

Key Info: cross border cooperation

1) Extract from the **COUNCIL DECISION** of 6 October 2006 on **Community strategic guidelines on cohesion** (2006/702/EC)

The aim of cross-border cooperation in Europe is to integrate areas divided by national borders that face common problems requiring common solutions. Such challenges are faced by all border regions in the Union as a result of the fragmentation of markets for labour and capital, infrastructure networks, fiscal capacity, and institutions...

...cross-border cooperation should focus on strengthening the competitiveness of the border regions. In addition, it should contribute to economic and social integration, especially where there are wide economic disparities on either side. Actions include promoting knowledge and know-how transfer, the development of cross-border business activities, cross-border education/training and healthcare potential and integrating the cross-border labour market; and joint management of the environment and common threats. Where the basic conditions for cross-border cooperation are already in place, cohesion policy should focus assistance on actions that bring added value to cross-border activities: for example, increasing cross-border competitiveness through innovation and research and development; connecting intangible networks (services) or physical networks (transport) to strengthen cross-border identity as a feature of European citizenship; the promotion of cross-border labour market integration; cross-border water management and flood control; joint management of natural and technological risks.'

2) Extract from the **Regulation (EC) N° 1080/2006**

Article 6

Under the European territorial cooperation objective, the ERDF shall focus its assistance on the following priorities:

- 1) the development of cross-border economic, social and environmental activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, and primarily:
 - a) by encouraging entrepreneurship, in particular the development of SMEs, tourism, culture, and cross-border trade;
 - b) by encouraging and improving the joint protection and management of natural and cultural resources, as well as the prevention of natural and technological risks;
 - c) by supporting links between urban and rural areas;
 - d) by reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services, and cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities;
 - e) by developing collaboration, capacity and joint use of infrastructures, in particular in sectors such as health, culture, tourism and education.

In addition, the ERDF may contribute to promoting legal and administrative cooperation, the integration of cross border labour markets, local employment initiatives, gender equality and equal opportunities, training and social inclusion, and sharing of human resources and facilities for R&D.



3) Extract from The **2 Seas Operational Programme**:

"The vision from the Programme is to develop the cross border cooperation area by reducing the barrier effect of national borders and bringing together actors from all parts of the region. This cross border area should be able to play a coordinated role at the European scale in achieving the aims of the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies."

Cross border added value

The Programme will address issues that need intervention at a cross border level. Cross border added value is created when the Programme makes it possible to seize opportunities or produce benefits when a solely national approach would not allow this.

It excludes actions which could be carried out independently on each side of the border with the same result. Cross border added value also exists when the Programme contributes to minimising the distortions that the border introduces between the actors. In this respect both the land borders and the maritime borders are considered.

4) **Points of attention**

- Projects submitted under the 2 Seas programme have to show a true spirit of cross border collaboration. This should be through all of the following: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, and joint financing.
- Projects need to collaborate on cross border activities that directly relate to addressing the Priorities and Objectives as set out in the 2 Seas Operational Programme (sections 2, 3 and 4).
- A Cross border partnership is not enough: ideas & activities' implementation must be cross border too.
- Projects have to ensure consistency and coherence between the budget and the planned activities.

5) **Lessons Learnt from previous calls for proposals**

- Low level of cross border cooperation: there is a perception that some projects were providing local shopping lists with no overall framework for cross border cooperation.
- Lack of focus: projects need to clearly define what are the cross border objectives, activities, strategies and partner roles in the activities.
- Additionality: just follow-on projects financed from other INTERREG Programmes is not enough. Projects need to show how they build on past experiences by bringing in something new.
- Shared costs and compensation costs: these principles of are often misunderstood. Facilitators and the JTS can be asked for additional explanation or clarification before the project's submission.
- Durability: projects need to show how the projects' results will be sustained after the end of ERDF funding.

