

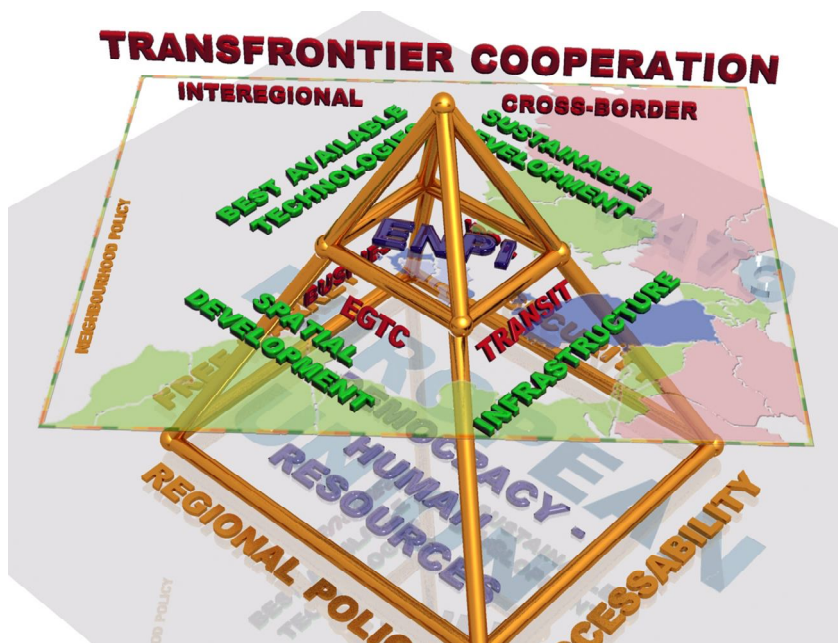
Neighbours Community Clustering for Eastern Partnership

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Subject matter and scope of European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) were proclaimed on 24 October 2006 and included inter alia: "Community assistance may be used **for common benefit of Member States and partner countries and their regions**, for the purpose of promoting cross-border and trans-regional cooperation" through different EU Programs and other tools.

Any neighbouring State may proclaim partnership with EU from its capital through Government, President or Parliament. But no countries can be really integrated with European Community besides their population and territory. Therefore one of the main objectives for Civil Society Forum is to "compensate" poor subsidiarity in EaP target countries.

From such point of view the "Thematic Dimension" of ENPI serves as general benchmarks for the States and their transregional activity. At the same time **transfrontier co-operation in cross-border, interregional and municipalities twinning forms** becomes euro-integration landmark for territorial communities.



Main directions for collaboration under ENPI are grounded on «Acquis Communautaire» can be formulate as:

- Regional Policy based on Cohesion and Subsidiarity directed to Sustainable Socio-Economic and Spatial Development of the "Europe of Regions";
- Common market space with permanently perfection of both competitiveness and regulatory approach to development of Energetic, Industry, Agriculture, Trade, Financing, Resource Conservation etc.;
- Mobility and Accessibility, ensured through developed

transporting (of people, goods, energy), logistics, connections, information technologies etc.

- Multilevel Safety System including Risk Assessment, Emergency Prevention and further consequences mitigation – since detached objects and individuals, till global structures, beginning from technogenic and environmental aspects of Energy, Water, Forestry, Manufacture, Municipal and other Systems, as well as common anti-terroristic activity in collaboration with UN and NATO.

As "docking modules" for EaP from EU side can serve:

- For Regional Policy – the EGTC (2006), soon be completed by CoE III Additional Protocol to Madrid Convention (1980), which will spread these possibilities from only EU Member States to other European non-member countries and their regions;
- For Mobility and Accessibility the key role plays Transit Potential of EU Partners accordingly to Commission Communication of 31.01.2007 "Extension of the Major Trans-European Transport Axes to the Neighbouring Countries. Guidelines for transportation in Europe and neighboring regions";
- From Economy (Innovation-investment) point of view the outstanding value has Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Clustering, first of all for Small & Middle Size Entrepreneurship development;
- Security – in spite of International Menaces there're steady increasing Resource & Technogenic-Environmental Safety aspects reflected inter alia in Directive 96/61/EC on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC), incl. Energy Conservation and Best Available Technique (BAT);

from Partner Countries as a "response" activity should be provided:

- in Regional sphere and for Security ensuring – focusing in Sustainable Socio-Economic and Spatial Development (e.g. through transregional collaboration between Carpathian and Alpine Conventions in Danube basin area);
- for Mobility and Accessibility – development of proper Transporting, Border, Logistics and other levels of Infrastructure;

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- to be integrated into EU market – transfrontier Clustering in Economic and Social sectors, in a way of consequent mutual BAT transfer and implementation, which was defined by actual ENPI tools as a core element of the Innovation-Investment Policy and SME development.

And for these issues are very important lessons conversed in ENPI Eastern Regional Program Strategy Paper 2007 – 2013 as “it seems that the most successful projects have been those which from the outset have benefited from a sustained high level political support provided from a regional institutional framework. By contrast, projects that have been implemented through a bottom-up approach, i.e. as a result of demand from individual partner countries, rather than within a well defined political multi-lateral framework, have tended to remain isolated, even when successful, and in general have not succeeded in fostering a genuine regional spin-off. Recent evaluations have concluded that a lack of ownership by the partners of Regional programs has also, in some sectors, hindered their effectiveness in terms of impact at regional level. For example, the environment sector has been identified as suffering from a lack of support of partner governments, except with environment ministries themselves, and a lack of political leverage on the part of the EC

The future ENPI strategy should therefore be implemented by supporting as much as possible initiatives that are strongly based on an existing political willingness among beneficiary countries to co-operate on a regional basis or initiatives which include actions to boost the overall political commitment to target sectors. This approach will increase ownership, as it utilises the established commitment of partner countries to wider initiatives. The choice between regional and national level assistance must take into account the additional requirements of regional cooperation. This consideration is also relevant as regards the capacity to leverage IFIs funds. IFIs in general prefer to operate on a bilateral rather than multilateral basis, because of the clearer identification of responsibilities. Only a robust political backing can provide sufficient credibility to attract IFI funding at the regional level”

To become conform to these core EaP challenges it's useful to take into consideration best practices from main EU Zones of Growth (Blue and Red Bananas). Following their experience **Civil Society Forum can utilise general approach of Clustering**, proclaimed through last years as the main EU tool for innovations implementation.

Europe INNOVA / PRO INNO Euro

THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER MEMORANDUM

Promoting European Innovation through Clusters

- The strategic importance of clusters for European innovation and global competitiveness is only now becoming fully recognized

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 17.10.2008
COM(2008) 652

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

**Towards world-class clusters in the European Union:
Implementing the broad-based innovation strategy**

{SEC(2008) 2637}

By M.Porter's efforts through last decades “Clustering” became a synonym of competitiveness providing in Economy, its sectors and for Regional Development.

But from the physicochemical origin of the term “**Cluster**” as a universal mechanism of synergetic changes in any multi-component structure. It can be defined as “**new structural formation in multi-unit System, which initiation, shaping or collapse is determined by interaction between interior peculiarities of the System existent structure and outer factors**”.

From such point of view it may

be provided integration of CSF establishment with Clustering processes, what can be performed simultaneously in 2 general modalities:

- integration into actual or developing clusters immediately, on the bottom or sectorial level;
- establishment of Civil Society Forum components on international, transregional, national, regional and local levels conformably to EaP platforms and ENPI programs implementation.

For the first case it should be taken into consideration that public NGOs and associations on their origin are professional or social. Therefore the structure of CSF have to foresee flexible combination of these two branches for compliance with concrete objectives on each level.

To answer properly on the EU Clustering challenge, in 2008 Ukrainian Government initiated development of National Strategy on Transfrontier Clustering as a component of National Security and European Integration, even before interior Clustering System was developed. Such approach allows to combine any

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clustering activity in Ukraine and abroad using agreed legal, normative, methodology and informational frameworks by the Subjects and Participants of these processes, how it's foreseen in Ukrainian Law "On Transfrontier Co-operation".

As first step on this way, on request of the responsible Governmental Body – Ukrainian Ministry of Regional Development and Construction were developed Methodical Recommendations for transfrontier projects co-ordination on the State and Regional level and for Information Technologies implementation into transfrontier activity, both approved by the Order of Minister of 27.01.2009 Nr 46. Inter alia these Recommendations are aimed to promote close collaboration between "technical" performers of transfrontier projects and civil society through whole cycle: from project's idea discussion till its final implementation and after-project activity. At the same time wide public awareness and NGO involvement will be stimulated to become a part of the information support in each meaningful transfrontier project.

Vital necessity of such public basis enlargement for euro-integration process is ensuing from the experience of Ukrainian-Romanian-Moldavian Euroregion "Upper Prut" appointed by the Order of Ukrainian Government of 14.02.2002 Nr 59-p for "experimental elaboration of transfrontier co-operation mechanisms as the elements of European integration and regional policy development". Project of International Renaissance Fund "Establishment of interaction between peoples and authorities, as well as of public monitoring for EU Neighbourhood Program" and a number of CEI-Bukovina Workshops in 2006-2008 have shown real potential of such symbiosis.

The other step was done by the project of British Council in Ukraine "Promotion "Best Available Technologies" (BAT) implementation for Waste Minimisation & Resource Conservation". It demonstrated urgent needs for establishment of Public-Private Partnership in the Resource-Environmental sphere instead of totally centralised post-communist system. Problem of Industrial and Municipal Waste coherent minimisation with simultaneous transfer of BAT for step-by-step perfection of the regional (local) Σ of Technologies already became a really common objective for business, authorities and society PPP collaboration.



For mentioned transregional dimension of ENPI one of the most important areas to focus CSF interest may be synergy of collaboration between Carpathian and Alpine Conventions with Danube Initiative. Common historical roots and nowadays interests of both Conventions Member States and their Regions in Danube basin open a wide field for further activity both for EaP in whole and for CSF especially, taking into account that Romanian regions in this area were officially nominated as most backward in the EU.

The similar transregional issue can be taken into consideration for CSP efficient functioning in the EU Black Sea Synergy area, where CoE have initiated establishment of Black Sea Euroregion. Summarising experience of macro-Euroregions (e.g. "Carpathian"), Ukrainian side proposed the idea to arrange Black Sea Euroregion as an Assembly (or Association) of Regions in Black Sea basin supported by other key actors.

As more concrete field of transregional activity concerted CSF have to become utilisation of common Trans-European transit Potential for communication flows and local mobility along and across EU eastern border. For instance one of key issues here is an optimal "coexistence" of 1435 mm (European) and 1520 (Russian) railway gauge transport spaces, as well as safe and shortest connections between Baltic to Mediterranean areas bypass Carpathians and from Europe to East.

This brief overview shows that successful establishment both of EaP and of its CSF can't ignore such innovation processes as ENPI Thematic, Transregional and other dimensions and their multiplication by EU Clustering Innovation initiative. Therefore agreed establishment of these "technical" and "public" mechanisms should be provided in "resonance" with mentioned EU developments for their following win-win interaction.