



# EGTC

## Final outputs – Fact sheet

June 2010



Connecting cities  
Building successes



## 1. SHORT DESCRIPTION IN A NUTSHELL

Promoting innovative governance tools to achieve a sustainable development of cross-border agglomerations.

## 2. NAME OF THE PROJECT

DATES – May 2008 – May 2010

Project launch: 26 May 2008

End of the project: 26 September 2010

## 3. PARTNERS

1. MOT (association of local authorities - France)
2. Lille Metropole Urban Community (France)
3. City of Chaves (Portugal)
4. Urban Community of Strasbourg (France)
5. City of Slubice (Poland)
6. Canton of Basel-Stadt (City/Region, Switzerland)
7. City of Esztergom (Hungary)

## 4. WHAT WERE THE CONCRETE CHALLENGES ADDRESSED BY PROJECT PARTNERS?

### How can public leaders and cross-border agglomerations frame and implement efficient policies?

It refers mainly to the political leadership of cross-border agglomerations, the legal structuring of cross-border partnerships, the financing of cross-border projects, the articulation between the technical and the political organs, the composition of the staff and its coordination with the civil servants...

### How can the involvement of the civil society guarantee the legitimacy of cross-border agglomeration policies?

It refers to:

- the way cross-border projects can contribute to the development of a cross-border citizenship by responding to populations' needs (public services and infrastructures), by creating sphere of exchanges through popular events, by promoting an active role of civil society on projects;
- the development of participative democracy platforms;
- the way cross-border agglomerations communicate towards inhabitants

## 5. WHAT CONCRETE CONCLUSIONS DID YOU ACHIEVE? WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS DO YOU PUT FORWARD?

A range of recommendations based on the needs of cross-border agglomerations at local level:

### How can public leaders and cross-border agglomerations frame and implement efficient policies?

To create and adapt a specific cross-border institution to each cross-border agglomeration (e.g. European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation) with the aim of structuring the dialogue and decision-making process used by public leaders.

To set up a team dedicated to the cross-border agglomeration, with skills adapted to its needs.

To develop financial solidarity mechanisms at cross-border level to support cross-border projects.

### How can the involvement of the civil society guarantee the legitimacy of cross-border agglomeration policies?

To develop projects dedicated to citizens, and public services that answer to their needs, with the aim of mobilizing citizens as active participants.

To communicate to citizens concrete information relating to their daily life as cross-border citizens.

To develop discussion and consultation platforms involving institutional and socio-economic players.

3

## 6. WHAT WAS LEARNT BY THE PROJECT PARTNERS DURING THE PROJECT?

- 1) The project partners succeeded in assessing their respective situation and their needs in terms of governance: by carrying out the baseline study and drafting their Local Action, an analysis of strengths and weaknesses of cross-border agglomerations has been done.
- 2) The project partners learnt from experiences from other territories despite the different scales and backgrounds: the different thematic seminars and other meetings enabled the project partners to know each other, to identify common challenges, and solutions which can inspire them. The enlargement to other cities in Europe was also very valuable.
- 3) The project partners made the efforts to address their proper needs by highlighting innovative solutions, which might come from other territories, with the support from the Lead expert.
- 4) Local partners get involved if regular meetings are held and if the topics covered by the European project are in line with their priorities.
- 5) The elected representatives get involved if communication actions are carried out for public events and if they are informed of the advancement of the project.

## 7. WHAT ARE THE CONCRETE SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED BY PROJECT PARTNERS?

The Local action Plans are locally adapted tools and present contents that are different from a territory to another. Nevertheless the objectives pursued are common: assessing needs and strengths of the cross-border agglomerations in terms of governance, highlighting good experiences, and identifying possible solutions and/or priorities to be developed in order to improve the situation. As for example, the following case studies were demonstrated as good examples and were inspired, in some cases from some territories:

- Improve the implication of the civil society in the public policies process: formalize the implication of the civil society into the decision-making process (experience of the Eurometropole which was highlighted by the Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau); develop an internet platform for e-democracy (raised by the Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau); strengthen the link between the organised civil society and the institutional body of the cross-border governance structure (mentioned by the Eurometropole lille-Kortrijk-Tournai); integrate interest groups into the process of development of the strategy (the Eurocidade Chaves-Verin and Frankfurt (O)-Slubice's experience which was raised by the Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau,). Frankfurt (O)-Slubice also, pointed out the important to involve the civil society during the strategy implementation through annual conferences.
- Develop services dedicated to citizens for and with the civil society (Eurocidade Chaves-Verin with the Citizens card and Ister-Granum that mentioned the Upper Rhine Museum Pass of TEB).
- Strengthen the communication strategy with a website, logo, and the development of press relations... (Raised by the TEB, the Ister-Granum EGTC).
- Develop specific financing tools for the cross-border projects (Frankfurt(O)-Slubice, inspired by the Solidarity fund of Ister-Granum).

Most of the good practices are described in the handbook.

## 8. AVAILABLE OUTPUTS

The outputs available in English on this website are:

- The booklet presenting the project
- The Handbook on the Governance of Cross-border Agglomerations
- The European Action Plan of the "EGTC" URBACT project and its executive summary

- The Local Action Plan of the Eurocidade Chaves-Verín (PT/ES)
- The Local Action Plan of the Ister-Granum EGTC (HU/SK)
- The Local Action Plan of the Frankfurt (Oder)-Slubice conurbation (DE/PL)
- The Local Action Plan of the Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau (F/DE)
- The Local Action Plan of the Trinationaler Eurodistrict Basel (CH/DE/F)
- The Local Action Plan of Lille Metropole for the Eurometropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai (F/BE)
- The booklet summarizing the main results of the project

URBACT II

**URBACT** is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal challenges. It helps them to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 255 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants

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