




Potentials and Constraints of Cooperation with Serbia

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Territorial cooperation of Serbia with its European surroundings (spatial development strategy of Serbia)

- Positioning territory of Serbia in a new political, economic and social context, including European territorial cooperation programmes
- Promotion of territorial cooperation as a new approach in national spatial development strategy
- Identification of priorities in transnational, CBC, interregional, bilateral and other cooperation models in the field of spatial development



Potentials and priorities for cooperation

- Pan-European transport corridors (VII and X, as well as links with corridors IV, V and VIII)
- Transnational and cross-border natural systems (rivers Danube, Sava, Tisza, Drina, Carpathian mountains etc.)
- CBC problems and issues with Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia
- EU territorial cooperation programmes (INTERREG+ESPON), Euroregions (**DKMT**, Danube 21, Eurobalkans, Stara planina), INSPIRE directive

Transnational cooperation priorities of the Republic of Serbia






Development of the EU Danube Strategy in the context of territorial cooperation

- The RASP's participation in transnational projects DONAUREGIONEN and DONAUREGIONEN+
- Development of national contribution to the EU Danube Strategy
- New opportunity to foster cooperation in the Danube area among majority of WB countries and EU through existing territorial cooperation programmes



Interregional cooperation/ESPON

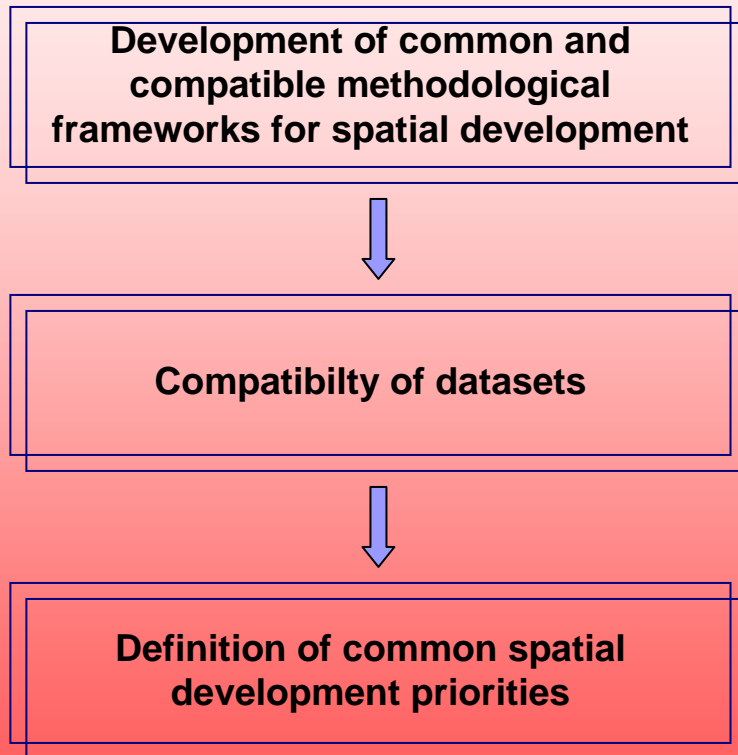
- Twinning as the only form of interregional cooperation in Serbia so far
- Slow steps towards joining the ESPON community (relation to EU integration process, relative compatibility with EUROSTAT standards, early phase of NSDI and ESPON indicators development, lack of focus on the Western Balkans and of the involvement of the WB partners from the ESPON/TPG side)
- Financial constraints



Constraints for cooperation from Serbian perspective

- Inadequate human resources for project preparation and management in the public sector in Serbia (limited and multitask staff, deficient familiarity with EU project development and management)
- Limited funds for project pre-financing (as result of a restricted number of previously re-funded projects, limited public budgets and the economic crisis)
- Approval of transnational projects with no funding for IPA partners (limited funds vs. large number of projects) and, consequently, decrease of budgets for both ERDF partners and sponsored parties
- Long and complicated procedures focused more on technical and financial (management) aspects then on project idea and fundamental professional results
- Legislative in the process of adaptation to EU acquis
- Partially inadequate information system
- Similar situation in neighboring countries

Added value of territorial cooperation with Western Balkans / Serbia



- Learning differences (methodology, practices, national/regional specificities etc.)
- Developing European polycentrism (position of Western Balkans in future polycentric structure of Europe)
- New spatial development topics for WB countries, exchange of know-how and different experiences
- Strengthening cooperation between partner countries/regions



Thank you for your attention !

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