



The role of territorial co-operation

Potentials for Territorial Co-operation with Western Balkans

Maribor 19 April 2010

DG REGIO

The role of territorial co-operation



- Policy context: Territorial cohesion
- Four key areas for fostering TC
- Territorial cooperation
- Future policy: follow up

Policy context:TC

TC in the Lisbon Treaty, but what does that mean?

Enabling citizens and enterprises

- to make the most of **territorial capital**
- to benefit from and contribute to **EU integration**
- wherever they happen to live or operate.

This requires

- **Concentration, connection, cooperation**
- to combine competitiveness, cohesion and preservation of environment at every level

TC: territorial dimension of sustainable development.

Key areas for fostering Territorial Cohesion

1. Strengthening territorial programming
(territorial dimension in CSG, NSRF, OPs;
functional approach; community development)
2. Coordination of policies
(sectoral policies, other funds; at every level; TIA)
3. Evidence-based policy making
(new indicators; below NUTS 2; EU tools
(ESPON), cooperation with national statistic
offices)
4. Cooperation between territories

Territorial cooperation

- A key instrument in fostering territorial cohesion
 - Clear **European added value**
- **Laboratories of European integration:**
 - **“Cross-border regions”** - to test integrated development and service delivery
 - **Macro-regions** - the integrated strategy for the Baltic Sea and Danube regions as a test
 - **Interregional cooperation** - exchange of experience, best practice and know-how - a key role for the EU
 - External relations

Territorial cooperation

- **Role of cooperation in strategic policy documents** (CSG, NSRF)
 - Coordination of national legislation (also transposition of EU directives) and strategies
 - cross-border integration of plans
 - But no new competence
 - Encouraging **EGTC**, relevant tool for multilevel governance
- **Interregional cooperation:**
 - Linking network activities to mainstream OPs ("**Regions for Economic Change** " approach)
 - Enhancing **networking on territorial and urban issues**

Future policy: follow up

- DG REGIO's internal work; High Level Group
- Better interacting with intergovernmental process: Territorial Agenda, Leipzig Charter

Then it will be time for decision:

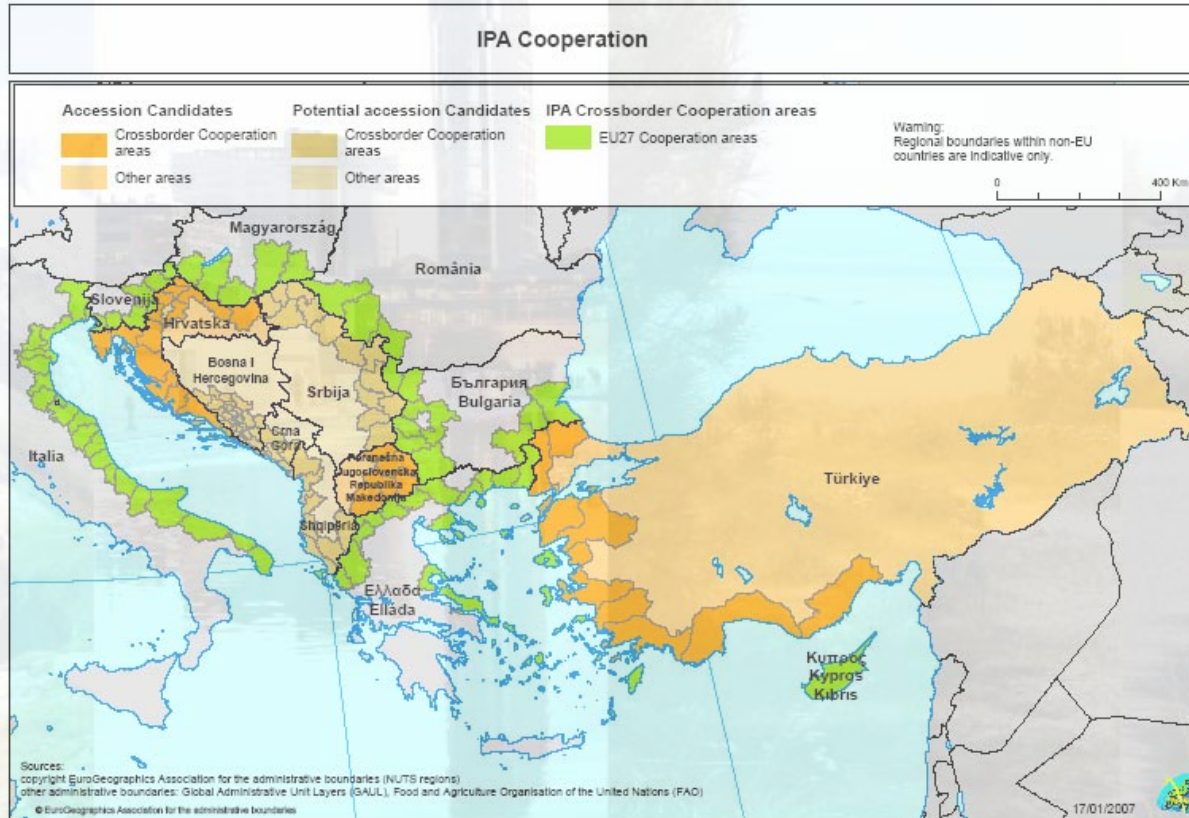
- EU 2020, review of EU budget
- 5th Cohesion Report in Autumn 2010
- Cohesion forum in December 2010
- Commission proposals in Spring 2011: financial framework; CP regulatory framework



Thank you for your attention!

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IPA Programmes



South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme



EU Member States:

**Austria, Bulgaria, Greece,
Hungary, Italy, Slovakia,
Slovenia, Romania**

Non-EU-member States:

**Albania, Bosnia-
Herzegovina, Croatia,
former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia, Serbia,
Montenegro, Republic of
Moldova, Ukraine**

**(Italy and Ukraine do not
participate with their
whole territory)**

Territorial coverage of the Danube region for the Danube region strategy

