



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

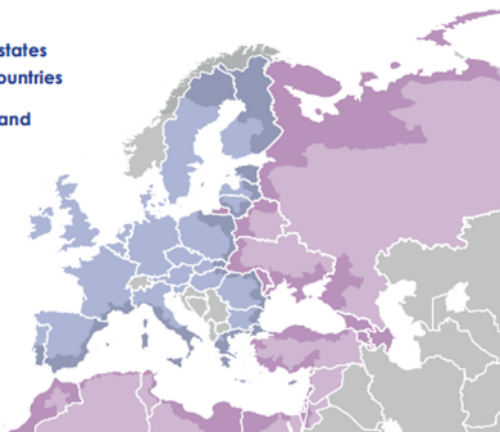
Media Release

EMBARGOED to 15.00 on 15 November 2016

Celebrating cooperation along the EU's external borders

COOPERATION ACROSS BORDERS

- over 30 EU member states and neighbouring countries
- thousands of km of land and sea borders
- 1 billion €



At a time when the EU's external borders occupy centre stage in the media, news of successful cross border cooperation between organisations from border regions in Member States and neighbouring countries was highlighted at a conference held in Brussels today.

Delegates from over 30 participating countries, celebrated the achievements of more than 900 projects financed under 13 European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument cross border cooperation

programmes (ENPI CBC 2007-2013) in four main fields:

- economic and social development,
- common challenges in areas such as environment and health,
- efficient and secure borders, and
- promoting people to people actions.

How to build on this success, the new features of the 16 European Neighbourhood Instrument cross border cooperation programmes (ENI CBC 2014-2020), and the role that cross border cooperation plays in the relations between the European Union and its neighbours were also discussed. Speakers at the conference included representatives from participating Member States and neighbouring countries.

"For nearly 10 years now, the positive impact of Cross Border Cooperation has been felt across Europe and beyond. It has played a key role in border regions: Strengthening the economies, addressing environmental issues and bringing people together. The impact is huge and makes a real difference to the lives of citizens", said Christian Danielsson, Director General, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR).

"Cross border cooperation is a key element of the EU's policy towards its neighbours. It supports sustainable development along the EU's external borders, helps reduce differences in living standards and addresses common challenges across these borders", said Mathieu Bousquet, head of unit Georgia, Moldova and Cross-Border Cooperation in the European commission (DG NEAR).

"As evidenced by 7,000 applications from over 37,000 organisations from Member States and partner countries organisations, the demand for working together across the borders is very high. The European Union can help bring together partners to address similar needs", he added.

The conference *"Celebrating cooperation on the EU's external borders: ENPI CBC 2007-2013 closing and ENI CBC launching conference"* took place in the Berlaymont building on 15 November 2016. It was organised by the European Commission. Information on the achievements under ENPI CBC, and opportunities under ENI CBC can be found on the enclosed conference handout. For more information, please contact NEAR-CBC@ec.europa.eu.

2014-2020

New opportunities under ENI CBC

Building on ENPI CBC achievements and its innovative approach, the **European Neighbourhood Instrument** (ENI) will further enhance cross-border cooperation between EU member states and the neighbouring countries on the other side of the EU external border.

More than €1 billion EU funds

- 16 Programmes in the 2014-2020 period
- Over 160 eligible regions
- Increased involvement by the 30 participating countries in programme management and decision making
- Main thematic objectives identified by the Programmes are environment protection, cultural heritage and business and SME development

16 Programmes

- Kolarctic
- Karelia
- South East Finland-Russia
- Estonia-Russia
- Latvia-Russia
- Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus
- Lithuania-Russia
- Poland-Russia
- Poland-Belarus-Ukraine
- Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine
- Romania-Ukraine
- Romania-Republic of Moldova
- Black Sea
- Mediterranean Sea
- Italy-Tunisia
- Mid-Atlantic

For more info, go to the programme websites to find out about funding priorities and opportunities.

Impressed by ENPI CBC 2007-2013 projects results?
Interested in discovering what additional benefits ENI CBC 2014-2020 could bring?

www.tesim-enicbc.eu

COOPERATION ACROSS BORDERS



Jointly solving common problems, seizing joint **opportunities** through cross-border **partnerships** between **local and regional** organisations

From ENPI CBC 2007-2013

- An EU initiative
- From the Arctic to the Southern Mediterranean
- Almost 1000 projects already funded on the EU's external border
- Joint decision-making by participating countries
- Benefits on both sides of the border

to ENI CBC
2014-2020



European
Commission



Achievements of Cross-Border Cooperation

under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI CBC)

2007-2013

€950 million EU funds supported
4 objectives under ENPI CBC

Additional co-financing
provided by participating
countries and project partners

Efficient and secure borders

- **Faster border crossings for passengers and goods**
> dozens of border crossing points infrastructure or equipment upgraded
- **Improved border controls**
> equipment and trainings
- **Greater inter-connectedness of border regions**
> roads built or reconstructed

“Integration of the transport system in the Augustów canal area will bring an increase in cross-border traffic, especially the touristic one.”

Wiesław Gołaszewski, Mayor,
Commune of Płaska, Poland
Project: Development of the transport infrastructure in the area of Augustów canal (ENPI CBC Poland-Belarus-Ukraine)

Common challenges: environment, public health...

- **Enhanced knowledge of biodiversity and adaptation to climate change**
> joint monitoring of thousands of km of rivers, of bordering seas and air quality, environmental studies
- **More sustainable use of water, better management of wastewater and waste**
> dozens of pilot projects improving irrigation systems and water saving, wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure modernised, enhanced waste treatment and recycling methods
- **More efficient use of energy resources, enhanced use of renewable energies**
> heating systems renovated, thermo modernisation of buildings, dozens of solar equipment and photovoltaic plants installed, innovative energy solutions implemented
- **Better management of nature parks, urban and coastal planning**
> exchanges of experience, parks upgraded
- **Medical services upgraded in border regions**
> equipment, trainings
- **Greater prevention of human trafficking**
> dozens of information campaigns and rehabilitation courses for victims
- **Better capacity to jointly manage risks and respond to emergencies such as fires, oil spills, seismic activity**
> joint methods and plans, online networks, equipment, trainings



“For me, as a mother of six, it was important to know that this human trafficking phenomenon exists in Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and that we can use a common framework to fight against it.”

Marina Carnat, lawyer, Chisinau, Moldova
Project: Not for Sale – Say Stop to Human Trafficking
(ENPI CBC Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova)

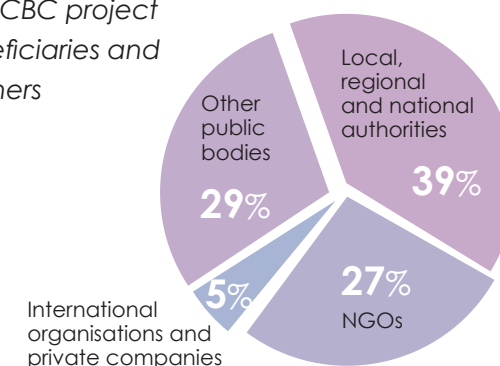
Economic and social development

- **Enhanced cross-border business opportunities**
> clusters, thousands of entrepreneurs joined in fairs and trainings, online platforms for exchanges
- **SMEs better supported**
> business incubators, SME facilities, e-services, hundreds of new companies registered
- **Strengthened know-how and innovation capacity**
> exchanges of expertise, pilot projects, hundreds of public/private partnerships
- **Increased attractiveness of border regions for tourists**
> hundreds of tourist routes and sites developed, upgraded tourism infrastructure, ICT marketing
- **Improved conditions for interoperability of transport and energy networks**
> virtual logistic platform, studies

“The project has been a great experience for Souk el Tayeb, not only because it has fostered partnership and networking among all markets and municipalities, but also because it pushed us to benchmark our market against other Mediterranean markets, to learn from their experience and to share ours.”

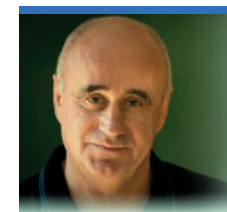
Pamela Chemali, manager of the Souk el Tayeb market, Beirut, Lebanon
Project: Makaranda
(ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin)

ENPI CBC project
beneficiaries and
partners



People-to-people actions

- **Strengthened cross-border contacts and cooperation networks at local and regional levels**
> thousands of organisations, tens of thousands of people participated in project events and activities
- **Increased attractiveness and improved access to regional cultures**
> dozens of historical or cultural sites renovated, ICT and innovative tools developed such as virtual museums
- **Cultural diversity and mutual understanding promoted**
> hundreds of joint cultural and sport events, media products



“Workers and children get to know culture and tradition from neighbouring countries. What is amazing to see is how friendships between Russian and Finnish teenagers continue after they've met.”

Igor Posatsky, NGO Director in Kandalaksha, Russia
Project: Support for leaving care in Murmansk region and in Lapland (ENPI CBC Kolarctic)

