



Committee of the Regions

What are the Committee of the Regions' initiatives in the field of EGTCs?

→ The Committee has a specific consultative remit in the area of cross-border cooperation (Article 265 of the EC Treaty) and is one of the main political champions of EGTCs. In 2008, it has adopted a key opinion on "EGTCs: New impetus for territorial cooperation in Europe".

→ On the basis of the network of expertise and its specific consultative remit, the Committee of the Regions provides political backing for the full implementation of the EGTC regulation.

→ The Committee has set up the EGTC Expert Group composed of experts from regional and local authorities, research institutes and centres of expertise on territorial cooperation to assess progress in introducing EGTCs in the various Member States and to facilitate the exchange of expertise.

→ The Committee has published its first study on the EGTCs in 2007 and has actively mounted information campaigns on the subject since. The second study on state of play and perspectives for EGTCs has been published at the end of 2008.

→ Regulation 1082/2006 states that the Committee is to be informed of the statutes and conventions of future EGTCs when they are set up; on the basis of this provision, a Registry of existing EGTCs is currently being set up.



Bridge across the Guardiana, between Spain and Portugal. Algarve, Portugal

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Ten questions & answers

1. What are European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation?

The EGTC is a new European legal instrument enabling regional and local authorities from different Member States to set up cooperation groupings with a legal personality. It was introduced by Regulation 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council on 5 July 2006.

2. What roles can they fulfil?

To organise and manage cross-border, transnational or interregional cooperation measures, with or without a financial contribution from the EU. To carry out these tasks, an EGTC may create its own structure, have assets and hire staff.

3. Could you give some examples?

Running a cross-border transport system or health service; managing a project or programme part-financed by the ERDF (e.g. Territorial Cooperation objective, formerly Interreg); setting up a joint energy agency for using renewable resources; establishing bilingual information systems in border regions; managing a project under the Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development; etc.

"The Committee of the Regions is calling on all Member States to implement national provisions on the EGTC so that all regions and cities in Europe can participate in the scheme. The EGTC will help to get rid of red tape and enable partners to realize joint projects that meet public needs"

Luc Van den Brande,
President of the CoR

4. What cooperation measures are outside EGTCs' remit?

EGTCs have no powers in the areas of police, justice or foreign policy.

5. Who can set up an EGTC?

Regional and local authorities, central governments, bodies governed by public law, associations.

6. How is an EGTC set up?

By signing a convention and adopting statutes, which must be notified to the relevant national authorities. The latter have three months to approve the participation of prospective members and must substantiate any refusals they may make by referring to the regulation.

"The EGTC is a radical step forward in the implementation possibilities for cross-border cooperation. It offers regional and local authorities the option of creating a cross-border grouping with legal personality."

Danuta Hübner,
Commissioner for Regional Policy

7. What geographical area should be covered by an EGTC?

EGTC members must be located in at least two Member States.

8. Can EGTCs be set up at the EU's external borders?

In principle, yes, provided that the legislation of the relevant non-EU countries or agreements between the latter and Member States allow it.

9. As of when is it possible to set up EGTCs?

As of 1 August 2007. By this date, Member States must have adopted laws or administrative measures which amplify Regulation 1082/2006.

10. Are we still in time for the 2007-2013 programming period?

Yes. Future EGTCs can propose projects to be funded under the various cooperation programmes. Operational programmes can also provide for programme management responsibilities to be transferred to a future EGTC.