



FRANCE22
FRENCH PRESIDENCY
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION



Functional areas as living labs for territoriality



23 March 2022

Bringing territoriality into Interreg
Online



European Regional Development Fund



Functional areas as living labs for territoriality

23 March 2022

Online

Bringing territoriality to Interreg

Under the slogan '[Bringing territoriality into Interreg](#)' Interact works together with the Interreg community and national, regional and local territorial actors on strengthening the territorial dimension of Interreg cooperation (programmes and projects). The work started back in 2020 with events on the notion of territoriality and functional areas and focused in 2021 on the linkages and interaction between Interreg and the Territorial Agenda 2030. It is now high time to move from awareness raising and the conceptual discussion to the day-to-day implementation level ...

Outline

... to the day-to-day implementation level showcasing that the notion of territoriality in Interreg is not just a nice-to-have concept. Making things work across borders is the unique selling point of European Territorial Cooperation. Hence, territoriality in functional areas across borders and countries is not just a concept, but something tangible and already happening on the ground.

A functional area is a bounded space or geographical area formed by a set of linkages, interactions and interdependencies, which are defined by a certain function (e.g., education, health, employment, leisure activities).

But what could that mean in practice? And is the concept of functional areas relevant for any border region? Or more intended for borders where their geography is not as conditioning as in other areas, such as mountain areas, rural areas with risk of depopulation, and hardly permeable borders?

It is not administrative boundaries defining a functional area. Interactions and interdependencies based on functions define such areas! In the context of Interreg (potential) functional areas like cross-border conurbations or agglomeration areas spreading their commuter catchment areas across borders rank among the territorial hot spots. Territorial hot spots where the functions of living and working across borders pose new opportunities and challenges for cooperation across local and national borders. People are interested to have access to functioning transport networks, good jobs, efficient public amenities, affordable housing and options to enjoy leisure time. They can't see borders - be it national or administrative borders - they want to live in a functioning conurbation or border region.

Objectives

With this event organised by Interact within the framework of the [French Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#) we want to present a couple of examples of European cross-border functional areas and to highlight practical approaches to their governance. Functional areas which are practising territoriality in their everyday activities and hence are home turfs and best practice cases for territoriality. Hereby, we want to show the added value of strengthening the territorial dimension in Interreg, in cooperation across borders.



Functional areas as living labs for territoriality

23 March 2022

Online

Day one

Conference (Wednesday, 23 March 2022)

09.15 – 09.30

Online meeting room opens

Arrival of participants to the online meeting room

09.30 – 10.00

Welcome and introduction

- *Interact*
- *Marie-Lorraine Dangeard, French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Agence Nationale de la Cohésion des Territoires, France*
- *Wallis Vandebrock-Goelen, European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy*

10.00 – 10.30

The relevance of functional areas

- The importance of cross-border living areas
Jean Peyrony, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)

Objectives of the session: To provide a testimony of the importance of cross-border living areas.

10.30 – 13.30

Functional areas as ‘home turfs’ and ‘best practices’ of territoriality

- FRANCE-BELGIUM
Eurometropole Lille (FR) – Kortrijk (BE) – Tournai (BE)
Loïc Delhuvette, Eurometropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai
- FINLAND-ESTONIA-LATVIA
Helsinki (FI) – Tallinn (EE) and Valga (EE) – Valka (LV)
Kaarel Kose, Harjumaa Omavalitsuste Liit (Estonia), and Jiří Tintěra, City of Valga (Estonia)
- GERMANY-POLAND:
Cross-border metropolitan region Szczecin and Double City Frankfurt-Słubice
Julita Miłosz-Augustowska, Regional Office for Spatial Planning of Westpomeranian Voivodeship (Poland), and Sören Bollmann, City of Frankfurt (Oder), Frankfurt-Słubice Cooperation Center (Germany)

Lunch break during the session

Objectives of the session: To present different functional areas from different parts of Europe illustrating the implementation of a territorial dimension on the ground.



Functional areas as living labs for territoriality

23 March 2022

Online

13.30 – 15.00 Questions and answers (panel)

Objectives of the session: To provide an opportunity for the audience to share reflections, thoughts and questions with the presenters and other participants.

Comfort break during the session

15.00 – 15.30 Summary and concluding remarks

- Reflections
Marie-Lorraine Dangeard, French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Agence Nationale de la Cohésion des Territoires, France
- Key findings today and next steps
Interact

Objectives of the session: To summarise the discussion and to present the key findings.



Functional areas as living labs for territoriality

23 March 2022

Online

Practicalities

Online meeting (venue)

The meeting is going to take place via the online meeting tool Zoom. Participants will receive the link and password to the online meeting room together with confirmation of their registration. To ensure a smooth start, participants are kindly asked to enter the online meeting room already at 09:15 CET.

Translation

As the event takes place within the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union simultaneous interpretation between English and French will be provided.

Registration

Please register your participation [here](#) latest by Friday, 18 March 2022.

Other information

For further information on the event itself or on the topic of functional areas, territoriality and 'Bringing territoriality into Interreg' please contact Philipp Schwartz (philipp.schwartz@interact-eu.net) or Bernhard Schausberger (bernhard.schausberger@interact-eu.net).