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TERRITORIAL COHESION AND THE FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY

INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- TO BUILD A COMMON APPROACH OF THE CONCEPT OF TERRITORIAL COHESION
- TO IMPLEMENT THE ACTION PROGRAMME OF THE TERRITORIAL AGENDA (WORK ON 3 EU KEY DOSSIERS)
- TO BRING NEW ARGUMENTS IN THE DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY

An additional objective:

- TO WORK OUT A RESPONSE OF COHESION POLICY TO THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS

WORK PROCESS AND CALENDAR

- **5 WORKING GROUPS (OVER 70 REPRESENTATIVES FROM MS, NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, EU INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS)**
- **REPORTS AT MID-SEPTEMBER**
- **ELABORATION OF THE WORKING DOCUMENTS FOR THE STAKEHOLDERS EVENT AND FOR THE MINISTERS**
- **DISCUSSION ON THE DOCUMENTS WITH ALL THE MS (30 SEPTEMBER)**
- **VALIDATION OF THE DOCUMENTS FOR THE MINISTERS BY THE DGs (28 OCTOBER)**
- **STAKEHOLDERS EVENT (30&31 OCTOBER)**
- **MINISTERIAL MEETING (26 NOVEMBER)**

RESULTS/OUTPUTS

DEBATE ON TERRITORIAL COHESION

- FIRST EU DEBATE ON A HIGH LEVEL
- ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT TC IS AN ISSUE TO DEAL WITH ALSO ON THE EU LEVEL
- A WIDE APPROACH OF THE CONCEPT; NO NEED FOR A PRECISE DEFINITION; FOCUS ON THE POLITICAL APPLICATIONS AND CONCRETE PROJECTS
- TC CANNOT BE REDUCED TO COHESION POLICY BUT CONCERNS MOST OF THE SECTOR-BASED POLICIES (HIGH EXPECTATION ON TIA)
- TC IS MOSTLY A MATTER OF COORDINATION AND GOVERNANCE BEFORE BEING A FUNDING ISSUE
- NEED FOR A BETTER KNOWLEDGE ON TERRITORIES AND TERRITORIAL DYNAMICS (ESPON...)
- TC WILL BE ON THE EU POLITICAL AGENDA FROM NOW ONWARDS WHATEVER HAPPENS TO THE LISBON TREATY

RESULTS/OUTPUTS

DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY

I/ CONTRIBUTION OF COHESION POLICY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE REGIONS FACING NEW CHALLENGES

- New challenges affect the regions in an asymmetric way : today's winners might lose tomorrow
- Controversial issues :
 - ☞ Should CP support only the lagging behind regions which do not have the resources to face the challenges
 - ☞ Or should CP help all the regions to integrate the opportunities and the risk factors generated by the new challenges in their development strategy
- In both cases, it should not replace the sector-based policies
- A first example in the current period : measures to help regions stroke by the economic and financial crisis (debate on the EU recovery action plan)

RESULTS/OUTPUTS

DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY

II/ CP SHOULD BETTER TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TERRITORIAL DIMENSION OF DISPARITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

- Territorial diversity
- Geographical specificities
- Sub-regional disparities (deprived urban neighbourhoods, depopulated rural areas, etc.)
- Territories left behind because of the tendency to polarisation of the economic development
- Important role of EU territorial cooperation

RESULTS/OUTPUTS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TERRITORIAL AGENDA

ACTION 2.4 OF THE AZORES PROGRAMME : 3 KEY DOSSIERS

“Prepare and promote contributions of the Ministers to the debate on the most relevant EU key dossiers from the point of view of sustainable spatial development and territorial cohesion”

- Rural development and the reform of CAP
- Sustainable development strategy post 2011 (climate change)
- Lisbon strategy post 2010

RESULTS/OUTPUTS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TERRITORIAL AGENDA

ADOPTION OF 5 METHODOLOGICAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE APPLIED TO THE ANALYSIS OF THE OTHER DOSSIERS

- Promote consideration of the territorial impact of sector-based policies and major strategies at the design stage,
- Improve coordination between these policies and strategies and cohesion policy,
- Increase knowledge of the territorial effects of sector-based policies and major strategies,
- Improve coordination at European and national level on territorial cohesion issues
- Support and prioritize territorial approaches and projects on the proper scale which are consistent in terms of theme, geography or function.

RESULTS/OUTPUTS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TERRITORIAL AGENDA

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE 3 KEY DOSSIERS (+TRANSPORT POLICY POST 2010 BY GERMANY)

- Proposed lines of action within the scope of a working programme to be implemented in the next months
- + Request of the Ministers to France and Germany to continue running work they have undertaken on the key dossiers in order to present proposals of recommendations at a forthcoming informal meeting of Ministers for spatial planning

RESULTS/LESSONS LEARNT AND QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TA

- We will propose to the other MS our own assessment of the implementation of the AP1/TA during the French Presidency
- Influencing the evolution of EU key dossiers from the point of view of territorial cohesion : methodology for addressing sector-based policies and strategies should be worked further
- Capacity of Ministers in charge of spatial planning to address sector-based policies (interministerial debate) should be reflected on

RESULTS/LESSONS LEARNT AND QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE WHOLE POLITICAL PROCESS

- Is there a value added to convene a meeting with both Ministers in charge of spatial planning and cohesion policy?
- Is the legitimacy of those informal meetings sufficient to deal with territorial cohesion?
- What should be a more active role of the main stakeholders in the process?
- Last but not least : there is a clear political demand for more efficient territorial analysis and prospective. What should be the role of ESPON ?