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To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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Delegations will find attached document SWD(2018) 395 final.

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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT
Accompanying the document

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE
COUNCIL AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**on the application of the Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 on a European Grouping of
Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1302/2013 as
regards the clarification, simplification and improvement of the establishment of such
groupings**

{COM(2018) 597 final}

1. METHODOLOGY OF ASSESSING THE APPLICATION OF THE AMENDED EGTC REGULATION

To gather the necessary data in order to assess the application of the amended EGTC Regulation, the European Commission worked in close cooperation with the Committee of the Regions, while it was preparing the 2017 EGTC Monitoring Report, as well as commissioning a specific study to assess the questions and indicators set out in the Annex to the future delegated act on the EGTC implementation indicators. For answering the assessment questions – besides the indicators, the following additional information from several sources and data were used to draw up this Report.

Firstly, this Report is based on the questionnaires sent to EGTCs and approval authorities for the data collection of the EGTC monitoring report 2017. These questionnaires contained annually posed questions and additional questions focussing on relevant assessment indicators.

Secondly, additional data on EGTCs, e.g. their current membership structures, have been collected through online sources, including EGTC webpages. This complements data for EGTCs that did not answer the questionnaire. It was furthermore used to check the robustness of the data received from EGTCs by testing samples and checks on data incoherencies provided by EGTCs.

Thirdly, a literature review was conducted that focused in particular on a) legal issues raised by legal experts and b) experience gathered from EGTCs that can shed light on the application of the amended EGTC Regulation.

Fourthly, additional interviews were carried out with key persons, i.e. EGTCs' experts etc. These interviews addressed specific questions of the assessment for which no or little other information was available.

The outcome of the analysis was discussed with relevant experts of the Commission as well as the Committee of the Regions.

2. REFERENCES

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5. MORO Praxis. Experience of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) (No. 08/2017), Zillmer, S., Lürer, C., 2017 MORO Praxis. BMVI, Berlin.
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7. Krzymuski, M., Kubicki, P., 2014. EVTZ-2.0 - Neue Chance für die grenzübergreifende Zusammenarbeit öffentlicher Einrichtungen? NVwZ 20/2014, 1338–1344.
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9. TIA report 2018. Territorial impact assessment (TIA) report on EGTCs based on the expert workshop organised by the European Committee of the Regions and ESPON EGTC on 13 March 2018 in Brussels.
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3. COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF ALL INDICATORS

Indicator	Unit	21 June 2014	31 Dec 2017
Effectiveness			
1. Conformity of MS' national rules with the Regulation¹	No. of MS with adopted implementation rules the amendment	-	23
2. Conformity of MS' national rules with Regulation	The degree of detail laid down in national implementation rules, including their amendments, differs considerably. National implementation rules are subject to national considerations only, no lack of conformity with the EGTC regulation could be identified. This does not exclude possible overregulation.		
3. Increase of EGTCs set-up	Number of EGTCs	48	68
4. Increase of members in existing EGTCs²	Number of EGTCs	-	11
5. Participants' assessment of improvement of the quality of cooperation as a result of the EGTC instrument	Improvements in intensity and quality of cooperation including better funding access, more visibility and involvement in decision-making, higher ranking of cross-border issues, multi-level governance approaches and facilitation of cross-border processes		
6. Increase of members per category²	Number of types of EGTC members	628	829
MS		22	22
Authorities at national level		3	4
Regional authorities		78	117
Local authorities		509	640
Public undertakings		6	13
Undertakings entrusted with services of general economic interest		0	11
Associations of bodies belonging to one or more of these categories		8	17
National, regional or local authorities, or bodies or undertakings, equivalent to those above from Third countries		0	5
7. Number of EGTCs involved in organisation of cross-border services³	Number of EGTCs according to categories	-	10
Health		-	1
Education and training		-	0
Environment, energy, nature protection		-	1
Transport		-	5
Research		-	1
Other		-	2

Efficiency			
8. Costs for setting-up an EGTC compared to comparable structures under international or national law	Euro per EGTC	-	n.a.
9. Costs for the functioning of an EGTC compared to comparable structures under international or national law	Euro per EGTC	-	-
10. Approval procedure for EGTCs compared to the approval procedure for comparable bodies under international or national law	The few responses received indicate that approval procedures are similar. The possibility for tacit approval was not appreciated by the vast majority of authorities.		
Relevance & Sustainability			
11. Use of EGTC for the implementation of a cooperation programme (as MA)	Number of EGTCs	1	2(3) ⁴
12. Use of EGTC to implement part of a cooperation programme (e.g. sub-programme, Small-project-fund; people-to-people projects; ITI, JAP)	Number of EGTCs	-	20 ⁵
Small-project-fund		-	4
ITI		0	7
JAP		0	6
CLLD		0	4
S3 strategy		0	5
13. Use of EGTC to implement an operation (according to sub-categories of different funding sources) ⁶	Number of EGTCs	-	36 ⁵
Operation under a cooperation programme (CBC, transnational, interregional)		18	33
Operation supported by the EU through the ERDF under an Investment for Growth and Jobs Goal programme		-	2
Operation supported by the EU through the ESF		3	1
Operation supported by the EU through the Cohesion Fund		1	0
Operation supported by the EU through the EAFRD		1	3
Operation/project supported by the EU outside Cohesion Policy programmes (CEF, Erasmus(+), Horizon 2020, etc.)		1	10
14. Use of the different options for the choice of applicable law	The targeted clarification has not been achieved but the amendment has created new ambiguities as well as possibly unnecessary requirements.		
15. Use of own staff compared to delegated staff	EGTCs can usually specify the reasons why they prefer one solution or another for their staff. No difficulties have been reported since amendment of the regulation.		

16. Motivating factors in choosing to set-up an EGTC, for those bodies who have formally entered into an EGTC agreement	No EU wide data is available on individual motivating factors. Studies suggest that they are in line with achieving typical benefits of EGTCs. Benefits related to joint forces can be crucial motivations.		
17. Probability that an EGTC is to be continued after its duration has come to an end	Only a few EGTCs have a defined dissolution date. One of these will be dissolved since its tasks are not relevant anymore (it has been replaced by a new EGTC). For all other EGTCs no assessment can be made currently.		
18. EGTCs registered without performing activities	Number of EGTCs		
	The few EGTCs without any or only very few activities tend to suffer from a lack of both human and financial resources. There seems to be a critical threshold of resources necessary to successfully run an EGTC.	-	3
EU added-value			
19. Number of territorial cooperation structures and networks which would not have been set-up without the EGTC instrument		-	-
20. Advantages of a legal body set-up under EU law compared to (other) legal bodies existing under international or national law	Advantages have several dimensions such as better decision-making, long-term strategy and objective development with cross-border focus, higher independence combined with legal personality, joint forces for obtaining a critical mass and better visibility. Together these contribute to illustrating the European added value of the EGTC instrument		
Simplification			
21. Average time for setting-up an EGTC – phase 1	Months	20	19 ⁷ / 19 ⁸
22. Average time for setting-up an EGTC – phase 2	Months	18	17 ⁷ / 11 ⁸
23. Number of tacit approvals	Number of tacit approvals		
	Approval authorities seem to prefer to use the explicit approval. If no additional documents are requested, this implies that the six months period is reduced.	-	-

‘-‘ indicates not relevant or not available.

¹ Not all approval authorities replied to the information request in 2017. The indicator is based on the responses for 2016 and 2017.

² Not every EGTC provided sufficient and reliable data for this question at the cut-off date. Data includes all 68 EGTCs as of 31 December 2017 based on additional data collection. Data for 21 June 2014 refers to the 48 EGTCs at that point in time. Data for 2014 is indicative as changes to EGTC member structures are not always transparent.

³ Indicator renamed from "Increase of services provided as a result of EGTCs" due to lack of reliable data in line with the original formulation.

⁴ Both EGTCs refer to the Interreg programmes of the Greater Region, i.e. the inactive INTERREG "Programme Grande Région" EGTC founded for the 2007-2013 period and the now active EGTC for the Interreg VA programme 2014-2020.

⁵ An EGTC for which more than one of the sub-categories applies is counted only once.

⁶ The numbers for the baseline in June 2014 refer to projects of the 2007-13 programming period and are not verified, due to inconsistencies in the 2014 EGTC monitoring report.

⁷ Based on all 41 EGTCs providing the information, since introduction of the EGTC instrument.

⁸ Based on 13 approved EGTCs providing the information, approved after 21 December 2014.

Source: Spatial Foresight, based on CoR (2018), CoR (2015a), data from EGTCs and national authorities and own data collection. Qualitative information is also based on interviews and literature review.

4. LIST OF EGTCs

Note to the reader: For improved legibility, the EGTCs are referred to by their official acronyms as detailed in the EGTC register of the CoR¹. If there is no official acronym, either the English name (if listed in the register) or the name in the local language of the seat country is used. In all cases, the language abbreviation of 'EGTC' is translated into English to avoid confusion. The following list gives an overview of the abbreviations with their number in the CoR register.

No	Acronym / Abbreviation	Full name (in English or local language of the seat country)
1	Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai	Eurométropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai
2	Ister-Granum	Ister-Granum European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation Ltd
3	GNP	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Galicia – Norte de Portugal
4	Amphictyony	EGTC Amphictyony of Twinned Cities and Areas of the Mediterranean
5	UTTS	Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó (Hernád-Bódva-Szinva) Limited Liability EGTC
6	Karst-Bodva	Limited liability European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Karst-Bodva
7	Duero-Douro	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Duero-Douro
8	Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale	Groupement Européen de Coopération Territoriale West Vlaanderen/Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale
9	ArchiMed	GECT ArchiMed
10	Pyrénées-Méditerranée	GECT Pyrénées-Méditerranée
11	Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau	GECT Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau
12	ZASNET	Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Territorial ZASNET, AECT
13	HC	Agrupació Europea de Cooperació Territorial Hospital de Cerdanya
14	Grande Région	GECT INTERREG "Programme Grande Région"
15	SaarMoselle	Eurodistrict Saarmoselle
16	ABAÚJ - ABAÚJBAN	ABAÚJ - ABAÚJBAN European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation Ltd
17	Pons Danubii	Pons Danubii EGTC
18	BTC EGTC	Bánát - Triplex Confinium Limited Liability EGTC ²
19	Arrabona	Arrabona Korlátolt Felelősségű Európai Területi Együttműködési Közhasznú Csoportosulás
20	Linieland van Waas en Hulst	"Linieland van Waas en Hulst" Europese Groepering voor Territoriale Samenwerking
21	Euregio Tirol - Alto Adige - Trentino	GECT Euregio Tirol - Alto Adige - Trentino
22	GO	Territorio dei comuni: Comune di Gorizia (I), Mestna Občina Nova Gorica (Slo) e Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba (Slo)
23	Pirineus - Cerdanya	GECT Pirineus - Cerdanya
24	Espacio Portalet	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial "Espacio Portalet"
25	RDV	Rába-Duna-Vág European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability
26	Eurorégion Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre	GECT Eurorégion Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre
27	Poarta Europa GECT	Gruparea Europeană de Cooperare Teritorială Poarta Europa cu Răspundere Limitată (Poarta Europa GECT)
28	BODROGKÖZI	BODROGKÖZI Korlátolt Felelősségű Európai Területi Együttműködési Közhasznú Csoportosulás
29	Novohrad-Nógrád	Novohrad-Nógrád European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability
30	Pannon	Pannon European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Ltd.
31	Efxini Poli – SolidarCity Network	EGTC EFXINI POLI - Network of European Cities for Sustainable Development
32	EUKN	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation European Urban

¹ <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/CoRAactivities/Pages/welcome.aspx>

² The abbreviation has been changed by adding "EGTC" by request of EGTC.

		Knowledge Network Limited
33	Euregio Senza Confini	GECT "Euregio Senza Confini r.l."
34	TRITIA	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation TRITIA limited
35	Sajó-Rima / Slaná-Rimava	Sajó - Rima / Slaná - Rimava European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability
36	Via Carpatia	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Via Carpatia Limited
37	Parc européen Alpi Marittime – Mercantour	Parc européen / Parco europeo Alpi Marittime - Mercantour
38	P.M.I.B.B.	Gruppo Europeo di Cooperazione Territoriale (G.E.C.T) Parco Marino Internazionale delle Bocche di Bonifacio (P.M.I.B.B)
39	Secrétariat du Sommet de la Grande Région	GECT "Secrétariat du Sommet de la Grande Région"
40	TATRY	EGTC TATRY Ltd.
41	Spoločný región	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Spoločný región limited
42	Torysa	Torysa European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
43	Svinka	Svinka European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
44	Alzette Belval	GECT Alzette Belval
45	AEuCC	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Ciudades de la Cerámica, AECT limitada
46	Eurocity of Chaves-Verín	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Eurocity of Chaves-Verín
47	European Common Future Building	European Common Future Building European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability
48	CETC-EGTC	Central European Transport Corridor Limited Liability European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation
49	HP-HP	Huesca Pirineos – Hautes Pyrénées
50	AECT-FPI	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Faja Pirítica Ibérica
51	European Border Cities	European Border Cities European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited Liability
52	ESPO	ESPO EGTC – European Node for Territorial Evidence
53	PAHT	GECT Pays d'Art et d'Histoire Transfrontalier Les Vallées Catalanes du Tech et du Ter
54	Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor	Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC
55	MASH	MASH European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
56	Mura Region	Mura Region European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited Liability
57	Tisza	Tisza European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited Liability
58	INTERREG Grande Région	GECT-Autorité de gestion programme INTERREG V A Grande Région
59	NOVUM	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation NOVUM Limited
60	León-Bragança	Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial León-Bragança
61	PONTIBUS	PONTIBUS European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited Liability
62	EUCOR The European Campus	Eucor The European Campus
63	EMI	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation "European Mycological Institute"
64	PROUD	Eisenbahnneubaustrecke Dresden Prag EVTZ
65	Eurodistrict PAMINA	Groupeement Européen de Coopération Territoriale Eurodistrict PAMINA
66	Ipoly-völgye	Ipoly-valley European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability
67	DIETAMED	DIETA MED EGTC
68	HELICAS	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation HELICAS
69	MURABA	MURABA European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited

5. EGTCS IN ETC PROGRAMMES IN 2017

ETC programme	EGTCs involved	Role of EGTCs
Unknown*	Amphictyony, ZASNET, Arrabona, Eurodistrict PAMINA	Project implementation
Interreg VA SUDOE	EGTC EPM	Project implementation
Interreg VA Saxony-CZ	EGTC PROUD	Associated partner
Interreg VA POCTEP	EGTC León-Bragança, EGTC GNP, EGTC Eurocity of Chaves-Verín	Project implementation
Interreg VA Grande-Région	EGTC SaarMoselle, EGTC Alzette Belval	Project implementation, managing partner, Managing Authority
Interreg VA POCTEFA	EGTC HP-HP, EGTC Espacio Portalet	Project implementation
Interreg VA IT-AT	EGTC Euregio Tirolo - Alto Adige - Trentino, EGTC Euregio Senza Confini	Project implementation and observer
Interreg VA Upper Rhine	EGTC EUCOR The European Campus, Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau	Project implementation
Interreg VA FR-Wallonie-Vlaanderen	EGTC Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai, EGTC Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale	Project implementation and associated partner
Interreg VA Vlaanderen-NL	EGTC Linieland van Waas en Hulst	Project implementation
Interreg VA PL-SK	EGTC TATRY, EGTC TRITIA	Project implementation
Interreg VA HU-SK	EGTC RDV	Project implementation
Interreg VA RO-HU	BTC EGTC	Project implementation
Interreg VA HU-HR	EGTC Mura Region	Project implementation
Interreg VA IT-FR	EGTC ArchiMed	Project implementation
Interreg VA IT-SI	EGTC GO	Project implementation
Interreg VA CZ-PL	EGTC NOVUM	Project implementation
Interreg Alpine Space	EGTC Euregio Tirolo - Alto Adige - Trentino	Managing partner
Interreg Central Europe	EGTC NOVUM, EGTC TRITIA, CETC-EGTC	Project implementation
Interreg Atlantic Space	EGTC Eurorégion Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre	Project implementation
Interreg Danube	EGTC Pons Danubii	Project implementation
Interreg Baltic Sea	CETC-EGTC	Associated partner
Interreg MED	EGTC Efxini Poli – SolidarCity Network	Project implementation
Interreg Europe	EGTC León-Bragança, EGTC GO, EGTC Pannon, EGTC Pons Danubii, EGTC EPM	Project implementation
ESPON	EGTC GNP, ESPON EGTC	Single beneficiary and stakeholder (associated partner)

* Some EGTCs did not indicate the Interreg programme where they implement ETC project or have an associated role.

Source: Spatial Foresight, based on data from EGTCs

6. NON-PROJECT/PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION RELATED WORK OF EGTCs IN ETC

EGTCs involved	Role of EGTCs
EGTC Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale, EGTC PROUD, CETC-EGTC	Associated partner
EGTC Alzette Belval, EGTC Euregio Tirolo - Alto Adige - Trentino	Managing partner, supporting Interreg applications of other actors (Alzette Belval) or supporting the CLLD process through networking (Euregio Tirolo - Alto Adige - Trentino)
EGTC Euregio Senza Confini	Observer in a Steering Committee
EGTC GNP, ESPON EGTC	Single beneficiary and stakeholder (associated partner)
EGTC Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau	Project promoter
TRITIA EGTC	Member with a voting right in a Monitoring Committee of an Interreg VA programme

Source: Spatial Foresight, based on data from EGTCs

7. EGTCs AND OTHER EU FUNDS IN 2017

Fund / Programme	EGTCs
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	EGTC Linieland van Waas en Hulst, EGTC Spoločný región, PAHT EGTC
European Social Fund (ESF)	ZASNET
Horizon 2020	EGTC Efxini Poli - SolidarCity Network
CEF	Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC
Creative Europe	AEuCC EGTC, EPM EGTC,
Erasmus+	AEuCC EGTC, EPM EGTC, EUCOR The European Campus, León-Bragança EGTC
Europe for Citizens	BTC EGTC
Hercule III	Mura Region
Direct funding from DG Regio (under the Urban Agenda)	EUKN EGTC

Source: Spatial Foresight, based on data from EGTCs

8. OVERVIEW OF EGTCS UNDER CONSTITUTION ACCORDING TO STATUS

No.	Name	Status 2016	Status 2017	Countries
1	EGTC InterPal - Medio Tejo	Awaiting approval	Awaiting approval – approved in 2018	Portugal, Spain
2	Rio Minho	Awaiting approval	Awaiting approval – approved in 2018	Spain, Portugal
3	EGTC Alpine Pearls	Awaiting approval	Awaiting approval	Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, France
4	Cittaslow	Awaiting approval	Awaiting approval*	Italy, Netherlands
5	Eurociudad del Guadiana	Awaiting approval	Awaiting approval	Spain, Portugal
6	INNOVATIVE EUROPE - INEU	Awaiting approval	Awaiting approval*	Greece, Bulgaria
7	European Campus of Studies and Research	Awaiting approval	In preparation	Germany, Austria
8	EGTC David	In preparation	Awaiting approval	Slovenia, Austria
9	Alto Adriatico/Severni Jadran/ Sjeverni Jadran	In preparation	In preparation*	Italy, Slovenia, Croatia
10	EGTC Saint Martin Sint Maarten	In preparation	In preparation*	France, Netherlands
11	Odra+Oder	In preparation	In preparation	Poland, Germany
12	Euro Contrôle Route (ECR)	In preparation	In preparation*	Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, France, Germany, Ireland, UK, Poland, Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Croatia
13	Geopark Muskauer Faltenbogen	In preparation	In preparation	Poland, Germany
14	Geopark Karawanken-Karavanke	In preparation	In preparation	Slovenia, Austria
15	Sportzentrum Ralingen-Rosport	In preparation*	In preparation*	Germany, Luxembourg
16	EGTC Hercules	In preparation	In preparation	UK, Spain
17	CIRCULAR ECONOMY, TERRITORIAL COHESION, AND INSULARITY EUROPEAN GROUPING OF		In preparation	Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Spain

	TERRITORIAL COOPERATION			
18	Pirineos-Pyrénées		In preparation	France, Spain
19	Cross-border University Campus		In preparation	Spain, France, Andorra
20	Euregio Bayerischer Wald - Böhmerwald		Idea	Germany, Austria, Czech Republic
21	Europaregion Moldau		Idea	Germany, Austria, Czech Republic
22	GEPACO - GEmeinDePARTner PARTenaires COMMUNAUX		Idea	Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg

* Assessment not based on response from EGTC but on information such as approval authorities, news etc.

Source: Spatial Foresight