

SRN Workshop: The Territorial Dimension

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Good practice in Territorial Cooperation

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Teritorial Cooperation. Where?

- Same country/Neighboring Regions
- Different Countries/Single border
- Different Countries/Geographic Region
- Different Countries/All Europe

Klaipėda-Tauragė Target Region 1999-2002



- Klaipėda – one of the most advanced regions in LT
- Tauragė – one of the weakest regions in LT
- No previous cooperation experience

Why?

- National tender to select 3 target for targeted EU support
- Promise of 30 million Euro Phare support over 3 years
- No chance of winning the tender alone – Klaipėda – doing too well, others need support more. Tauragė – too weak, no HR and capacity to use the funds
- Single territory for Chamber of Commerce

Klaipėda-Tauragė Target Region 1999-2002

How?

- Joint vision and strategy outline – during the month of August
- Joint Regional development plan with priority projects
- All necessary programming documents – Project fiches, guidelines for applicants, application forms, tender dossiers, etc;



Klaipėda-Tauragė Target Region 1999-2002

What?



- Business development fund:
 - 3.5 MEURO – direct support to SME's
 - 700 KEURO – FDI attraction
 - 400 KEURO – FS Logistics Centre
 - 900 KEURO – Tourism Development
- HR Development Fund
 - 1 MEURO – Direct Support for SME's
 - 1.2 MEURO – Distance learning
 - 0.3 MEURO – Women Employment Centers

Territorial cooperation before accession

- PHARE CBC – Baltic sea region
- TACIS – Kaliningrad
- Projects of up to 300 KEURO. Various fields
- First years – initiative mainly from Sweden, Denmark and Germany. Managed from EU
- Later – local initiatives and projects. Managed from Lithuania (from 2000)

Lessons learned

- Need time to get local partners initiative
- Programmes managed locally much better for local participation
- Some disappointment with Western Partners (we transfer our know how, but take all the funds)
- All partners must see clear (financial) incentives.
- Transfer of know how, travel and equipment is not enough)
- Involvement of local partners on equal basis, including local experts is a must
- Application of previous experience to current projects with NIS

Interreg IIIA/Neighborhood programme

LT-LV-BL



LT-PL-RU



Interreg III A

- Start in the second half of 2004
- 3 Rounds of applications
- More than 400 projects submitted
- ~27 MEURO of ERDF funding committed
- Success rate ~ 40%
- Submissions in different rounds:
1st round – 70 projects, 2nd round – 130 projects. 3rd round-
over 200 projects
- Success rate in rounds:
27,8% 30,6% 54%

Interreg III A

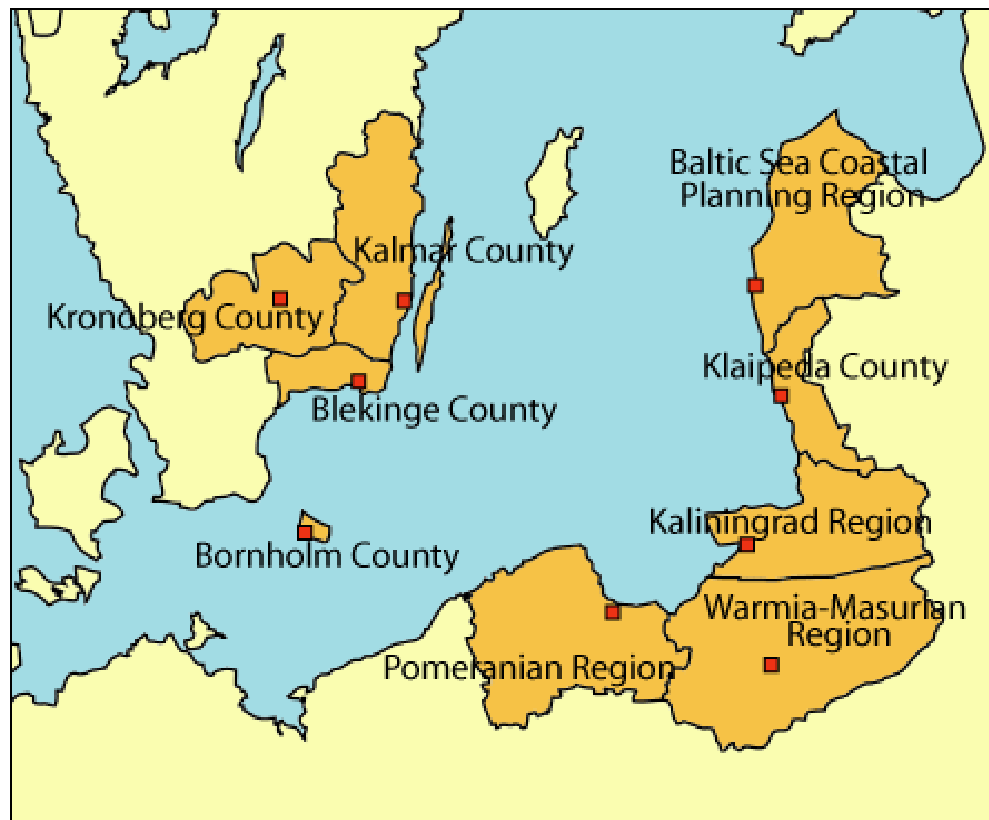
Positives:

- Possibility for bigger projects (up to 1 MEURO)
- Managed and promoted locally. Good contact to stakeholders
- Accepts wide variety of partners (Authorities, NGO's, Non-Profits, Education institutions)
- Wide priorities, possibility to fit in almost any cooperation project
- Well organized project evaluation process with clear deadlines

Negatives

- Late start
- Slow take-up, short time for project implementation
- Operates on reimbursement basis
- Managed locally. Terrible bureaucracy
- Very artificial territorial cooperation for infrastructure projects

Euroregion “Baltic”



Created in Feb. 1998. Polish initiative

Biggest Eureregion in Europe:
101 034 sq. km , 5.9 million
inhabitants, 6 countries, 10
regions

Until 2002 – platform for small
cooperation initiatives, meeting
and exchange of ideas.

From 2002 embarked on the
project to create Joint
Development Strategy for
ERB, financed by Interreg IIIB

- Strategy approved in 2005 by
ERB council and Each
Member region

Interreg IIC

- Lithuania late to the game: could participate only in the two last calls (from 2004)
- Very few cooperation opportunities outside BSR since Ecos Ouverture (1998-99)
- Very little awareness of the programme even when it became available (no more than 5 organizations from LT in PSF Berlin)
- Very few Interreg IIC projects in Lithuania

Interreg III C

- KRDA- 5 Interreg III C
- Easiest to manage of Interreg programmes (probably because we aren't the lead partner 😊)
- Good, responsible (and strict 😊) lead partner – key to the success of the project
- It is very important that each partners clearly understands his commitments before the start of the project
- The easiest way to avoid difficulties in financial management is for each partner to have his own budget.
- If that is not possible – try to structure general project costs on a deductible basis). Requirement for cash contributions for general management issues WILL create problems
- It is responsibility of the Lead partner to make sure everyone knows, understands and agrees of the project finances BEFORE the start of the project
- It is highly likely that you will lose some partners along the way

Eu and Territorial cooperation

- Won't really happen on large scale without economic incentives
- Local and national politicians don't really care about TC and don't want to finance it
- If left to the national, local or regional governments TC financing will be the first to be cut when negotiating budgets.
- It is in EU interest to promote active cooperation among different regions all over Europe.
- EU programmes is one of the best and most effective way to do that
- Care about project quality and results not the implementing bodies. Most often the best project ideas come from NGO's, non-profits, business or other associations.

Random thoughts on Territorial cooperation projects

- There's always two sides to a European project:
 - What you have to do to produce a good final report.
 - What do you really want to do
- When planning a project outside of EU make sure to treat your partner as equal and make sure his economic interests are accounted
- Plan for the travel. Not every region has cheap airlines!!!
- It is better to overbudget then overspend
- Have a great kick-off meeting with strong team building element
- Most projects are slow to start with 75% of work done in the last third. Plan accordingly
- Make sure your deadlines are at the beginning of the next reporting period, then you have several additional months to reach them and don't need to create credible explanations why your are late.
- Start planning for the follow at least half a year before the end of the project
- When describing results – be as vague as possible, make sure that you be able to achieve minimum results no matter what
- Go for the first rounds of CFPs. There's much more money available and less competition