



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**Time for a Change:
A new approach for
transnational co-operation**

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A Little History

- "Transnational" is a co-operation baby
 - A development from the European Spatial Development Perspective
 - Pilot phase to 1999; first full phase 2000-2006
 - Still early to draw definitive conclusions
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Initial Lessons

- Transnational co-operation is not easy!
 - Challenging at all levels: programming, implementation, project level
 - Visibility is not always guaranteed

 - Clear added value and political importance
 - Specialised actors and outcomes
 - Prioritisation suffers in a budgetary context
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Difficult Times

- Much harder to justify than cross-border co-operation
 - 2007-2013 budget outcome reflects this reality
 - A clear need to move forward, to change, to develop
 - How?
 - ◆ management
 - ◆ programme relationships
 - ◆ awareness raising
 - ◆ content
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Programme Management

- Management relationships must be close, well-structured, and with mutual confidence
 - Particular challenges where programmes areas or programme authorities have changed
 - Fast start-up crucial to allow the new programmes to reach cruising speed: no running to catch up!
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Programme Relationships

- Relationships between countries equally important
 - Vital to build solid relationships at committee level, and among national contact points
 - Those involved must work for the good of the programme, not simply the good of their country
 - Advances evident within all programmes in recent years - more work required
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Awareness raising

- Visibility!
 - Getting the message out about the importance of transnational co-operation
 - Raising awareness and profile of transnational actions and explaining the successes - to the right people
 - Think publicity and information from the very beginning
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Content

- Same budget as this period with double the Member States
 - Eastward shift of funding advantageous for Central and South-East Europe in particular
 - Evolution already evident: move away from the purely studies and evaluation approach of 97-99 period
 - Need to continue progression: a more concrete, relevant dimension - supporting projects with a direct, visible impact
 - Need to fix co-operation within the geography of the programme - less interregional co-operation
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What does "strategic" mean?

- "Strategic projects" means identifying key issues for co-operation in a programme area and driving those projects forward
 - A degree of "top-down" is not always bad!
 - Monitoring Committee has a responsibility for project generation/project development: providing a directing influence on potential projects
 - More concrete results - literally and metaphorically
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What does "strategic" mean?

- Narrower content focus
 - Innovation, Accessibility, Environment, Sustainable Urban Development
 - Project partners have specific responsibility to examine programme document to see how these themes fit your programme area
 - Need to reflect on how to shape project development to meet aims and objectives
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Consequences

- Programmes face different situations
 - ◆ Alpine Space - mostly unchanged
 - ◆ SE Europe, Central Europe: brand new programmes, much more money
 - ◆ Mediterranean: enlarged area, more funding
 - Impact on programme priorities
 - Impact on programme partnership
 - Impact on project structures and contents
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Conclusions

- The next period is not merely a continuation
 - Not quite "revolution", but much more than "evolution"
 - A step change in attitude, in approach, in content is required

 - Think "relevance", think "concrete"
 - How can we all make a real difference?
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