



**TRANSNATIONAL
COOPERATION**

15-16 SEPTEMBER 2011
KATOWICE, POLAND

*On a mission
to improve
quality of life
in regional
Europe.*



Join the Joint Transnational Conference to find out how Transnational Cooperation Programmes help to improve quality of life in European regions!

“Transnational cooperation is a precious tool to increase EU integration and cohesion”, Commissioner Hahn.

On the first day of the conference, inspiring messages were given by the Polish Presidency and European Commission, both emphasizing the importance of harmonising eligibility rules and simplification of structures.

Commissioner Hahn sent a positive vibe for next programming period, stressing that the European Commission is favorable to cohesion policy “with a financial proposal of 336 billions euros and further investments in the regions will be made within new 40 billions for connecting Europe facilities. Territorial cooperation has been strengthened, up to 12 billion € for cross border, transnational and interregional cooperation”. These figures are subject to negotiation with member states and European Parliament in the next coming months, so transnational cooperation programmes should make them aware of the benefits of territorial cooperation in the European regions.

4 key elements of the future Territorial Cooperation have been highlighted: Actions should be more targeted, identifying how investments can best serve to Europe 2020 strategy; increase the effectiveness and efficiency. European Commission will propose to simplify management structures and implementation mechanisms, such as more harmonized eligibility rules for territorial cooperation. Moreover, to consolidate the early work on macroregion strategies, as Baltic Sea and Danube which are already providing a real added value

As a conclusion, the Commissioner gave the final and encouraging message to the audience that the Transnational cooperation is a precious tool to increase EU integration and cohesion and that it is important to take advantage of the results achieved so far, as there is so much of potential to explore in this way of working.

Another important statement came from the Polish Minister of Regional Development, Elzbieta Bienkowska, who stressed that *Transnational Programmes focus on the challenges which cannot be met effectively on any other level, regional or national*. What makes the cooperation unique is that „the 13 programmes covering very distant and very different areas have found some common ground and identified some priorities and cooperation themes in which transnational partnership works at its best.

„Although the finance allocated to the European territorial Cooperation compared to the total budget for cohesion policy is not big, the programmes supported by these funds are important, as they make it possible to spread the knowledge and achievements of previous results enabling rational and effective spending of „big” European funds”, she affirmed.

Strengthening of the territorial dimension and introduction of the territorial aspect to the mainstream European debate are among the main concerns of the Polish Presidency.

She stated the importance of harmonising ENPI cross border cooperation with the territorial cooperation programmes. In order to achieve this the implementation procedures of these instruments should be agreed on. This will have a positive effect on the partners coming from beyond the European Union. The final commitment of the Polish Presidency is to present the conclusions of this conference during the Informal meeting of Ministers responsible for Regional Policy, Cohesion Policy, Territorial Cohesion next November in Poznan.

For more information

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