



ALLOCATION PER INTERREG PROGRAMME

Czech Perspective on European Territorial Cooperation after 2020



Position

The Commission's allocation to Interreg programmes shall be made directly per programme and/or border, not to a Member State. However, the Member State must be involved in the negotiation of individual ETC programmes to be implemented on its territory in order to ensure coordination with synergic / complementary programmes.



Rationale

Regarding experience with previous programming periods, INTERREG programmes became one of the most effective tools for overcoming the barriers and the division on the borders between the Member States, for integrating border areas and increasing the quality of life for the citizens of the border regions. The added value of INTERREG is, in particular, the suppression of the border impact through joint projects implemented by project partners from on the both sides of the borders. The cooperation criteria, such as joint planning, financing, staffing and implementation, make the INTERREG programmes different from the other "national" grant programmes.

Therefore the Czech Republic fully supports the idea that the allocation to Interreg programmes should be made directly per programme and / or border, not to a Member State (MS). This is how the cross-border programme management and decision-making of public resources could be strengthened. The most important criteria in the administrative process of the project assessment must always be the quality of the project. The joint programme budget allocated from the EU level would support this and allow for focusing on high-quality projects with a clear cross-border added value.



Example

In case of the allocation per a Member State (MS), the given MS tends to take its national financial contribution to the common budget of the programme into account, and, subsequently, it supervises its "deposits". This can play the main role in the decision-making process, when Monitoring Committee delegation of one state sometimes tends to refuse costly projects from the other side of the border regardless of their quality. This denies the substance of INTERREG cooperation which should be motivated first of all by the choice of high-quality cross-border projects regardless their origin.



Suggested change

The allocation should be made per a CBC programme and / or border. This would prevent the feeling of "national" ownership of the part of the allocation which is, by definition, joint.

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