fee of € 40,000 which will cover the operational/ management costs for the whole year.</li> <li>▪ EU-Funds (ERDF, ESF, Cohesion funds)</li> <li>▪ other grants and subsidies</li> <li>▪ any other income legally conform to the Statute</li> </ul> The annual budget amounts to around € 240,000 in total. It is approved by the General Assembly.
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	On 15 April 2011, started functions one Director;
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Public law (Portugal)
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<p>The <u>General Assembly</u> is composed by one representative from each member for a period of two years, chaired by the President of the Assembly and a Vice-President. It takes decisions on all major issues such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Electing the President, the Vice-President, the Director, and the Audit</li> <li>▪ Setting the annual membership fee, approving the annual work plans and budgets</li> <li>▪ Approving the amendments and revision of the work plan and the budget</li> <li>▪ Decisions on the admission of new members</li> <li>▪ Decisions on changes in duties and roles as defined in the statute</li> <li>▪ Decisions on staff hiring and legal and financial arrangements</li> </ul> <p>The <u>Director</u> represents the EGTC. He is elected and supervised by the General Assembly. His main duties consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparing and submitting proposals for all major documents</li> <li>▪ Supporting the General Assembly</li> <li>▪ Promoting and coordinating the activities of the EGTC</li> <li>▪ Managing, directing and monitoring all activities</li> </ul> <p>The <u>Audit committee</u>, the financial body of the EGTC, is composed of the President and two members, and is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Periodically checking the accounts</li> <li>▪ Presenting the financial accounts to the General Assembly</li> <li>▪ Advising on the annual report and budget</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	Portuguese, Spanish
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.zasnet-aect.eu">http://www.zasnet-aect.eu</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:margarida.rodrigues@zasnet-aect.eu">margarida.rodrigues@zasnet-aect.eu</a>

## **4.11.2 Development on the ground**

### **The EGTC as a working structure**

The General assembly and the EGTC President and Vice- President are subject to a rotary system of office of two years between a member from Spain and a member from Portugal.

ZASNET has only one employee working at the moment. The director started functions on 15 April 2011 for a period of 3 years. The staff is hired according to the Portuguese legislation, where the headquarters of the EGTC is based.

Decisions on projects are taken by consensus by the general Assembly, where the director of the EGTC is not entitled to vote.

There is also a Technical Commission formed by a representative of all the Members of ZASNET EGTC that is entitled to decide on daily activities and priorities, before the director was engaged.

### **Financing and managing the EGTC**

The EGTC is financed from the annual members –contributions and EU-Funds (ERDF). The operational costs of EGTC ZASNET are funded by 50% the ERDF through the Cross-border Biosphere Reserve Interreg project. The Portuguese tax authorities required that the accounting system that regulates the EGTC is the one corresponding to private entities. Apart from the Audit Committee under the statutory demands, there is an External Auditor, a Chartered Audit Accountant that audits the Zasnnet Account.

### **Current major activities**

After April 2011 there were several issues that needed to be set up, such as the accounting system, the establishment of the Audit Committee, the appointment of an Accountant and an Auditor.

The projected Cross-border Biosphere Reserve started to be implemented in April 2011, the overall rate of completion in 2011 is around 10%.

## **Milestones ahead**

Being a relatively recent EGTC, the priority is to define the role of the EGTC in the territory of influence. Actually there is a proposal submitted to General Assembly to develop a Strategic Territorial Cooperation Action Plan to reassess and analyse the internal and external conditions of the EGTC.

### **4.11.3 Key findings**

#### **Lessons learnt**

The ZASNET was the first EGTC formed in Portugal so there was an initial research and inquire to several national authorities in order to find out the legal environment and what kind of laws that applies to several new issues. We still are waiting for some answers particularly the law to apply to the EGTC staff members (private or public).

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

- The members of the EGTC have been working together for several years.
- The multilevel nature of the EGTC has major advantages as to coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Interreg programme and projects.

#### **Challenges**

- Because of the financial crisis, some members are going to have difficulties to accomplish the financial obligations with ZASNET.
- Zasnnet should be prepared to adjust the administrative reform of local entities foreseen in Portugal.

## 4.12 Hospital de la Cerdanya

### 4.12.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	AECT Hospital de Cerdanya / AECT Hospital de Cerdana / GECT Hôpital de Cerdagne
<b>Acronym</b>	AECT / GECT HC
<b>Summary</b>	Joint operation of a hospital
<b>History and current status</b>	<p>Construction works of the facility have been completed, now the equipment will be purchased and installed. The hospital should start to operate in 2012. The EGTC will operate the hospital and is thus in charge of the staff. The statutes have been signed on April 26, 2010 (by the President of Catalonia and the French Minister of Health).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In 2005 a declaration marked the start of the development process for the joint hospital.</li> <li>▪ In July 2006 a joint foundation was established</li> <li>▪ In 2008 a framework agreement on Spanish-French cross-border cooperation in the health sectors has been signed (also encouraging the joint use of facilities)</li> <li>▪ In February 2009 started the construction of the facility</li> <li>▪ In December 2010 the EGTC is constituted</li> <li>▪ In March 2012 it is planned the end of construction</li> <li>▪ During the rest of 2012 the hospital will be equipped</li> <li>▪ In 2013 it is planned that the hospital will start operating</li> </ul>
<b>Countries involved</b>	Spain (Catalonia), France
<b>Seat of the EGTC</b>	Puigcerdà (Catalonia, Spain) – seat of the hospital
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<p>Catalan Government French government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regional Health Agency for Languedoc-Rousillon [Agence régionale de santé de Languedoc-Rousillon (ARS Languedoc-Rousillon)]</li> <li>▪ French National Health Insurance Caisse Nationale de l'assurance de travailleurs salariés (CNAMTS)</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b> (inhabitants, surface area)	The hospital will serve a cross-border catchment area in a valley with about 30,000 inhabitants (thereof 17,000 on the Spanish side and 13,000 on the French side).
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	<p>The hospital will serve the territories of Cerdanya in Spain as well as Cerdagne and Capcir in France.</p> <p>The Catalan and French governments (represented by the Ministries of Health) and the French regional health agency developed the detailed project. The municipality where the hospital has its seat (Puigcerdà) cooperated in various ways.</p> <p>Local level is also represented in the Advisory Board of the EGTC.</p>
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	Territorial enlargement of the EGTC is not an issue.
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction of the facility</li> <li>▪ Start of the operating phase</li> <li>▪ Ongoing management</li> <li>▪ Joint projects in regional health management.</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	<p>During the phase of construction and start-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ facilitation of all necessary actions to ensure the construction</li> <li>▪ safeguard the interest of users with publicity and a communication plan</li> <li>▪ plan for financing of construction works and subsequent equipment, operational budget and a provisional operation plan,</li> </ul>

	<p>In the operation phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provision of services related to the hospital</li> <li>▪ Support to health prevention programmes</li> <li>▪ Promotion of education and research for health</li> </ul> <p>The EGTC will strengthen regional governance in the health system. In order to meet these tasks the EGTC has far-reaching competencies such as acquisition and possession of land and real estates, concluding service contracts, issuing employment contracts etc.</p>
<b>Function in ETC</b>	Not applicable
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	<p>The investment volume for the facility amounts to about € 41 mn. (thereof € 31 mn. for the construction and the remaining funds for equipment). According to preliminary estimates the annual budget for the operation of the hospital will amount to € 20 mn. Budget on 2011 (€ 18,453,444.00):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Operating cost: € 465.894,00</li> <li>▪ Information System investment: € 1,587,550.00€</li> <li>▪ Construction investment: € 12,400,000.00</li> <li>▪ Fitting out investment: €4,000,000.00</li> </ul>
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	Currently under negotiation; the EGTC will act as the employer for the staff of the hospital
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	<p>Established under Spanish Law; common legal provisions (following the Convention and the Statutes) will prevail; in case of disputes which cannot be settled in the joint legal framework, Spanish law will be applied. Citizens from both countries have the explicit right to file their complaints against the members of the EGTC (it is a health facility and national standards in procedures have to be safeguarded). The Catalan Government (intervenció general) is in charge of financial control and audit. If the case is that the EGTC receives funds from EU programmes then the respective control procedures according to the programme will be applied. Procurement and employment is subject to Spanish and Catalan legislation. It is important to note that reimbursement for the treatment of French citizens is subject of a separate technical agreement between the EGTC and the French Health Insurance. An expert group should develop over the next five years a viable solution in case of winding-up of the EGTC is required. The Statutes foresee that the winding-up of the EGTC might not disrupt the provision of health services - ad-hoc decisions by the partners have to be taken accordingly.</p>
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management Board (le conseil d'administration)</li> <li>▪ The Executive Board (le burerau executif) is working on behalf of the Management Board and constitutes the executive arm for the management of the facility</li> <li>▪ Director acting as <i>CEO</i></li> <li>▪ President on rotating terms acting as <i>ambassador</i></li> <li>▪ Advisory Board (le conseil consultatif):</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	All official documents will be available in French, Catalan and Spanish. The staff of the hospital is supposed to have basic knowledge of all three languages.
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.hcerdanya.eu">http://www.hcerdanya.eu</a>
<b>Contact</b>	Dr. Toni Dedeu: <a href="mailto:tdedeu@gencat.cat">tdedeu@gencat.cat</a> Dr. Victorià Peralta: <a href="mailto:gerenciaterritorial@arnau.scs.es">gerenciaterritorial@arnau.scs.es</a> ; <a href="mailto:yperalta@catsalut.cat">yperalta@catsalut.cat</a>

## **4.12.2 Development on the ground**

### **Establishing the EGTC**

The overarching challenge was to negotiate the joint financing and operation of joint health facility between two countries with significant differences in the health care system. Funding for investment came from the ETC cross border co-operation programme FR-ES-Andorra. The funding split for investment as well as subsequent operation is 60/40 between the Spanish and the French side.

Clarification of some issues is quite important in order to make the hospital an attractive facility for French citizens:

- Clinical records will be trilingual; terminology is mostly in Latin; texts will be translated
- Newborn babies of French mothers will receive both nationalities; however the acknowledgement procedure in France is quite challenging
- Death certificates for French citizens issued by the hospital also have to undergo a quite challenging procedure to be acknowledged
- Direct road access from the French border to the hospital (150 m) should also be established; this has to follow an administrative procedure
- A small issue is the fact that ambulance cars in Spain have yellow emergency lights whereas in France lights of such cars are blue

### **Establishing structures and organising the decision-making process**

Membership in all organs follows a 60/40 split between Spanish and French members (this is also the proportion of inhabitants in the catchment area and thus the basis for the split of costs for construction and maintenance).

For the management of the facility the Executive Board can be seen as the executive arm of the Management board: it elaborates the key documents – in particular the budget, recruitment plans, it executes financial management and contracts the employees. All proposed key documents have to be approved by the Management Board.

In the statutes a project promoting health services in the border area has been anchored as a broader initiative developed between the Spanish and French regional health authorities. The Advisory Board is in charge of developing the project. It is intended to be part-financed from the ETC programme though one has to state that commitment of funds in the programme is quite advanced.

## **Financing and managing of the EGTC**

The investment volume for the facility amounts to about € 41 mn. (of which € 31 mn. is for construction and the remaining funds for equipment). The investment has been funded from the ETC programme France-Andorra-Spain. For a start up phase of five years the French side will take over 40% of the annual cost of the facility. After evaluation of this five year period a new financing model – based on the actual cost of treatments for French citizens - might be negotiated.

According to preliminary estimates the annual budget for the operation of the hospital will amount to € 20 mn. The plans for staffing and recruitment are currently subject to negotiation. A joint project by two universities (Gerone and Perpignan) is aimed at developing a training plan for the staff.

### **Starting the operations**

The hospital is expected to be opened in 2013. It will consist of 71 beds, four operating rooms, one birth delivery unit, two intensive care units and other equipment such as computed tomography.

In case that certain treatments cannot be offered in this hospital, cooperation agreements with other hospitals in France and Spain have been set-up. A major initiative aims at developing an emergency plan for the cross-border region Pyrenées-Mediterranée; this should establish deepened cooperation in health services, in particular with regards ambulance services and hospitals but also as regards the use of rescue helicopters.

Currently a communication plan to encourage the French population in the region to use the new facility is under preparation.

## **4.12.3 Key findings**

### **Lessons learnt**

- EGTC is a suitable legal instrument to set-up the management of a joint facility providing health services
- The set-up of the structure, i.e. its organs and the procedures has to follow the purpose of the EGTC (which is in this case clear-cut)

## **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

- The new legal tool of the EGTC allowed the establishment of a management body which is tackling multi-level governance; thus it supports the bridging of administrative differences between France and Spain (Catalonia)
- Health services which are open to citizens from two Member States on equal terms have to be considered as a particularly visible contribution to territorial cohesion
- The hospital has a broader function - it is a nucleus and showcase for wider cooperation in the health sector in the border area: this health cooperation project is anchored in the mission statement and also mentioned as a project in the Statutes

## **Challenges**

- See whether the use of the facility by French citizens will meet the expectations of all partners



## 4.13 Eurodistrict Saar Moselle

### 4.13.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	GECT « Eurodistrict Saarmoselle » / EVTZ "Eurodistrikt Saarmoselle"
<b>Summary</b>	Development of a cross-border area
<b>History and current status</b>	6 May 2010: Creation of the EGTC 2009: Statutory decisions taken and beginning of notification process 2005-2008: development of a future vision for the Saar-Moselle region and preparation for creating the EGTC 2004: Signing a common declaration for creating the ECTg with over 600 political representatives of the cross-border agglomeration. 2003: In the context of the 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Elysée-Treaty, common proclamation of the German and French governments 1997: Grouping of the communities of the region through the 'Zukunft SaarMoselle Avenir' association aiming to structure the cooperation
<b>Countries involved</b>	France, Germany
<b>Seat of the EGTC (and operational units)</b>	Seat of the Communauté d'agglomération Sarreguemines Confluences, 99 rue du Maréchal Foch, BP 80805, F-57200 Sarregemines (France). The operational office is in Saarbrücken (Germany).
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	The EGTC is composed of 8 members. <u>In Germany</u> : The Regionalverband Saarbrücken, which includes : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The cities of Saarbrücken, Friedrichsthal, Püttlingen, Sulzbach and Völklingen.</li> <li>▪ The municipalities of Großrosseln, Heusweiler, Kleinblittersdorf, Quierschied and Riegelsberg.</li> </ul> <u>In France</u> , the members are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The "Communautés d'agglomération" Forbach Porte de France and Sarreguemines Confluences.</li> <li>▪ The "Communauté de communes" du Pays Naborien, de Freyming-Merlebach, du District urbain de Faulquemont, du Warndt et de l'Albe et des lacs</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b>	Population: 600,000 inhabitants; 5 potential partners (400,000 inhabitants)
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	The multi-level character of cooperation is important to the EGTC's goals. The political support towards strengthening French-German relations and cooperation make the multi-level government aspect key in this EGTC.
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited
<b>Objectives</b>	The EGTC aims to ensure the sustainable development of the region through supporting the cross-border cooperation in two priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the development of the Eurodistrict territory</li> <li>▪ Initiate, monitor and implement inter-communal cooperation projects</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	The tasks, as defined in the convention, are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Undertake cross-border projects in the common policy areas</li> <li>▪ Support the members in the implementation of cross-border projects</li> <li>▪ Support networks which contribute to the realisation of the goals</li> <li>▪ Promotion of the interests of the EGTC's interests towards regional, national and European institutions.</li> </ul> <p>The EGTC aims to produce synergies between the territories and make the area more attractive for entrepreneurs and qualified labour force. Projects are undertaken mainly in the area of spatial planning, infrastructure, energy and environment, economy and employment, tourism and culture.</p> <p>Moreover, the EGTC focuses its activities on education and bilingualism.</p>

<b>Function in ETC</b>	No data
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	<p>The EGTC is financed through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The annual member-contribution being proportional to the number of inhabitants of the members. The membership fee amounts to 0.80 EUR/inhabitant. As such the contributions are spread as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 55.79% for the Regionalverband Saarbrücken</li> <li>- 13.39% for the Communauté d'Agglomération de Fortbach Porte de France,</li> <li>- 8.71% for the communauté d'agglomération Sarreguemines Confluences</li> <li>- 6.90% for the Communauté de communes du Pays Naborien</li> <li>- 5.80% for the Communauté de communes de Freyming-Merlebach</li> <li>- 4.04% for the Communauté de communes du District urbain de Faulquemont</li> <li>- 3.06% for the Communauté de communes du Warndt</li> <li>- 2.31% for the Communauté de commune de l'Albe et des lacs</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Public, local, regional, national and European subventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- French government</li> <li>- Lorraine region</li> <li>- Applications for funds through the INTERREG IV A program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Donations</li> <li>▪ Any other contributions permitted by the laws applied for the EGTC</li> </ul>
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	The EGTC can hire external staff in accordance with the French law.
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Public law (FR)
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<p>The bodies of the EGTC are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Assembly, constituted by representatives of the members (50% French representatives, 50% German representatives, amounting 62 seats in total). The Assembly meets at least twice a year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- discusses the development and common future perspectives</li> <li>- decides upon the annual work plan and the next agenda</li> <li>- decides on the financial member-contribution;</li> <li>- takes final decisions on the budget;</li> <li>- elects the President and the Vice-president and other members</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The Board is the executive branch. It is composed by the President, the Vice-President and 6 members FR and DE. It meets quarterly to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare the Assembly meetings and proposals of the annual budget</li> <li>- Approve contracts amounting to between 10,000 and 90,000 EUR</li> <li>- Decide on staff employment</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ A President and a Vice-President are elected for a period of 2 years. The presidency rotates between France and Germany every 2 years. The role of the President is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Summon the representatives of the members to Assembly meetings</li> <li>- Chair the Assembly and sign the minutes of the meetings</li> <li>- Decide upon the agenda of the meetings and summon Board meetings</li> <li>- Decide on the revenue of the EGTC and nominate the Director</li> <li>- Present budget, work programme and annual report to the Assembly</li> <li>- Officially represent the EGTC</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	French and German
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.saarmoselle.org/">http://www.saarmoselle.org/</a>
<b>Contact</b>	Tel.: +49 681 506 6161

## 4.14 EGTC PONS DANUBII

### 4.14.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	Pons Danubii European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Ltd
<b>Acronym</b>	PONS DANUBII EGTC
<b>Summary</b>	Strengthening economic and social cohesion in the region
<b>History and current status</b>	The EGTC was officially registered on 15/12/2010. The establishment of the EGTC was initiated by the mayor of Tata city. The representatives of Komárno, Hurbanovo, Kollárovo (SK), Komárom, Kislőr and Tata (HU) prepared the establishment of the EGTC for two years.
<b>Countries involved</b>	Slovakia, Hungary
<b>Seat of the EGTC (and operational units)</b>	City of Komárno (Námestie generála Klapku 1 Komárno 945 01 Slovak Republic)
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <u>Slovak</u> cities of Komárno, Hurbanovo and Kolárovo</li> <li>▪ The <u>Hungarian</u> cities Komárom, Tata, Kislőr and Oroszlány</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b>	All cities are located in the Slovak-Hungarian cross-border region. The total number of inhabitants is approximately 270,000.
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	All members of the EGTC are cities, the number of inhabitants on each side of the border is balanced. PONS DANUBII was specifically established for cities in the territory to serve as common platform for planning and implementation of development activities.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	In order to keep the EGTC functional, it should have a limited number of members, with a potential inclusion of 2-3 additional members.
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The EGTC set the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthen cross-border cohesion on the whole territory,</li> <li>▪ implementation of projects aimed at strategic development,</li> <li>▪ improvement of everyday life of inhabitants</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>	<p>The main task of the EGTC is “to implement projects of territorial cooperation with the financial contribution from the EU or without it”. Moreover the statutes emphasise the implementation of projects in the following areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support of entrepreneurship, particularly for SMEs, tourism, culture and cross-border trade,</li> <li>▪ Support and improvement of protection and management of natural and cultural resources as well as prevention of natural and technical risks,</li> <li>▪ Support interconnection between urban and rural areas,</li> <li>▪ improved interconnectivity throughout all layers of infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>Function in ETC</b> EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation in 2011	<p>Project "Crossing Borders by Information in the Pons Danubii Border Region". CBC programme Hungary-Slovak Republic, reference HUSK/1001/2.5.2/0019.</p> <p>Pons Danubii is making efforts to improve information flows on the territory of the participating settlements by establishing a surface for the target groups in Hungarian and Slovak languages to reinforce social, economic and cultural co-operation.</p> <p>Direct objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of joint content, provision of bilingual information</li> <li>▪ Reinforcement of mutual understanding between societies,</li> <li>▪ New cross-border regional web portal,</li> <li>▪ Media Office supporting information flow</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Production and broadcasting of thematic television programmes</li> <li>▪ Promotion of equal opportunities,</li> <li>▪ Organisation and delivery of marketing campaigns,</li> <li>▪ Network that will enable the broadcast in all 9 settlements.</li> </ul> <p>Indirect objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Infrastructure for information flows on a regional level,</li> <li>▪ Information service covering the whole region and its neighbouring territories connected to it,</li> <li>▪ Promotion of the values of the Euroregion.</li> </ul> <p>Total budget of the project: € 270,980.64  Co-funded by the EGTC: € 209,090.64  Co-funded by the EU: € 230,333.54</p>
<b>Budget in 2011</b>	Each member contributed € 500. Additionally, on an annual basis cities pay a membership fee of € 0.5 (150 HU Ft.) per inhabitant.
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	Currently the EGTC employs one person – the Director.
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Interpretation and exercising the Statute is done under the legislation of Slovak Republic. EGTC is a specific form of a legal person governed by the private law.
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	<p>Main bodies of the EGTC according to Statutes are the General Assembly, Director, Supervisory Board and finally the Secretariat (which has not yet been installed).</p> <p>The <u>General Assembly</u> (Zhromaždenie) meets at least twice a year and has the exclusive right to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Convention and Statute and their modification</li> <li>▪ All documents related to financial issues such as budget, long-term and annual activity plan, annual balance of accounts and annual report on activities, use of the profit and payment of loss, etc.</li> <li>▪ Elect the Director and setting terms of his/her employment, and also for the staff of the Secretariat</li> <li>▪ Elect and withdraw members of Supervisory Board, as well as chair and deputy chair of the Assembly</li> </ul> <p>The <u>Chair of the Assembly</u> (Predseda):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Calls, organizes and steers meetings of the Assembly,</li> <li>▪ Represents the Assembly at the internal meetings of the grouping and towards external bodies and organizations,</li> <li>▪ Takes care of proper financial administration of funds, controls expenditure and approves financial operations,</li> <li>▪ Approves proposals of conceptual, strategy contracts with third parties</li> <li>▪ Verifies the implementation of decisions, work of deputy chair and the Director</li> <li>▪ Suggests a candidate for the position of Director.</li> </ul> <p>The <u>director</u> (Riaditeľ) safeguards the functioning of the Grouping and takes decisions on those matters that are not explicitly in the hands of the Assembly and its Chair.</p> <p><u>Supervisory Board</u> (Dozorná rada) is a control body responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ examination of the annual balance of accounts, annual report on activities and submission of its opinion to the Assembly,</li> <li>▪ Performing control of accounting and administration of other documents,</li> <li>▪ Drawing the attention of the Assembly to identified deficiencies and presents proposals for its removal.</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b>	Working languages are Slovak, Hungarian and English
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.ponsdanubii.eu/">http://www.ponsdanubii.eu/</a>
<b>Contact</b>	Mr. Zoltán Bara, Director of PONS DANUBII EGTC, tel.: +421 905 828 898, email address: <a href="mailto:zoltan.bara@gmail.com">zoltan.bara@gmail.com</a>

## **4.14.2 Development on the ground**

### **Establishing the EGTC**

Although there is already one EGTC (Ister-Granum) in this area, the need was felt for a new grouping. Its establishment is a reaction to the fragmented cooperation efforts between the cities in the area. The EGTC is also an instrument to eliminate obstacles to cooperation resulting from different legislation in Slovakia and Hungary, including mechanisms for financing local authorities. The actual registration of the new EGTC took place in the Slovak Republic since the procedures seemed to be clearer.

### **Establishing structures and organising the decision-making process**

The General Assembly is composed of representatives of all members meeting twice a year and taking strategic decisions. The Chair is in charge of supervision of performance and partners agreed that in the first round the Chair will be from Slovakia and the co-chair from Hungary. The director nominated by the Chair and appointed by the Assembly is responsible for the coordination of tasks, management of individual activities and communication.

### **Financing and managing of the EGTC**

The EGTC has been able to generate sufficient resources to provide operational stability. Financial contribution stimulates active participation of partners. It also increases the expectations of members, since all cross-border activities of cities are promoted exclusively under the umbrella of PONS DANUBII. EGTC programmes represent a crucial source of funding of joint operations. Additional funding might be available as the Hungarian government is introducing support scheme. The Director is in charge of the management. Currently two persons on internship act as support. The plan for 2011 is to employ one additional person. In a mid-term perspective, the EGTC should have up to five persons.

### **Starting the operations**

Four projects have been prepared for the upcoming call, including a joint development plan of the territory and promotion of the area. The city of Komárno decided to host the official seat and should get the premises ready shortly.

### **4.14.3 Key findings**

#### **Lessons learnt**

EGTC represents a useful instrument for integrating fragmented cooperation structures and adding new dimensions and perspectives to cooperation.

The establishment and especially the functioning of EGTC requires sufficient time and active involvement of all members.

#### **Contributions to governance and territorial cohesion**

Activities can have strong contribution to territorial cohesion as it is one of the objectives to establish a platform for joint planning and development.

#### **Challenges**

To define the common vision for the territory and its implementation.

## 4.15 Bánát – Triplex Confinium Limited Liability

### 4.15.1 Key facts

<b>Name of the EGTC</b>	BANAT-TRIPLEX CONFINIUM EUROPEAN GROUPING OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION LIMITED
<b>Acronym</b>	BTC-EGTC
<b>Summary</b>	Strengthening economic and social cohesion in the region
<b>History and current status</b>	Registered by the Hungarian Municipal Court on 5 January 2011
<b>Countries involved</b>	Hungary, Romania, and Serbia as observer members
<b>Seat of the EGTC (and operational units)</b>	Hungary-6782 Mórahalom, Millenniumisétány 2.
<b>Members per Country, administrations involved</b>	37 Hungarian municipalities, 37 Romanian municipalities, 8 Serbian municipalities as observer members
<b>Key indicators (inhabitants, surface area)</b>	338,000 inhabitants Hungarian municipalities (from Bács- Kiskun and Csongrád counties) Romanian municipalities (Temes county) Serbian municipalities (Banat region) as observer members
<b>Territory; administrative; Aspects of multilevel governance</b>	All members of the EGTC are municipalities.
<b>Enlargement intents</b>	Three additional municipalities to join
<b>Duration</b>	Undetermined
<b>Objectives</b>	Economic and social cohesion of the triple border area
<b>Tasks</b>	Implementation of territorial cooperation projects co-financed by the European Union Implementation of other specific actions and projects Raising awareness of the competitive advantages of its operational territory Influencing relevant decisions within the EU
<b>Function in ETC EU-funded projects and programmes in phase of implementation</b>	The EGTC has implemented one project under HU/RO cross-border cooperation programme, and another one under HU/Serbia cross-border cooperation programme (co-funded partially by ERDF and by IPA)
<b>Budget for 2011</b>	Hungarian government support to the EGTCs: 5,000,000 HUF In the EGTC has no membership fee in 2011 yet.
<b>Staff in 2011</b>	2 persons
<b>Law applicable and legal personality</b>	Hungarian public law
<b>Organs and their main competencies</b>	General Assembly: all members (74 members and 8 observers) President Board of Directors: 5 members Supervisory Board Staff
<b>Languages</b>	Hungarian, Romanian, English
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.btc-egtc.eu">www.btc-egtc.eu</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:dudas@btc-egtc.eu">dudas@btc-egtc.eu</a>





## **5. The situation of the EGTC in its phase of constitution**

We can say that by the end of 2011, two EGTCs have acquired legal personality but are not yet operational; three EGTC projects had submitted their convention and statutes to their respective national authorities for approval; ten other projects are negotiating their convention and statutes, and six more have been announced. This makes a total of 21 EGTC projects in the pipeline, known by the Committee of the Regions.

### **5.1. Development stages of the EGTC**

In this section, we intend to describe which EGTC are in phase of constitution in the EU and the degree to which the process of constitution is complete.

At the end of this section we present a grid with colour codes to classify EGTC into development stages. The classification should help structure the EGTC Monitoring Reports. The reader should be able to quickly understand the stage of development of each EGTC.

This classification should help to assess accurately the situation and evolution of the EGTC being set up, around which there has been uncertainty so far. Till now, there has been a vague list of EGTC projects surrounded by much uncertainty. Setting aside the fact that the list is not necessarily complete, which is an unavoidable problem, it was not possible to know which EGTC were a idea, which ones were a solid project, which ones were about to be created or which ones were stagnating. Our aim is to establish the actual status of the pipeline and to monitor its evolution from one year to the next.

The table below aims to provide a simple and rather straightforward classification in five major stages. The proposed indicators are criteria for situating the case in one category or “colour”<sup>6</sup> or another.

Another question is the treatment of the various inception stages – according to our experience it is not clear in all cases if at least one major pre-condition is met, namely that one official representative of all partners is actually involved in managing the preparation process. Thus, we propose introduction of an 'idea'

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<sup>6</sup> A switch between the most interesting stages, i.e. from being ‘in the phase of constitution – notification procedure ongoing’ to being ‘established’ is quite likely to occur while preparing the publication of the report.

stage for all cases where this cannot be clarified with a reasonable amount of investigation.

The following table shows the classification into development stages.

**Table 4. Categorized stages explained<sup>7</sup>**

Stages	Code	Indicators
<b>Idea</b>		The prospective members have undertaken exploratory actions or preliminary negotiations to set up an EGTC.
<b>In preparation (since XY)</b>		The willingness to establish an EGTC has been either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communicated officially to the CoR or to the European Commission.</li> <li>▪ Declared on a major cross-border or transnational event</li> <li>▪ Expressed in a letter of intent or similar document of the prospective members.</li> </ul> The convention and the statutes are in the process of elaboration. Official representatives from at least two partners can be identified
<b>Awaiting approval (since XY)</b>		The prospective members have notified the Member State under whose law it has been formed of its intention to participate in an EGTC and have sent that Member State a copy of the proposed convention and statutes (Art. 4.2 of the Regulation).
<b>Constituted (since XY)</b>		The statutes have been registered and/or published in accordance with the applicable national law in the Member State where the EGTC concerned has its registered office (Art. 5.1 of the Regulation) and the EGTC has acquired legal personality.
<b>Operational (since XY)</b>		The EGTC has its own structure and/or staff in service.

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<sup>7</sup> Some EGTC did not respond to our request for an update on the status of the grouping. These EGTC are marked with the colour white and included in Annex 2.

The following EGTC are established and operational in the end of 2011:

operational

- Abaúj-Abaújban;
- Amphictyony;
- ARCHIMED;
- Arrabona;
- Pirineus-Cerdanya;
- Bánát-Triplex Confinium;
- Duero-Douro;
- Espacio Portalet;
- Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino;
- Eurodistrict Eurodistrict Saar Moselle;
- Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau;
- Eurométropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai;
- Eurorégion Aquitaine-Euskadi;
- Eurorégion Pyrénées-Méditerranée;
- Galicia-Norte de Portugal;
- Grande Région;
- Hospital de la Cerdanya;
- Ister-Granum;
- Karst-Bodva;
- Linieland van Waas en Hulst;
- Novohrad-Nógrád;
- Pons Danubii;
- Rába-Duna-Vág;
- Territory of municipalities: Gorizia (Italy), Mestna občina Nova Gorica (Slovenia) and Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba (Slovenia);
- Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó (UTTS);
- West-Vlaanderen/ Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale;
- ZASNET;

The following table classifies the EGTC by development stages.

**Table 5. Development stages of EGTC in the end of 2011**

	Constituted	awaiting approval	in preparation	Idea
Agglomération franco-luxembourgeoise 'Alzette-Belval'	X			
Novohrad-Nógrád	X			
Medgidia - Silistra		x		
TRITIA		x		
Eurocidade Valença do Minho Tui		x		
Parc Marin International Bouches de Bonifacio			x	
CETC			x	
Bodrogköz			x	
Pannon			x	
Európa-kapu Gate to Europe			x	
Európa közös jövő építő (Europe - building common future)			x	
Euroregion Neiß-Nisa			x	
European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN)			x	
Euroregione "Senza Confini"			x	
Trans-Oderana			x	
Békés-Arad				x
Pro Comitatu				x
Donauhanse				x
Euregio Meuse-Rhine				x
Code 24				x
Corridor VIII				x

## **5.2. EGTCs announced for the beginning of 2012**

In the moment of finishing this report, only the EGTC Pannon had been finally constituted and there was no information about Novohrad-Nógrád and Bodrogköz. These Groupings appear in the table but it has been not possible to do in-depth research about them.

### **5.2.1 EGTC Pannon**

The EGTC has been launched to increase and facilitate cooperation between the South-Western regions of Hungary and the Eastern parts of Slovenia. The idea was to strengthen the local economies of the region. The EGTC will be seated in the city of Pécs, Hungary, and was established on 31 August 2010 with the participation of Slovenian and Hungarian partners. The aim of the cooperation is a well tuned development of the south-western border area. The acceptance of the Convention and the Statute as well as the official registration at the Court of Registration is expected at the end of February 2012.

The director and other executive officers of the EGTC have already been named.

The EGTC consists of over 50 local governments: the local government of Lendava on the Slovenian side (which includes 13 municipalities), and local governments mostly from Baranya, Somogy and Tolna and Zala counties on the Hungarian side. It has been very difficult to obtain the official permission from the Slovenian side to include a number of local governments in the EGTC, which is the reason for the small number of members from Slovenia, compared to the number of members from Hungary. The idea, however, is to enlarge the EGTC to more members. The EGTC also plans to include members from Croatia. The participation of Croatia in the EGTC has to be postponed, however, until after the country's accession to the EU according to the Croatian government. Croatia therefore currently holds an observer status in the organisation.

Within the framework of the EGTC, the main objectives are, inter alia, to develop joint infrastructure, create cross-border integrated development programmes, territorial planning, cooperate in the health sector, develop local transport, and strengthen cooperation between national parks. The EGTC will be granted an initial budget of EUR 33,000 from the Hungarian government and EUR 25,000 from the Slovenian government for programming, and EUR 4,400 has been granted to the EGTC to cover initial set up costs. The EGTC plans to have a first draft of a work programme for 2014-2020, as well as elaborate project plans. In fact, the timing of the creation of the EGTC has been planned in accordance with the new financing period. This way, the EGTC will have

elaborate project ideas to apply for EU funding immediately after the start of the financing period in 2014.

### **5.2.2. EGTC ‘TRITIA’**

The EGTC TRITIA awaits the final green light from the Polish government, announced for the end of 2011, to officially start its activities. This authorisation has not yet been given.

In 2009, the leaders of the four partner regions in Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic decided to create an EGTC to intensify their cross-border bilateral cooperation and make it multilateral. These regions are far from their national capitals and have historical links with their neighbours. They experienced economic restructuring, brain drain and the emergence of new industry sectors - mainly IT and automotive.

The prospective partners are the Silesian Voivodeship (Poland), the Moravian-Silesian Region (Czech Republic), the Žilina Self-governing Region (Slovakia) and the Opole Voivodeship (Poland). The future EGTC TRITIA will result a functional polycentric metropolitan territory:

Its size is 34,069 km<sup>2</sup>, the principal cities are Katowice and Ostrava (both over 300,000 inhabitants) and the total population is 7,855,000 inhabitants. With its strong business base, seven public universities and high number of tertiary education providers, the TRITIA region also constitutes an area with considerable R&D and innovation activity. All four founding members also provide a high number of opportunities for tourism - mostly in the local mountains.

The EGTC will be registered under Polish law. Its seat will be in Cieszyn (Poland, Silesian Voivodeship) and its secretariat in Český Těšín (the Czech Republic, Moravian-Silesian Region): Twin-cities on the two banks of the river Olza, accessible from all parts of the EGTC, and highly symbolic.

The EGTC will have five areas of cooperation: Transport and infrastructure, energy and environment, economic cooperation, tourism, and smart implementation of projects and programmes.

In 2009, the partner regions developed a common strategy for the EGTC, and a roadmap to be followed by the EGTC secretariat. Three bilateral INTERREG 4A projects are being implemented, funded by the Operational Programmes of the Cross-Border Cooperation CZ-PL, SK-CZ and PL-SK. The projects are interlinked and create three bilateral strategies, which will then be merged into one single EGTC binding strategy planned for 2012. Until then, the partners also

include other relevant stakeholders of cross-border cooperation in the TRITIA territory.





## **6. The EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions**

The Platform of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation was created on 26 January 2012 by decision of the Bureau of the Committee of the Regions, and was launched two days later in a joint conference organised by the CoR and the EGTC Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai, which celebrated its third anniversary. The EGTC Monitoring Report 2010 contained recommendations for the Platform.

The political coordination of the EGTC Platform corresponds to the Chairperson of the Commission of Territorial Cohesion of the CoR.



## 7. Synthesis and Findings

Within the reporting year between the publishing of the last EGTC Monitoring Report 2010 and the present report, there have been many developments with regard to establishing new EGTC. In fact, at least 30 EGTC are currently in the pipeline. This report includes eight case studies of concrete EGTC projects being established. These eight EGTC share common characteristics, faced similar challenges and, most interestingly, have similar national seats.

### **Territorial coverage**

Hungary seems to be at the forefront of establishing new EGTC. Among the eight EGTC included in this report, two EGTC are seated in Hungary and unify the Hungarian and Slovak communities. In fact, both the EGTC ‘Arrabona’ and the EGTC ‘Rába-Duna-Vág’ have been created to strengthen the cooperation between Slovak and Hungarian cross-border communities in order to build practical projects based on common interests. The EGTC ‘Pannon’ is yet another EGTC that is on the verge of registration and which will have its seat in Hungary (in partnership with Slovenian communities), along with at least six other EGTC planned to be established within the near future in Hungary.

Moreover, among the eight case studies, three EGTC are partnerships between France and Spain. While the ‘Eurorégion Aquitaine-Euskadi’ and the ‘EGTC Pirineus-Cerdanya’ are seated in France, the EGTC ‘Espacio Portalet’ is seated in Spain.

Italy is the third country to have become the seat of more than one EGTC in 2011. The EGTC EUREGIO Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino builds a partnership between neighbouring regions from Italy and Austria and is seated in Bolzano. The second EGTC seated in Italy is the EGTC “Territory of municipalities: Gorizia (Italy), Mestna občina Nova Gorica (Slovenia) and Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba (Slovenia)” which makes it the first and the only EGTC that includes members from an ‘old’ EU Member-State and a ‘new’ EU Member State.

Lastly, bearing in mind that Belgium has now adopted the national provisions on the EGTC Regulation, the EGTC Linieland van Waas en Hulst registered in August 2011 and seated in Sint-Gillis-Waas is the first EGTC created under Belgian Law. It is also the first Belgian EGTC created with Dutch partners.

## **Behind the scenes: Motivation and challenges**

The idea behind forming an EGTC is the same for all EGTC created in 2011: building an institutional framework with geographic neighbours to work as one on projects of common interest overcoming national legal barriers. Interviewees spoke of “abolishing the physical border” between the member regions or communities. The Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC also aims to actively contribute to the implementation of activities under the EU Strategy for the Danube Region given that the EGTC almost entirely covers the Hungarian-Slovak joint section of the Danube.

However, with the exception of the EGTC Linieland van Waas en Hulst, officially establishing the EGTC came as a challenge to all new groupings. Barriers consisted of either the long waits for authorisation of statutes and conventions by national authorities, or incompatibilities between national laws or between national laws and EU Regulations.

### **Aspects of multilevel governance**

The case studies have confirmed that EGTC are established in order to bring together two regions, communities or municipalities, often from different administrative levels, to empower each of them by acting together as one in regional, national and international settings and by creating a legal framework in which relevant stakeholders can work and take decisions on the same level. In the words of one interviewee: “in the framework of the EGTC, local governments have more possibilities to apply for EU funding and to participate in decision-making processes than in the past”.

For the future, interviewees have expressed their hope for a proper source of funding for EGTC as well as the possibility for EGTC to apply as partners for EU funding.

## Annex 1: Contact list for EGTC

Name of EGTC	Contact person	Position	Contact
Arrabona	Peter Sarkany	Arrabona EGTC director	Website: <a href="http://www.arrabona.eu">http://www.arrabona.eu</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@arrabona.eu">info@arrabona.eu</a> Tel: +36 96 515 630 Fax: +36 96 515 639
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Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino	Birgit Oberkofler Berger	Secretary General	Website: <a href="http://www.euoparegion.info">www.euoparegion.info</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@euoparegion.info">info@euoparegion.info</a> <a href="mailto:birgit.oberkofler@euoparegion.info">birgit.oberkofler@euoparegion.info</a> Tel.: +39 0471 402026 Fax.: +39 0471 405016 Address: EVTZ "Euoparegion Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino" / GECT "Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino" Drususallee 1 - Viale Druso, 1 I-39100 Bozen / I- 39100 Bolzano, Italy
Territorio dei comuni: Comune di Gorizia, Mestna Obcina Nova Gorica, Obcina Sempeter-Vrtojba	Petra Bajec	Consultant for International Relations Nova Gorica City Municipality	Website: <a href="http://www.nova-gorica.si">www.nova-gorica.si</a> Address: Mestna občina Nova Gorica Trg Edvarda Kardelja 1 SI-5000 NOVA GORICA E-mail: <a href="mailto:gect@comune.gorizia.it">gect@comune.gorizia.it</a> <a href="mailto:Petra.bajec@nova-gorica.si">Petra.bajec@nova-gorica.si</a> Tel: +386/5 3350112 +38653350111

<b>Name of EGTC</b>	<b>Contact person</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Pirineus-Cerdanya	Fanny Montagné		<p><u>Website:</u>  <a href="http://www.pyrenees-cerdagne.com">www.pyrenees-cerdagne.com</a>  <u>E-mail:</u>  <a href="mailto:charge.mission@pyrenees-cerdagne.com">charge.mission@pyrenees-cerdagne.com</a>  <a href="mailto:fanny.montagne@pyrenees-cerdagne.com">fanny.montagne@pyrenees-cerdagne.com</a>  Tel.: 0033(0)4 68 04 53 30</p>
Espacio Portalet	Natalia Blázquez,	Directora Gerente de la Fundación Transpirenaica	<p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:nblazquez@aragon.es">nblazquez@aragon.es</a>  tel. +34 976715182.</p>
Rába-Duna-Vág (RDV)	Nagy Gabriella; Andrassy Zuzana		<p><u>Website:</u>  <a href="http://www.dev.birosag.webgrafia.hu/content/raba-duna-vag-korlatolt-felelossegu-europai-terueleti-egyuettmukoedesi-csoportosulas">http://www.dev.birosag.webgrafia.hu/content/raba-duna-vag-korlatolt-felelossegu-europai-terueleti-egyuettmukoedesi-csoportosulas</a>  <u>E-mail:</u>  <a href="mailto:nagy.gabriella@kemoh.hu">nagy.gabriella@kemoh.hu</a>  <a href="mailto:zuzanaandrassy@yahoo.co.uk">zuzanaandrassy@yahoo.co.uk</a>  Tel.: +36306926494</p>
Eurorégion Aquitaine-Euskadi	Miguel A. Crespo  Marc Moulin	Delegate for Trans-border cooperation  Director of the EGTC	<p><u>Website:</u> <a href="http://www.euskadi.net">www.euskadi.net</a>  <u>Address:</u>  CALLE NAVARRA, 2 - 01007,  VITORIA-GASTEIZ  <u>E-mail:</u> <a href="mailto:ma-crespo@ej-gv.es">ma-crespo@ej-gv.es</a>  <u>Tel.:</u> +34-945 017817</p>

## Annex 2: Further EGTC

The following EGTCs have been contacted in order to obtain information about their current state of implementation. No information has been received so far.

No information

- Ulm-Vienna- Budapest
- Euroregion Alps-Mediterranean
- Euranest
- Bulgaria-Romania EGTC on common navigation on the Danube
- National park Area Alpi Marittime / Mercantour
- Alpen-Adria
- Eurodistrict Oderland Nad Odrze
- Europaregion Donau – Moldau
- Euroregion Corridor VIII
- Ung-Tisza-Túr (UTT)
- Euroregion Tatry





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