



The role and the future of EGTCs in the new programming period

**The European Territorial Cooperation
in the new Programming Period 2021-
2027. The role of EGTCs**

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... First reminder



"Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity".

Declaration Schuman – 9 May 1950

The legislative approach

- ❖ The EGTC was promoted initially by the Committee of the Regions
- ❖ **EU instrument** → Created by **Regulation (EC) 1082/2006** amended by **Regulation (EU) 1302/2013**
- ❖ Entered into force on **1 August 2007**. The Member States adopt **national provisions** of implementation.
- ❖ The amended Regulation applies since **22 June 2014**

Missions

- ❖ Art. 7 (2) "An EGTC shall act within the confines of the **tasks** given to it, namely the facilitation and promotion of territorial cooperation to strengthen Union **economic, social and territorial cohesion**, and the **overcoming of internal market barriers.**"
- ❖ Art. 7 (3) Tasks of the EGTC:
 - *specific actions of territorial cooperation between its members [...] with or without financial support from the Union.*
 - *Primarily [...] the implementation of cooperation programmes, or parts thereof, or the implementation of operations supported by the EU through the ERDF, the ESF and/or the CF.*
- ❖ **Limits:** Powers of the State such as police, regulation, justice or foreign affairs.

Membership

- ❖ Entities of **Public Law** (authorities, and reference to the Directive 2004/18/EC on public procurement) and associations
- ❖ Some entities of **Private Law** (Directive 2004/17/EC and Services of General Economic Interest)
- ❖ Participation of entities from **third countries**:
 - At least 1 Member State needed
 - The headquarters must be located in the EU
 - The third country adopts similar legislation or signs an agreement with the one of the EU Member States involved in the EGTC
 - The EU Member States involved authorize it

Establishment

- ❖ Identification of the **headquarters**
 - The seat determines the applicable Law
- ❖ Constitutive documents → **Convention** and **statutes**
 - The Convention has primacy over the national legislation
 - The Convention can foresee exceptions to the rules of applicable law: staff – procurement – audit – others
- ❖ **Authorization** by the national authorities
 - **Tacit approval** after **6 months**
 - Explicit approval required by the country of headquarters
- ❖ **Register** and **publication** at national level → Legal personality
- ❖ Notification to the **Committee of the Regions** and publication at the **OJEU**

An instrument of Cohesion policy

New elements – Operational

❖ EGTCs can be:

- **Managing authorities** of programmes or their **beneficiaries**
- Intermediate authorities of **Integrated Territorial Investments**
- Implementing bodies of **Joint Action Plans** and of **CLLD**

❖ Operational Programmes can foresee **cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation** (Art. 96.3 (d) CPR)

❖ The EGTC may help to implement **macroregional strategies**

The Greek Legal Framework on EGTCs

➤ L.4483/2017, art.108-114

- ❑ Designation of the national approval authority
- ❑ Introduction of new categories of potential members of EGTC (incl. authorities from Third Countries, private law legal entities).
- ❑ Detailed description of the EGTCs' tasks (incl. managing authorities, beneficiaries of Joint Action Plans and Integrated Territorial Investments, technical assistance to the EFSI Ops,)
- ❑ Analysis of the approval procedure (incl. the distinction between the approval procedure for EGTCs located in Greece and abroad)
- ❑ Provisions for the EGTCs personnel (incl. the option for EGTCs to consider different employment regime options, be it under private or public law)
- ❑ Detailed provisions for the control of public funds and the members' financial contributions

The Main (EGTC) Tasks of the Hellenic Ministry of Interior

(Committee for the International Partnerships of Local Government- Approval Authority for EGTCs, L.4483/2017, art.110, par.2)

- Organises forums, info days and training sessions on EGTC developments (in cooperation with EGTCs)
- Receives the texts of the CONVENTION and the STATUTES of EGTCs located in Greece or abroad
- Organises informal sessions with the representatives of candidate EGTCs seated in Greece or with candidate members of EGTCs seated abroad and gives guidance over technical issues (amendments of the initial texts are expected and welcome)
- Approves the relevant text of CONVENTION, the participation of candidate members and Authorises an EGTC seated in Greece
- Approves the participation of potential members of an EGTC seated abroad
- Retains and updates the register of the EGTCs
- Informs the European Commission (through the Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU) about national legislative developments on EGTCs
- Updates the section of the EGTCs on the Ministry's website (www.ypes.gr)



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"ΕΥΡΩΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ, 2014-2020"

ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ III

Οι Ευρωπαϊκοί Όμιλοι Εδαφικής Συνεργασίας (ΕΟΕΣ)
των Ελληνικών Δήμων, 2007-2017

Αντώνης Καρβούνης

Αθήνα 2017



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Θεσμικό Πλαίσιο,
Εθνική και Ευρωπαϊκή Εμπειρία

Αντώνης Καρβούνης (επιμ.)

Αθήνα 2017

The EGTCs established in GREECE

1. EGTC Amphictyony- 2008 (<http://www.amphictyony.gr>)



2. EGTC EFXINI POLI - 2012 (<http://www.efxini.gr/>)



3. EGTC Holistic Efficient Local Initiatives for Cooperation and Synergy- H.E.L.I.C.A.S - 2016 (<https://www.helicas.eu/>)



The Assessment of the EGTCs

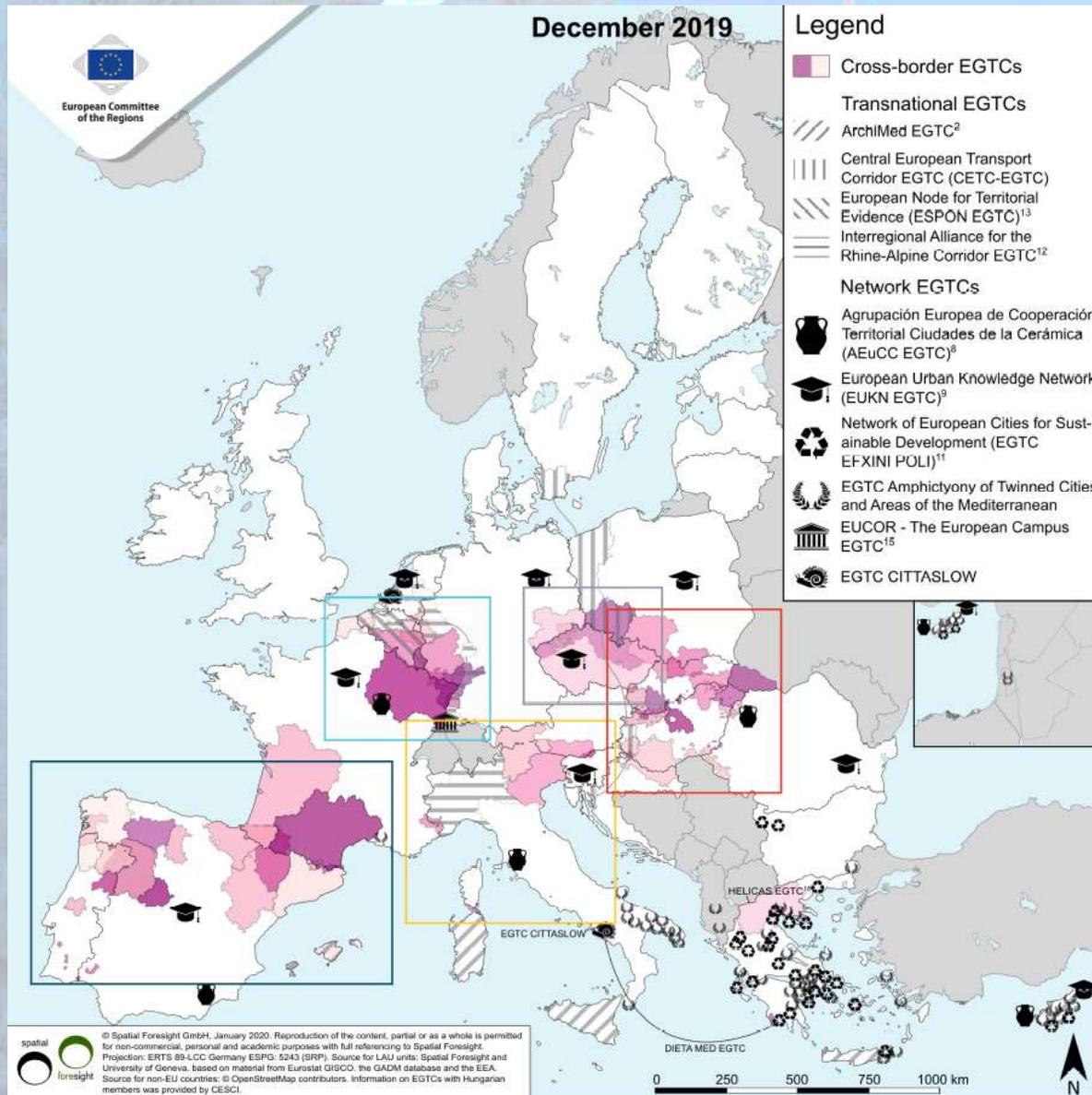
- EGTC's problems are **not LEGAL but CULTURAL**:
 - ❑ Lack of public awareness of the EGTC importance as a development tool
 - ❑ Lack of interest from other bodies of Central Administration (i.e. Ministries)
 - ❑ Disconnected and piecemeal projects
 - ❑ Local Government's Misunderstandings about EGTC's role
 - ❑ Lack of EGTC mentality (i.e. operational) within EGTCs



Trends and developments



EGTC trends and developments



Figures

- ❖ **75 EGTCs** set up, according to the Register of the CoR
- ❖ More than **45.270 LRAs** involved
- ❖ A reality in **20 Member States & 4 Third Countries (Albania, Palestine, Switzerland, Ukraine)**
- ❖ Impact on the life of **137 million** Europeans

Implementation of the EGTC Regulation

❖ Revision of 2013:

- By December 2019, **25 of 57 approval authorities had adopted** the amended EGTC Regulation (EU) 1302/2013
- The first to adopt new provisions relating to the amended regulation were mainly MS and regions with several EGTCs especially **Greece**, Romania, Slovakia and Spain
- So far, **most MS have not adopted new provisions** and have no intention of doing so, including Belgian and most German regions as well as Luxembourg and Sweden.

EGTC trends and developments

- ❖ So as of December 2019, **75 EGTCs were registered** but only 74 effectively existed. In comparison with previous years, there were fewer new EGTCs
- ❖ EGTC can be used to address various aspects of territorial development (eg. **Cross-border healthcare and emergency services, nature disaster prevention and solidarity, nature protection and preservation of environment, access to public services, investment projects, Transport infrastructure and soft transport projects, integrated tourism, economic cooperation, jobs and growth, education, culture**)
- ❖ The number of EGTCs founded in **Central-Eastern Europe**, mostly involving Hungary.



EGTC trends and developments (2)

- ❖ There are **three major types of EGTC**; **cross-border** that mainly address local and regional aspects, **transnational** whose territory is considerably wider than crossborder cooperation areas and **network EGTCs** with members who typically do not have connected territory. There are 64 cross-border EGTCs and only a few are truly transnational (four) or network oriented (six)
- ❖ For 2018, 57 EGTCs reported staff hired directly. Compared with 512.5 and 460 full-time equivalents (FTE) in 2017 and 2016 respectively, 566 FTE were working at EGTCs in 2018. **For 2019, 58 EGTCs reported 599 FTE.** The number of staff continues to increase
- ❖ The **total reported budgets** for 2018 was around € 48.7 million and **for 2019 around €52.8 million** (2017: approximately € 52 Million).

EGTC trends and developments (3)

- ❖ In total, **40 EGTCs implemented 125 ETC programmes or projects** (in 2017, 83) through different roles, ranging from MA and sole beneficiary to associated partnerships. This is significantly higher than previous years. On average, each EGTC that reported being involved in ETC, was involved in 3.2 ETC projects during 2018 and 2019 (in 2017, 2.5 projects).
- ❖ 20 EGTCs reported receiving EU programme funding outside ETC (eg. Creative Europe, Horizon2020, Erasmus+, EaSI), which is significantly higher than in 2017.
- ❖ However, not all EGTCs aim to benefit from ETC funds. Fifteen EGTCs explicitly stated that they have no further intentions in the remaining programming period 2014-2020.
- ❖ Several EGTCs (20) under constitution, whether awaiting approval or still in preparation aim at finalising their foundation in 2020 or early 2021

Prospects for 2021-2027





Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for the **European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional development Fund and external financing Instruments (COM(2018)0374 – C8-0229/2018 – 2018/0199(COD))**

- ❖ *Member States should be encouraged to assign the functions of the managing authority to an EGTC or to make such a grouping, like other cross-border legal bodies, responsible for managing a sub-programme, an integrated territorial investment or one or more small project funds, or to act as sole partner.*
- ❖ Based on the experience with the interregional cooperation programmes under Interreg and the lack of such cooperation within programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal during the programming period 2014-2020, interregional cooperation component aims to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy by promoting: **(a) exchange of experiences, innovative approaches and capacity building** in relation to.... the setting-up, functioning and use **European groupings of territorial cooperation ('EGTCs')** (art.3)
- ❖ EGTC eligible for drawing up **territorial or local development strategies** (art.20)

Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for the **European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional development Fund and external financing Instruments (COM(2018)0374 – C8-0229/2018 – 2018/0199(COD))**

- ❖ An EGTC implementing an integrated territorial investment may also be the sole beneficiary (art.20)
- ❖ A cross-border legal body or an **EGTC** may be the sole partner of an Interreg operation under component 1, 2 and 3 Interreg programmes, provided that the members there of involve partners from **at least two** participating countries (art.23)
- ❖ A cross-border legal body or an **EGTC** may be the sole partner of an Interreg operation under component 4 Interreg programmes, provided that the members there of involve partners from **at least three** participating countries (art.23)
- ❖ The **beneficiary of a small project fund** shall be a cross-border legal body or an **EGTC** (art.24)
- ❖ EGTC may **take part in monitoring committees** of Interreg programmes (art.28)
- ❖ Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in an Interreg programme may identify an **EGTC as managing authority of that programme** (art.44)



Thank you!

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