

European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)

Short general description

Cohesion policy encourages regions and cities from different EU Member States to work together and learn from each other through joint programmes, projects and networks. ETC covers three types of programmes: crossborder, transnational and interregional. ETC is financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The budget for ETC accounts for 2.74% of the total 2014-20 allocation for cohesion policy, including the allocation for Member States to participate in EU external border co-operation programmes supported by other instruments (IPA II and ENI).

Objectives:

The crossborder component tackles common challenges identified jointly in the border regions; the transnational strand aims to strengthen cooperation by means of actions conducive to integrated territorial development linked to the Union's cohesion policy priorities; Interregional cooperation should aim to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy by encouraging exchange of experience between regions on thematic objectives and urban development.

Supported activities:

ETC through ERDF co-financed thousands of projects all over Europe. The projects, selected under the responsibility of the participating Member States, cover a large spectrum of activities in the field of entrepreneurship, joint protection and management of natural and cultural resources, links between urban and rural areas, accessibility, innovation, environment etc.

Eligibility (in the context of the ENP):

ERDF should be spent in the MS. Under certain circumstances if the operation is for the benefit of the programme area, 20% (30% for outermost regions) of the total amount of ETC programmes can be allocated to operations located outside the Union part of the programme area. Third countries can also participate in transnational and interregional cooperation programmes through a contribution of IPA II and ENI. ENP countries are eligible under cooperation programmes financed through ENI CBC.

Modalities of participation:

As regards the participation in transnational and interregional cooperation programmes through a contribution of ENI and IPA II, the implementation conditions shall be consistent with the EU cohesion policy rules.

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Examples of activities where ENP countries can be involved:

Any activities covered by each of the ETC programmes within the limits indicated above.