

## Task Force to describe and develop pilot models for coordination across programmes

During the Interact events 'Project Chain development workshop' (held on 25 May 2016, Stockholm, Sweden) and 'Coordination across programmes to better address common challenges'<sup>1</sup> (held on 14 September 2016, Bonn, Germany) it was concluded that coordination and cooperation among Interreg programmes is not yet a daily practice but rather an exception. It was also said that coordination and cooperation can happen on two different levels: 1<sup>st</sup> level - programme level to create the structural and procedural environment for coordination and cooperation, e.g. addressing simplification and harmonisation questions among programmes; while on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level coordination and cooperation would address the question – what other programmes/funds do within the topic, raising awareness of others activities, providing information, building mutual recognition – all leading to joint coordination and cooperation activities across programmes. It was admitted that currently and in most of the programmes, coordination is happening at the 1<sup>st</sup> level only.

The coordination activity can happen due to territorial and thematic overlaps, but also where the EU macro-regional and Sea basin strategies are relevant and provide a strategic framework for coordination and cooperation. Coordination and cooperation is not a special request for Interreg programmes but refers to general invitation for better synergies among various funding instruments. As examples of coordination and cooperation could be mentioned, e.g. the recently established network of the ERDF Managing Authorities operating within the scope of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region or the Danube ESF Transnational Network within the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Even more, there are no limitations for coordination and cooperation initiatives and models for any type of programmes, if only seen beneficial for the programmes involved.

### Aim of establishing the Task Force

Considering the views shared during the above mentioned events as well as following up on other parallel developing initiatives, Interact is calling for a group of representatives of Interreg programmes to describe existing and develop new models for coordination and cooperation (Task Force).

Being aware that some models for coordination and cooperation are already developed by programmes, but they are neither collected at one place nor further promoted to other programmes, the Task Force will have a **twofold focus**:

- 1) **collecting existing** knowledge and coordination and cooperation **models**;
- 2) **developing new models** for coordination and cooperation: work on description of the model; providing tips on how it could be embedded in practice; highlighting potential challenges; etc.

### Composition of the Task Force

The Task Force would be composed of up to ten representatives of Interreg programmes Managing Authorities or Joint Secretariats from different geographical areas and representing different

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<sup>1</sup> The Report from the event 'Coordination across programmes to better address common challenges' is available on Interact website <http://www.interact-eu.net/library#812>

strands. Representatives of Interreg IPA II cross-border cooperation programmes and ENI programmes are welcome to join the Task Force.

The group is open for other than above mentioned programme representatives, e.g. ESIF national and regional funds, EU funding instruments, who would be interested to contribute to the cooperation and coordination practices.

Interact is pleased to inform that following programmes representatives agreed to join the Task Force:

- 1) Monika Schönerklee-Grasser, Interreg Central Europe Programme;
- 2) Gianluca Ferreri, Interreg CBC FR/UK/BE/NL 2 Seas;
- 3) Thorsten Kohlisch, Interreg V-A Euregio Meuse–Rhine;
- 4) Aiste Petraityte, Interreg CBC FR/UK France (Manche)–England;
- 5) Anca Radu, Interreg IPA CBC Romania – Serbia;
- 6) Marcela Glodeanu, Interreg Romania-Bulgaria;
- 7) Tarja Richard, Interreg MED;
- 8) Samu Numminen, Interreg Central Baltic.

Interact will be organising and leading the Task Force work and will be represented by two project managers:

Baiba Liepa, [baiba.liepa@interact-eu.net](mailto:baiba.liepa@interact-eu.net), m +358 40 159 9430

Mercedes Acitores Franzon, [mercedes.acitores@interact-eu.net](mailto:mercedes.acitores@interact-eu.net), m +34 62 019 6926

### **Main tasks for the group**

The Task Force would focus on the following tasks:

- 1) agree on the template for collecting information on models for coordination;
- 2) collect (existing) knowledge on coordination efforts and describe these models;
- 3) develop and describe new models for coordination and cooperation;
- 4) provide tips on how these models could be embedded in practice; highlight potential challenges;
- 5) encourage programmes to pilot models described;
- 6) share and promote models developed by the Task Force.

The list of tasks is not exclusive.

### **Preliminary schedule Task Force**

The plan is to organise the first Task Force meeting before the end of 2016.

The next two meetings would be organised in (tbc) February and April 2017 prior to the workshop on cooperation and coordination across programmes, planned in May 2017.

Depending on work progress, later meetings can be arranged in the second half of 2017.