Obstacles continue to exist

- Lack of trust
- Language barriers
- Accessibility and connectivity
- Administrative obstacles
- Legislative obstacles
- Non-recognition of qualifications
- Higher costs of living
- Untapped Economic potential
- Unequal treatment of patients
- Denial of public services

37.5% of EU citizens live in border areas
How do we overcome these issues in short term?
European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

- The **EGTC** is the **first European cooperation structure with a legal personality** defined by European Law.
- Designed to facilitate and promote territorial cooperation (cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation), in view of strengthening the economic and social cohesion of the European territory.
- An EGTC may carry out actions of territorial cooperation, with or without a financial contribution from the EU.
- Public entities, or entities carrying out services of public interest can form an EGTC.
- Third countries can join.
The EGTC is created by local actors, not by Member States. **Only one** Member States needs to approve the EGTC, within 6 months!

The EGTC Regulation is very flexible and vague, allowing the local and regional authorities to adapt it as needed in their Member States.

**Benefits**

- Permanence and stability
- Long-term strategic vision of the region
- Less administration
- Encouraged by the EU to be the beneficiaries and manager of EU funds
- Legislation of only one MS applies
68 EGTC existing today

- 20 EU Member states
- 4 Non-EU states
- 1 Observer non-EU state
- Over 30 million citizens concerned
- Over 1000 local and regional authorities
- Not all are cross-border EGTCs
- Some of them are programme managers

Future of EGTC

- 6 additional MS and 2 non-MS
- Desire to expand to MENA region
- New regulation to simplify further
EGTC Hôpital Cerdagne/Cerdanya
Cross-border hospital
EGTC Eurodistrict
Strasbourg Ortenau
Cross-border tramway under French rules connecting Strasbourg and Kehl
EGTC Eurocity Chaves-Verín
Cross-border public Services and tourism
EGTC - Parco europeo Alpi Marittime - Mercantour

EGTC- Parco Marino Internazionale delle Bocche di Bonifacio
Renewable energy and EGTCs

- As infrastructure management
- Single entity to attract funding for a cross border areas
- Working together on a longterm basis to give results to the citizens directly, less involvement of national administrations

State of play

Project proposals prepared for the:

- Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia
- Interreg Romania-Hungary
- Danube Transnational Programme
- Interreg Central Europe
- Interreg Poland-Czech Republic
Thank you
Merci

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