



The place-based approach for territorial cohesion in the EU policies

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Territorial cohesion (TC)

TC addresses « **territories** » (which can be local, regional, macro-regional, national, EU); territory matters;

- TC values territorial capital and territorial specificities
- TC considers *differences between and within territories*
- TC considers *linkages between territories* and the resulting potential for development
- *3 policy priorities for TC*
- *3 governance principles for TC.*
- *Territorial cohesion as an EU policy objective in the Lisbon Treaty (and see specific Art 174, 175)*

Definition of territory

- **3 components of a territory** whatever the scale: *place, people and institutions*
- **Institutional approach** Territory: *leadership of elected representatives; clear delimitation, powers and resources*
- TC implemented by *authorities* cooperating within a multi-level *governance system*; it respects *subsidiarity* and division of *competences* among different levels.
- **Functional approach**: *Discrepancy between administrative divisions and functional relations* is a barrier to TC

Place-based Approach

- Recommended by Barca report, OECD
- Long term development perspective
- Capitalising on locational advantages
- Adaptation of policies to context and territorial needs (proximity)
- Supported by a broad collaborative partnership
- Supported by TC governance principles: multi-level governance and integrated approach (coordination of policies + integration across territorial boundaries (ex rural-urban)).

Shared management in Cohesion policy

Multi level governance today:

- Territorial scale of challenges is rarely territorial scale of solutions; need to use a multi-level balanced approach
- ✓ **3 level approach** in EU cohesion policy:
 - *EU strategic guidelines: common understanding of priorities, framework, tool-packages for actors;*
 - National level: *NSRF: strategy providing national priorities and guidance for regional development and rural development*
 - Regional level: *OPs : trying to develop coordinated development strategies; delivery system, possible sub-delegation towards local level.*

Partnership principles today:

- Community and national policies designed in *full consultation with relevant stakeholders (national, regional);*
- *Decentralised approach (within national institutional contexts)*
- *Broad partnership*

Orientations for the future

1) Territorial Programming

- Strengthening explicit territorial dimension in the EU Strategic Documents; And at every stage of territorial programming (from diagnosis to evaluation)
- Flexible territorial approach from macro-regional to sub-regional levels; including territories with specific geographic features
- Regional strategies *with greater territorial dimension, addressing issues at sub regional level*
- Promoting functional geographies: rural-urban perimeters, metropolises, mountain «massifs »...
- ✓ *Regional and local actors know specific requirements of their territory :direct involvement of local Authorities?*

Regions as the pivot for territorial programming

Regional level relevant:

- ✓ to maintain **coherence of public intervention** at sub/inter-regional and of cooperation at cross border/transnational levels
- ✓ to ensure a territorially integrated approach
- ✓ To be the strategic reference for functional approaches
- ✓ to organize complementarity and common governance **between rural and urban territories** (eg: public services, development poles)
- ✓ to be the meeting point between top-down and bottom-up strategies for sustainable development
- ✓ But necessity to implement sub-delegation towards the targeted sub-regional territories.

2) Encouraging the use of a Local Development Approach

- Mobilise local communities and relevant actors
- Making value of endogenous potentials
- Set-up of capacity building for local partnerships
- Implement concrete actions in relevant OPs (ex: social inclusion, services)
- Provide incentives (*ring fencing resources?*)
- Networking at EU and national levels to reinforce the methodology and exchange good practices
- Harmonise rules with the other LD tools (LEADER, FARNET)

3) Coordinating policies at all scales

- Aim: eliminate contradictory effects between policies (territorial and sectoral) and create synergies for more coherence and efficiency
- Coherence between policies in the EU framework (Strategic document and regulatory basis); an idea: a common Strategic Guidelines Document for « Structural Funds »
- Some MS have developed « Single Integrated Regional Strategies »
- Coordination mechanisms between Funds at programming level and in the delivery system
- Example = between future ERDF and EAFRD: better strategic coordination, institutional coordination, technical coordination; demarcation criteria? Joined-up delivery systems.