

Title : Cross-border cooperation and the challenge of transnational institution-building
– The exemple of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

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Abstract

As part of the European integration, interaction between different administrative levels has become more intense over years. Starting from a perception of cross-border territories being sub-systems, created by the respective national politico-administrative partners involved, and taking the EGCT as example, the paper asses how cross-border cooperation in Europe can be improved by a new approach of integrated institutional capacity-building. Going beyond the classical vertical multi-level perception, the article suggests first to understand patterns of institutionalization, taking place within the context of European territorial cooperation (e.g. a permanent personal capacity of 20.000 FTE is working exclusively for cross-border cooperation alone), as a complementary horizontal dimension of the European integration process . It assesses on this basis the specific characteristics of cross-border-governance compared to national approaches of regional governance. Based on a typology of cross-border tasks and governance functions, an inductive theoretical approach of “territorial institutionalism” is developed. The article shows, how neo-institutionalist concepts can successfully contribute to a holistic framing of further research, allowing for a differentiated understanding of processes of transnational institution-building.

Key Words

Cross-border-cooperation + Institution-building + European Grouping of territorial Cooperation (EGCT)+Neo-Institutionalism + Territorial Governance