

Change the perspective! From cross-border to interaction area.

ESPON Seminar

11th June 2019 // Dresden, Germany

Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Urban Regional Development (IOER)
Weberplatz 1 | D-01217 Dresden (Germany)

1. Outline

The European Union's has 40 internal land border regions, representing 40% of its territory and close to 30% of its population (European Commission, 2017). Albeit with different magnitude, border externalities are adversely affecting all border regions, increasing social cost. The notion of inefficiencies (market and government failures) caused by borders suggest that border regions have to be perceived as functional areas. Such areas need a common vision, governance and a set of actions designed to minimise inefficiencies. For nearly three decades, Interreg has been a major instrument in Europe to support cross-border visions, governance and actions. Meanwhile, this instrument is taken for granted and even criticised for an alleged lack of tangible results and for generating inefficiencies itself. A closer look at cross-border investments, however, suggests that Interreg has been reducing negative border externalities on many different levels, including environmental costs, market inefficiencies as well as inefficiencies in public services (ESPON, 2019). The performance framework of Interreg programmes does not fully capture the long-term net impact. Even small-scale soft cooperation projects are capable of increasing the net social impact in the long-run beyond the projects' and programmes' lifetime. Yet, cross-border stakeholders have always been confronted with the questions as how to better capture inefficiencies in functional border areas that need public intervention and how to measure the net social benefits of the respective public intervention.

This ESPON seminar is all about empirical knowledge and reduction of inefficiencies in border areas, taking a closer look at **Central Europe and in particular the German-Polish-Czech border regions**. You are invited to listen to success stories from Joint Secretariats, to visions of policymakers, monitoring and evaluation methodologies of spatial planners and economists as well as reflections from post-2020 programming stakeholders. The seminar features among others interventions from five Interreg programmes, DG Regio, DG RTD, DG GROW, territorial researchers and Interreg managing authorities.

It seeks to answer as to:

- how have cross-border public investments been transforming border areas into interaction areas;
- what is needed to determine the right vision for a border area;
- how to determine the right intervention areas for post-2020 investments;
- what is the net benefit maximising quantity of cross-border public investments;
- how to isolate the net social impact of cross-border public investments (in particular the Interreg value added);
- how to ensure efficient use of Interreg along with other sources such as Horizon Europe, COSME, LIFE, etc.

The seminar is open to all types of border stakeholder needed to constitute an interaction area including current and prospective Interreg beneficiaries (public administrations, research and education facilities, NGOs, clusters, private sector, etc.), members of Interreg monitoring committees, Managing Authorities, Euroregions, EGTCs, cross-border service providers, spatial planners and other border region scholars.

2. Programme

Moderation by Martin Guillermo-Ramirez, Association of European Border Regions, Secretary General

09.30	<i>Registration and Welcome Coffee</i>
10.00	<p>Welcome and introduction by IOER</p> <p>Interaction areas: governance, services and INTERREG social benefits by Vassilen Iotzov, ESPON EGTC</p>
Session 1 – Interaction narratives: alleviating border obstacles through INTERREG investments	
10.30	<p>Presentations by and moderated round-table discussion with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hana Müller Karlová, Head of Joint Secretariat, INTERREG Germany/Saxony-Czech Republic • Pawel Kurant, Head of Joint Secretariat Germany/Saxony-Poland • Maciej Molak, Head of Joint Secretariat, INTERREG Czech Republic-Poland

Session 2 – Evidence and visions for interaction areas

11.30

Keynote speech

- **Measuring the performance and isolating the net impact of Interreg**
by Bernd Schuh, Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning
- **Spatial monitoring Germany and neighbouring regions**
by Volker Schmidt-Seiwert, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) within the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR)
- **Common Future Vision for the German-Polish Interaction Area: Horizon 2030 as an example of good practice**
by Maciej Zathey, Institute for Territorial Development, Director
- **Cross-border projects: a contribution to strengthening the regional competitiveness of the Czech-Saxon border region**
by Milan Jeřábek, Brno University, Associate Professor

13.00

Lunch Break

Session 3 – Interactions among funding schemes

14.00

Keynote

How to strengthen the links between INTERREG and other funding streams in order to maximise impact: the case of the Interreg Central Europe experimental call

by Monika Schoenerklee-Grasser, Head of Evaluation and Monitoring Unit, INTERREG Central Europe Secretariat

Presentations by and moderated round-table with European Commission representatives:

- **Cross-border cooperation (ESIF)**
Dirk Peters, Senior Expert for European territorial cooperation, EGTC and ECBM, **DG REGIO**, Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, internal borders Unit
- **Cross-border research (Horizon Europe)**
- Peter Schenk, Policy Officer, **DG Research and Innovation**, Sharing Excellence - Country Intelligence Unit
- **Cross-border markets (COSME)**
Janos Schmied, Programme Officer, **DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs**, Unit EEN and Internationalization

Session 4 – Post-2020 INTERREG niches for interaction areas

<p>15.30</p>	<p><i>Moderated round-table with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Mackeldey, Head of Division European Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes, Saxon State Ministry of Environment and Agriculture • Jarosław Sopol, Senior Expert, ETC Department, Ministry of Investment and Economic Development of Poland (responsible for legal framework for Interreg 2020+ programmes and INTERREG post 2020 taskforce) • Gregor Forschbach, European Spatial Development Policy / Territorial Cohesion, German Federal Ministry of the Interior (ESPO MC for Germany) • Jan Pikna, Department of ETC, Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic
<p>16.30</p>	<p>Wrap-up and conclusion</p> <p>by Martin Guillermo-Ramirez, Association of European Border Regions, Secretary General</p>
<p>16.45</p>	<p><i>End</i></p>