

A stylized map of Europe in light blue, overlaid with several white stars of varying sizes, reminiscent of the European Union flag. The background is a dark blue gradient.

The EGTC as a potential forum for innovation in Balkans in the new Programming Period 2021- 2027

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... **First reminder**



"Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity".

Declaration Schuman – 9 May 1950

The legislative approach

- ❖ The EGTC was promoted initially by the Committee of the Regions
- ❖ **EU instrument** → Created by **Regulation (EC) 1082/2006** amended by **Regulation (EU) 1302/2013**
- ❖ Entered into force on **1 August 2007**. The Member States adopt **national provisions** of implementation.
- ❖ The amended Regulation applies since **22 June 2014**

Missions

- ❖ Art. 7 (2) *"An EGTC shall act within the confines of the **tasks** given to it, namely the facilitation and promotion of territorial cooperation to strengthen Union **economic, social and territorial cohesion**, and the **overcoming of internal market barriers**."*
- ❖ Art. 7 (3) Tasks of the EGTC:
 - *specific actions of territorial cooperation between its members [...] with or without financial support from the Union.*
 - *Primarily [...] the implementation of cooperation programmes, or parts thereof, or the implementation of operations supported by the EU through the ERDF, the ESF and/or the CF.*
- ❖ **Limits:** Powers of the State such as police, regulation, justice or foreign affairs.

Membership

- ❖ Entities of **Public Law** (authorities, and reference to the Directive 2004/18/EC on public procurement) and associations
- ❖ Some entities of **Private Law** (Directive 2004/17/EC and Services of General Economic Interest)
- ❖ Participation of entities from **third countries**:
 - At least 1 Member State needed
 - The headquarters must be located in the EU
 - The third country adopts similar legislation or signs an agreement with the one of the EU Member States involved in the EGTC
 - The EU Member States involved authorize it

Establishment

- ❖ Identification of the **headquarters**
 - The seat determines the applicable Law
- ❖ Constitutive documents → **Convention** and **statutes**
 - The Convention has primacy over the national legislation
 - The Convention can foresee exceptions to the rules of applicable law: staff – procurement – audit – others
- ❖ **Authorization** by the national authorities
 - **Tacit approval** after **6 months**
 - Explicit approval required by the country of headquarters
- ❖ **Register** and **publication** at national level → Legal personality
- ❖ Notification to the **Committee of the Regions** and publication at the **OJEU**

An instrument of Cohesion policy

New elements – Operational

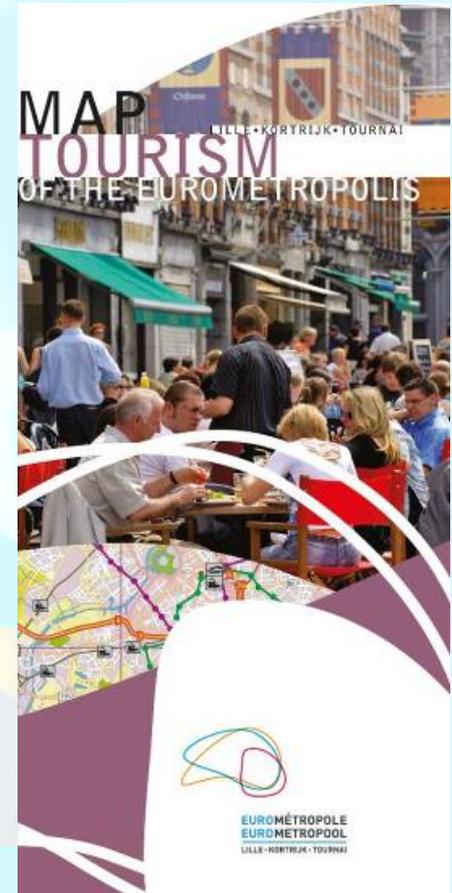
- ❖ EGTCs can be:
 - **Managing authorities** of programmes or their **beneficiaries**
 - Intermediate authorities of **Integrated Territorial Investments**
 - Implementing bodies of **Joint Action Plans** and of **CLLD**

- ❖ Operational Programmes can foresee **cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation** (Art. 96.3 (d) CPR)

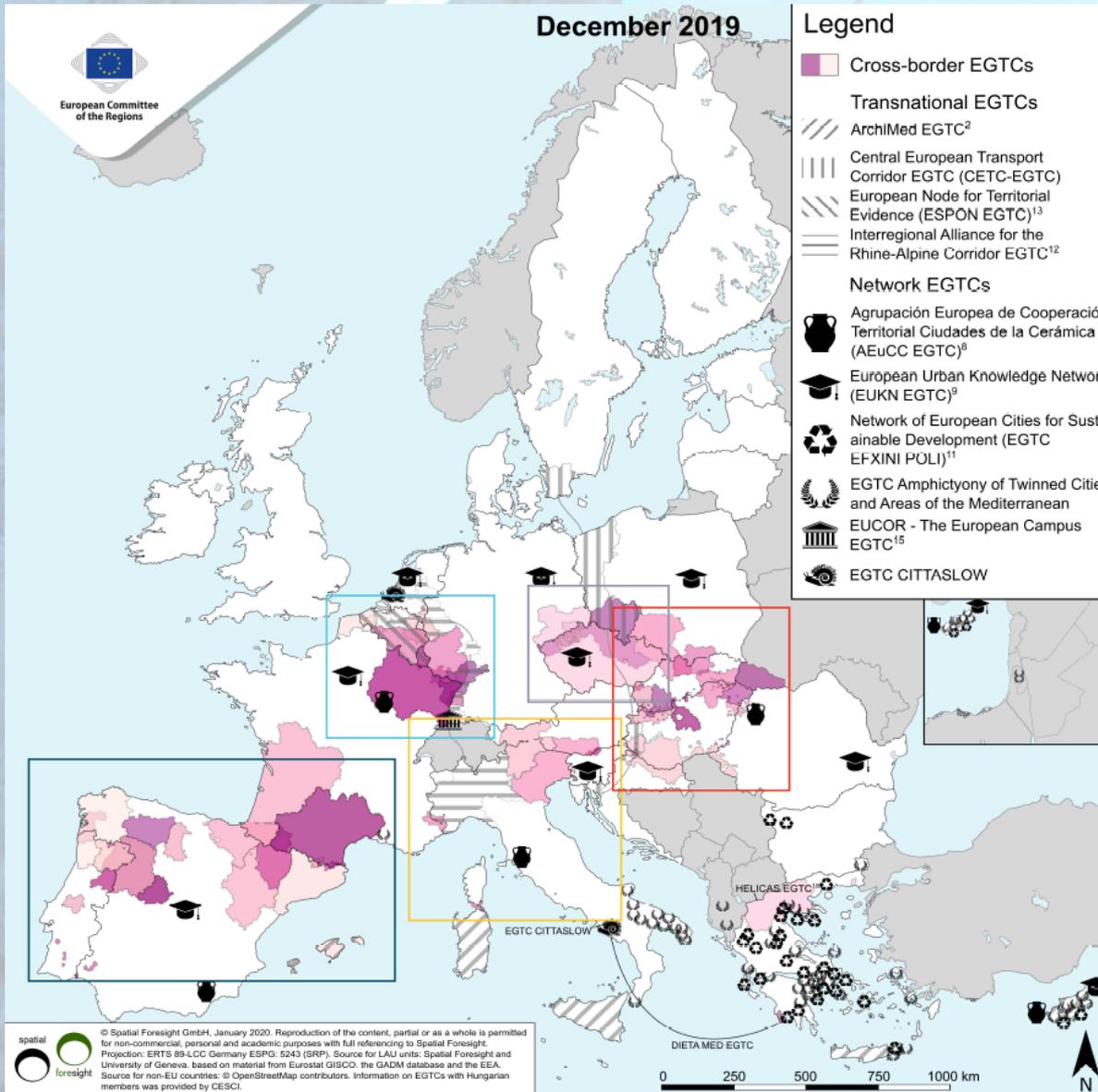
- ❖ The EGTC may help to implement **macroregional strategies**



Trends and developments



EGTC trends and developments



Figures

- ❖ **75 EGTCs** set up, according to the Register of the CoR
- ❖ More than **45.270 LRAs** involved
- ❖ A reality in **20 Member States & 4 Third Countries (Albania, Palestine, Switzerland, Ukraine)**
- ❖ Impact on the life of **137 million** Europeans

Implementation of the EGTC Regulation

❖ Revision of 2013:

- By December 2019, **25 of 57 approval authorities had adopted** the amended EGTC Regulation (EU) 1302/2013
- The first to adopt new provisions relating to the amended regulation were mainly MS and regions with several EGTCs especially **Greece**, Romania, Slovakia and Spain
- So far, **most MS have not adopted new provisions** and have no intention of doing so, including Belgian and most German regions as well as Luxembourg and Sweden.

EGTC trends and developments

- ❖ So as of December 2019, **75 EGTCs were registered** but only 74 effectively existed. In comparison with previous years, there were fewer new EGTCs
- ❖ EGTC can be used to address various aspects of territorial development (eg. **Cross-border healthcare and emergency services, nature disaster prevention and solidarity, nature protection and preservation of environment, access to public services, investment projects, Transport infrastructure and soft transport projects, integrated tourism, economic cooperation, jobs and growth, education, culture**)
- ❖ The number of EGTCs founded in **Central-Eastern Europe**, mostly involving Hungary.



EGTC trends and developments (2)

- ❖ There are **three major types of EGTC**; **cross-border** that mainly address local and regional aspects, **transnational** whose territory is considerably wider than crossborder cooperation areas and **network EGTCs** with members who typically do not have connected territory. There are 64 cross-border EGTCs and only a few are truly transnational (four) or network oriented (six)
- ❖ For 2018, 57 EGTCs reported staff hired directly. Compared with 512.5 and 460 full-time equivalents (FTE) in 2017 and 2016 respectively, 566 FTE were working at EGTCs in 2018. **For 2019, 58 EGTCs reported 599 FTE.** The number of staff continues to increase
- ❖ The **total reported budgets** for 2018 was around € 48.7 million and **for 2019 around €52.8 million** (2017: approximately € 52 Million).

EGTC trends and developments (3)

- ❖ In total, **40 EGTCs implemented 125 ETC programmes or projects** (in 2017, 83) through different roles, ranging from MA and sole beneficiary to associated partnerships. This is significantly higher than previous years. On average, each EGTC that reported being involved in ETC, was involved in 3.2 ETC projects during 2018 and 2019 (in 2017, 2.5 projects).
- ❖ 20 EGTCs reported receiving EU programme funding outside ETC (eg. Creative Europe, Horizon2020, Erasmus+, EaSI), which is significantly higher than in 2017.
- ❖ However, not all EGTCs aim to benefit from ETC funds. Fifteen EGTCs explicitly stated that they have no further intentions in the remaining programming period 2014-2020.
- ❖ Several EGTCs (20) under constitution, whether awaiting approval or still in preparation aim at finalising their foundation in 2020 or early 2021

The Greek Legal Framework on EGTCs

➤ L.4483/2017, art.108-114

- ❑ Designation of the national approval authority
- ❑ Introduction of new categories of potential members of EGTC (incl. authorities from Third Countries, private law legal entities).
- ❑ Detailed description of the EGTCs' tasks (incl. managing authorities, beneficiaries of Joint Action Plans and Integrated Territorial Investments, technical assistance to the EFSI Ops,)
- ❑ Analysis of the approval procedure (incl. the distinction between the approval procedure for EGTCs located in Greece and abroad)
- ❑ Provisions for the EGTCs personnel (incl. the option for EGTCs to consider different employment regime options, be it under private or public law)
- ❑ Detailed provisions for the control of public funds and the members' financial contributions

The Main (EGTC) Tasks of the Hellenic Ministry of Interior

(Committee for the International Partnerships of Local Government- Approval Authority for EGTCs, L.4483/2017, art.110, par.2)

- Organises forums, info days and training sessions on EGTC developments (in cooperation with EGTCs)
- Receives the texts of the CONVENTION and the STATUTES of EGTCs located in Greece or abroad
- Organises informal sessions with the representatives of candidate EGTCs seated in Greece or with candidate members of EGTCs seated abroad and gives guidance over technical issues (amendments of the initial texts are expected and welcome)
- Approves the relevant text of CONVENTION, the participation of candidate members and Authorises an EGTC seated in Greece
- Approves the participation of potential members of an EGTC seated abroad
- Retains and updates the register of the EGTCs
- Informs the European Commission (through the Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU) about national legislative developments on EGTCs
- Updates the section of the EGTCs on the Ministry's website (www.ypes.gr)



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΟ ΕΠΑΦΗΣ
"ΕΥΡΩΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ, 2014-2020"

ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ III

Οι Ευρωπαϊκοί Όμιλοι Εδαφικής Συνεργασίας (ΕΟΕΣ)
των Ελληνικών Δήμων, 2007-2017

Αντώνης Καρβούνης

Αθήνα 2017



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

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Θεσμικό Πλαίσιο,
Εθνική και Ευρωπαϊκή Εμπειρία

Αντώνης Καρβούνης (επιμ.)

Αθήνα 2017

The EGTCs established in GREECE-

The Only Balkan-based EGTCs

1. EGTC Amphictyony- 2008 (<http://www.amphictyony.gr>)



2. EGTC EFXINI POLI - 2012 (<http://www.efxini.gr/>)

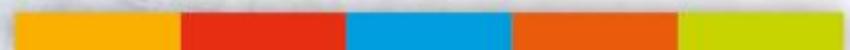


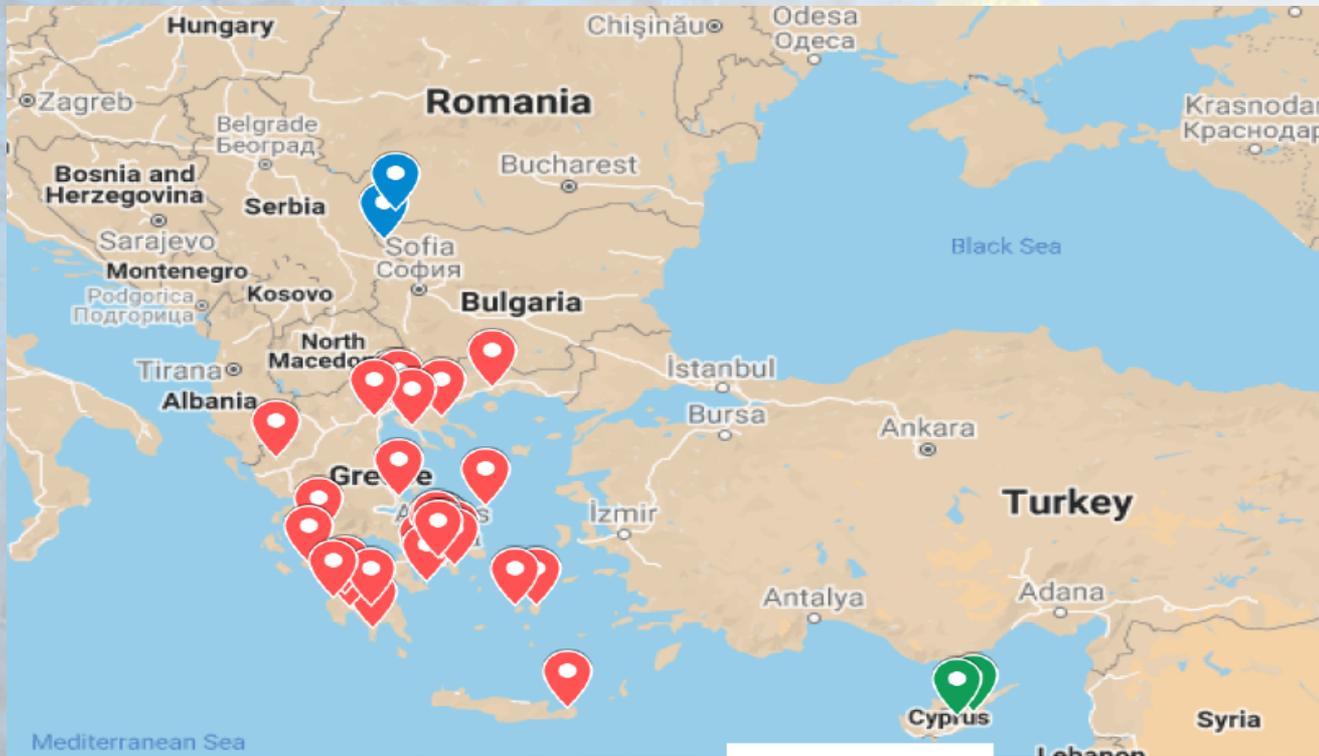
3. EGTC H.E.L.I.C.A.S. (Holistic Efficient Local Initiatives for Cooperation and Synergy) - 2016 (<https://www.helicas.eu/>)





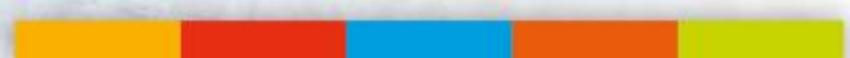
- Municipalities from Greece (28), Cyprus (5), France (1), Italy (1), Albania (1), Palestine (1)
- Regional Association of Attiki
- Collaboration agreements with UFR TEAM (IENAE), University of Piraeus, Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH) and the Region of Crete.





Membership of EGTC Efxini Poli

- **GREECE:** Regions (2), Municipalities (29), Research Institute of Urban Environment and Human Resources (Panteion University), Development Association of Lavreotiki, Union of Local Authorities' General Secretaries (Klisthenis)
- **BULGARIA:** Municipality of Chuprene, RABC Vidin (Regional Agribusiness)
- **CYPRUS:** Municipalities (2)



Membership of EGTC H.E.L.I.C.A.S.

- **Municipality of Thessaloniki**
- **Municipality of Alexandropolis**
- **Municipality of Neapoli – Sykees**
- **Municipality of Kordelio – Evosmos**
- **Municipality of Ampelokipi- Menemeni**
- **Municipality of Kozani**
- **Municipality of Prespes**
- **Municipality of Sintiki**
- **Municipality of Thermi**
- **Municipality of Chalkidona**
- **Regional Association of Municipalities of Central Macedonia**
- **Regional Association of Municipalities of Western Macedonia**
- **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**
- **National and World Economy University of Sofia (Bulgaria)**
- **International University**
- **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kozani**
- **Chamber of Kilkis**



ARISTOIL is coordinated by EGTC Efxini Poli with partners from Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Croatia, Spain and **the total budget** is 2.008.200 EUR.

The **main objective** of ARISTOIL is **the reinforcement of Mediterranean olive oil sector competitiveness** through development and application of innovative production and quality control methodologies related to olive oil health protecting properties (as recognized by EU 432/2012 regulation). The development of **a) a Mediterranean Cluster for olive oil producers and businesses** combined with **b) specialised training, development of innovative methods** for identifying the phenolic ingredients of the oil as well as **c) oil producers' support by special product certification** is the mixture which will lead to the project's objective.

The **expected results** of the project are:

- * Reinforcement of production of innovative olive oil product
- * Training for 3230 olive oil producers and millers
- * Awareness raising for consumers
- * Development of a standardised procedure for Olive oil "Health Claim" certification
- * Development of Mediterranean Olive oil cluster of key actors



Consume Less in Mediterranean Touristic Communities

The countries where the Consumeless model has been implemented during the project development are: Malta, Italy, Greece, Albania and Spain

Total budget/expenditure: 2 635 000.00 EUR

The objective of the project is **the promotion of a smart and sustainable growth in Mediterranean coastal touristic cities**, based on two main efforts:

- **development of integrated sustainable energy, water and waste management strategies in Mediterranean cities** with high levels of tourism in order to reduce energy and water consumptions and waste generation and improve municipal energy, water and waste management, thus facing one of the main environmental challenges for a sustainable growth of touristic cities;
- **promotion of “consume-less” tourism models**, based on the enhancement of local historical heritage, natural resources and products and on the promotion of a responsible behavior of tourists.

Expected results:

- 1 | Consume-less label guidelines
- 2 | Consume-less tourism destination chart
- 3 | Consume-less on-line tool
- 4 | Policy paper promoting the consume-less tourism model

DEN-CUPID

Digital Educational Network For Cultural
Projects Implementation And Direction



DEN-CuPID (Digital Educational Network for Cultural Projects' Implementation and Direction -ERASMUS+) was a **Strategic Partnership between SMEs, academic institutions and Local Authorities associations**, which aimed primarily at improving transversal competencies, such as entrepreneurship and managerial skills, and at enhancing knowledge of people active professionally or voluntarily in the field of cultural management. It envisages the optimization of local capacities in designing and implementing projects based on the local cultural endowment, as well as the ability to involve financial and funding tools, particularly innovative ones, for the accomplishment of these projects.

The following countries participated in the project: Greece, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria.

EU Grant: 343.889 EUR

Its aim was to educate and train people who are professionally involved in the management of cultural programs and especially programs related to cultural heritage, without, however, having the required university training. Specifically, the target group of the program included mainly municipal executives, collectors, executives of cultural associations, managers of small museums, etc., but also members of civil society, mainly those who are professionally involved in tourism.

The program started in September 2017 and was completed in September 2019.

Prospects for 2021-2027



Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for the **European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional development Fund and external financing Instruments (COM(2018)0374 – C8-0229/2018 – 2018/0199(COD))**

- ❖ *Member States should be encouraged to assign the functions of the managing authority to an EGTC or to make such a grouping, like other cross-border legal bodies, responsible for managing a sub-programme, an integrated territorial investment or one or more small project funds, or to act as sole partner.*
- ❖ Based on the experience with the interregional cooperation programmes under Interreg and the lack of such cooperation within programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal during the programming period 2014-2020, interregional cooperation component aims to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy by promoting: **(a) exchange of experiences, innovative approaches and capacity building** in relation to.... the setting-up, functioning and use **European groupings of territorial cooperation ('EGTCs')** (art.3)
- ❖ EGTC eligible for drawing up **territorial or local development strategies** (art.20)

Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for the **European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional development Fund and external financing Instruments (COM(2018)0374 – C8-0229/2018 – 2018/0199(COD))**

- ❖ An EGTC implementing an integrated territorial investment may also be the sole beneficiary (art.20)
- ❖ A cross-border legal body or an **EGTC** may be the sole partner of an Interreg operation under component 1, 2 and 3 Interreg programmes, provided that the members there of involve partners from **at least two** participating countries (art.23)
- ❖ A cross-border legal body or an **EGTC** may be the sole partner of an Interreg operation under component 4 Interreg programmes, provided that the members there of involve partners from **at least three** participating countries (art.23)
- ❖ The **beneficiary of a small project fund** shall be a cross-border legal body or an **EGTC** (art.24)
- ❖ EGTC may **take part in monitoring committees** of Interreg programmes (art.28)
- ❖ Member States and, where applicable, third countries, partner countries and OCTs participating in an Interreg programme may identify an **EGTC as managing authority of that**

Thank you!

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