



SPATIAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Lecture 14. Development and planning of cross-border areas

Katarzyna Pałubska PhD, Eng.

Małgorzata Sosnowska PhD, Eng. of Architecture



Erasmus+

Cross-border cooperation between European countries is as needed as it is obvious, especially in the context of increased freedom of movement within the European Union, and the impact of global economic and environmental factors.

Municipalities, regional authorities and European countries have recognized the need for cooperation across borders also in the field of spatial planning.

Cross-border cooperation may concern the cooperation of neighboring municipalities in two or three countries or may concern neighboring regions.

The EU INTERREG initiative has contributed to strengthening cross-border planning in cross-border areas in the European Union.

However, many of the activities and solutions that work best in cross-border areas are informal and/or advisory and do not become part of formal spatial planning systems in the Member States.

Spatial planning in cross-border areas

Commissions or teams for national planning or regional planning that occur in many borderlands have traditionally operated on the basis of agreements or government treaties, but such bodies often lack decision-making capacity.

However, regional planning bodies at regional and local levels often operate without formal authorization. Such units usually cooperate closely with the national level and develop their own concepts of spatial development.

The spatial planning process in cross-border regions includes

- cross-border socio-economic analysis
- assessment of the region,
- preparation of joint development plans
- development of cross-border development measures.

Basic levels of cooperation in planning spatial development in cross-border areas:

- state / regional
- regional / local

Three types of approaches to cross border spatial planning can be identified:

- non-institutionalised cooperation
- formal cooperation
- common decision making

Non-institutionalised cooperation

- this is the most basic level of cooperation,
- it is characterized by the exchange of information and plans and other matters across borders,
- it is usually the first step towards wider consultation and joint involvement in the decision-making process,
- most countries have this level of cooperation,
- at this level, the emphasis is on informal cooperation, not joint decision-making, but it may be an introduction to more formal connections.

Formal cooperation

-In this approach to the spatial planning of cross-border areas, the formal nature of working groups or committees that consult projects or policies of the respective countries is characteristic.

Common decision making

-This approach assumes joint decision-making based on joint activities in which common policies and guidelines are adopted. The level of involvement of neighboring authorities, divided by a common border, may vary. Since there are no common planning instruments between Member States, the joint strategy must be included in statutory instruments in each country.

Spatial development planning in cross-border regions

Spatial planning includes:

- **assessment of regional and national conditions**
- **development plans (policies, activities and implementation options) for cross-border regions as a single geographical unit.**
- **It creates a framework for cross-border cooperation in areas such as: economy, transport, infrastructure, environment, etc.**

Historical context of cross-border spatial policy in Europe

The regional policy of the European Union was initiated in 1975, when the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** was created for the purposes related to regional policy.

Article 253 of the Treaty of Rome states that the objective of the European Union's regional policy is focused on “redressing the most important regional imbalances in the Community”.

In the beginning, economic aspects played the first role, while the spatial dimension of regional policy was less important. The spatial context of regional planning has been strengthened in subsequent treaties and acts of the European Union.

Historical context of cross-border spatial policy in Europe

- **The EU Treaty of Maastricht** (signed on 7 February 1992)

The treaty advocated for a “cohesion fund”, which would be used to provide financing for environment projects and trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure.

The provisions of the Maastricht Treaty allowed the European Union to increase its activity in the field of regional and cross-border policy. The treaty did not provide for the creation of an independent body that would deal with spatial development policy.

Other documents relevant for regional and cross-border policy:

- **EUROPEAN REGIONAL/SPATIAL PLANNING CHARTER - Torremolinos Charter** - adopted on 20 May 1983 at Torremolinos
- **Principles for a European Spatial Development Policy** (Leipzig 1994)
the document contained the basic spatial planning principles for future urban development,
- **ESDP -The European Spatial Development Perspective, Towards a balanced and sustainable development of the EU** (Potsdam, May 1999): „The regional and local authorities are amongst the key actors of European spatial planning”

Historical context of cross-border spatial policy in Europe

Documents relevant for regional and cross-border policy:

- **“Guiding Principles for sustainable spatial development of the European continent”**. The document was adopted at the 12th European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (7-8 September 2000) in Hanover: The document contains guiding principles for the policy of sustainable spatial development for the whole of Europe - including the Russian Federation. Most of the provisions of this document are important for cross-border regions, especially the provisions on transnational revival and cross-border cooperation as a tool for better linking economic development with spatial planning.
- **Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020** *Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions*
- **“An Agenda for a Reformed Cohesion Policy. A place-based approach to meeting European Union challenges and expectations”**, prepared by Fabrizio Barca in April 2009 upon the request of Danuta Hübner, so called **„Barca Report”** a basic document presenting the new concept of European Territorial Cohesion.

- **Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020** *Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions:*

Art.3.: „ Territorial integration in cross-border and transnational functional regions

We consider that the integration of territories through territorial cooperation can be an important factor in fostering global competitiveness. In this way, potentials such as valuable natural, landscape and cultural heritage, city networks and labour markets divided by borders can be better utilized. Attention shall be paid to areas along external borders of the EU in this regard. Territorial integration and co-operation can create a critical mass for development, diminishing economic, social and ecological fragmentation, building mutual trust and social capital. Cross border and transnational functional regions may require proper policy coordination between different countries.

We support transnational and cross border integration of regions going beyond cooperation projects and focusing on developments and results of real cross-border or transnational relevance. European Territorial Cooperation should be better embedded within national, regional and local development strategies.”

INTERREG

Is a series of programmes to stimulate cooperation between regions in the European Union, funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

This initiative is intended to help the internal border regions of the Community and to promote the creation and development of cooperation networks along internal borders.

Initially, the program covered only cross-border cooperation, but was later extended and until now it is based on transnational and interregional cooperation.

Interreg is made up of three strands:

Standard A - concerns cross-border cooperation and aims to promote integrated regional development between neighboring border regions.

Standard B - covers wider transnational cooperation, which is to lead to territorial integration throughout the European Union.

Standard C - concerns interregional cooperation. Its task is to improve the effectiveness of policies, regional development tools and cohesion.



Interreg I (1990-1993),
Interreg II-A (1994-1999)
Interreg II-C start in 1997
Interreg III-B (2000-2006)
Interreg IV (2007-2013)
Interreg V (2014-2020)

First cooperation programmes for spatial planning in European Union as part of the INTERREG IIB program

- the North Sea region
- the Baltic Sea region
- the Atlantic region
- South-western Europe
- the Western Mediterranean and Southern Alps
- the Adriatic, Danube, Central and South-eastern European region (CADSES)
- the Northwest European metropolitan region

Interreg VB North Sea Region
Programme Area 2014-2020

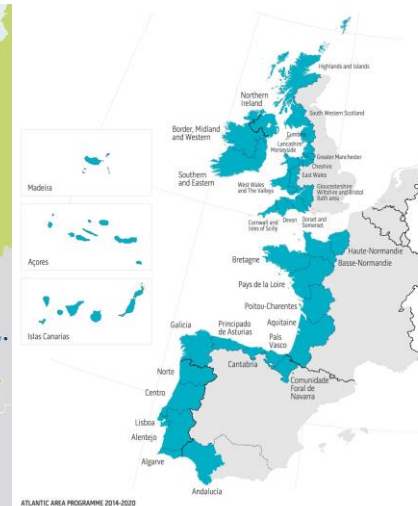
Regions within the NSR programme area



<https://northsearegion.eu>



www.interreg-baltic.eu



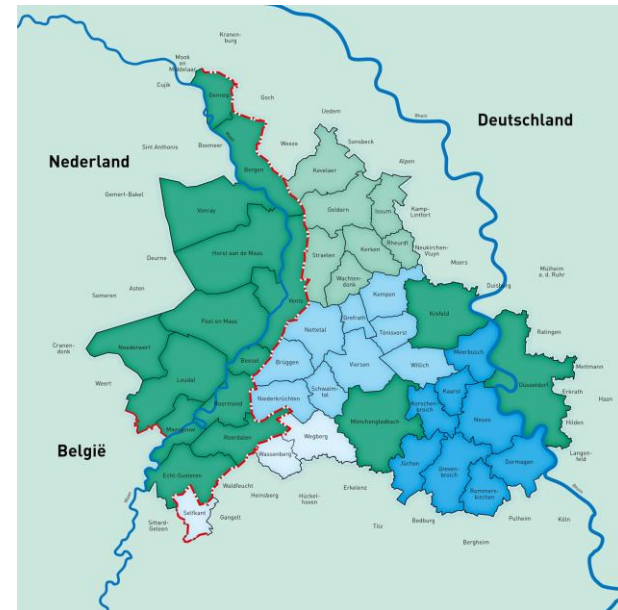
<http://www.atlanticarea.eu>

EUREGIO RHEIN-MAAS-NORD (DE/NL)

A wide socio-economic analysis was carried out before the project was distributed. workshops were organized with the participation of various organizations, cities and ministries. The results of the workshops and expert discussions were included as guidelines for regional development in the preparation of the INTERREG II Operational Program Euregio Rhein-Maas-Nord (1993).

The main identified trends included:

- increasing the cross-border functional division of labor,
- rapid changes in economic and technological structures,
- increasing traffic
- deterioration of environmental conflicts.



<http://euregio-rmn.de>

The results of these consultations were taken into account in the development of the strategy and operational program for INTERREG II (1995-1999)

INTERREGIII–PHARE CBCSPATIAL PERSPECTIVE FOR THE BAVARIAN-CZECH BORDER REGION (DE/CZ)

Project description:

The participants of the project were academic employees, regional entities, social partners and the steering group the project included

- description of the area and its social and economic development
- analysis of strengths and weaknesses,
- guidelines and strategies for cross-border development, economic development, sustainable spatial and environmental development, infrastructure and human resources, and institutional development, as well as - project measures and proposals.

Results: The spatial perspective was developed on the basis of regional concepts of cross-border development.

It included: - a general concept of ensuring the future of the cross-border zone in a sustainable manner; and specific projects that were to be implemented during the 2000-2006 support period.

As a result, the border area had a comprehensive concept of using EU resources as part of the operational program and INTERREG IIIA.

Co-operation within the framework of the project took place on the one hand at the state level, and on the other hand, the former municipalities, administration, associations and citizens were involved.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Czech_Republic_Germany_Locator.png

THE BALTADAPT BALTIC SEA REGION

This is cross-border project of adaptation to climate change in the BALTADAPT Baltic Sea region.

It was developed thanks to the wide involvement of stakeholders at all levels. Actions were taken at national level, bottom-up activities at local and regional level on the basis of guidelines provided by the EU

The project organized a dialogue with citizens, cross-sector workshops with experts and political forums with high-level officials to integrate all actors and policy sectors.



In the field of spatial planning, there is an increasing scope of cross-border cooperation between Member States. Joint development plans and projects are being created. These activities operate in different legal and administrative systems of individual States. This situation requires a lot of commitment from countries, also to adapt legal and administrative solutions for the needs of cross-border cooperation programs.

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