CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AS A PART OF EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

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Abstract: *Cross border cooperation represents one of the key elements in EU neighbours' policy. It is intended to support several aspects in cross border areas as sustainable development, to contribute to the reduction of differences registered in living standards and, to address to other common challenges across these borders. For cross border cooperation, the principles of territorial cooperation have been adapted to the specificities of external cooperation. In this paper we analysed the European Neighbourhood Instrument, covering 2014-2020 in comparison with Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument for period 2007-2013.*

Key words*: cross-border, cooperation, european, neighbourhood, policy*

INTRODUCTION

The European Neighbourhood Policy covers the European Union relations with the closest neighbours in the Eastern and Southern part [5]. The policy was launched in 2003 and its main objective was to support the strengthening of prosperity, stability and security between European Union and its neighbours.

Having as a base values as democracy, rule of law and respect of human rights, through this policy they try to avoid the emergence of new dividing lines in the closest areas.

After 2015, the stabilization of the region from political, economical and security point of view was put in the center of the neighbourhood policy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the paper, we used as research methods the comparative analysis between several official documents, mainly European Regulations in order to underline the main differences between the programming period in manner of cross-border cooperation.

Figure 1. Neighbourhood Policy instruments
Source: Official Journal of European Union, 2007 [11]

The revised policy relies on two principles, more precisely, a differentiated approach in order to consider the the interests of parteners and Union's, and also an increased ownership split between partners and EU.

In order to facilitate the implementation of Neighbourhood Policy, the European Union has established some instruments corresponding to each programing period as presented in the following picture.

According to European Neighbourhood Policy, the priorities were adjusted in time in order to be suited better for the current challenges and to regions evolution [4,7]. Next to the values mentioned before, there must be also underlined the joint priorities for cooperation..

joint priorities	economic development for stabilisation
	the security dimension
	migration and mobility

Figure 2. Joint priorities ENP

Source: European External Action Service, 2014 [6]

There are three sets of joint priorities, each of them covering a large number of cooperation sectors, such as in Figure 2.

RESEARCH RESULTS

At the European Union level, we can speak about three type of cooperation: bilateral cooperation, regional cooperation and cross-border cooperation [8].

Bilateral cooperation is regulated by Joint Documents such as Partnership Priorities, Association Agendas etc., while establishing the political and economic priorities for cooperation. The regional cooperation is framed by regional strategies, while the priorities for this type of cooperation are included in regional multiannual indicative programmes.

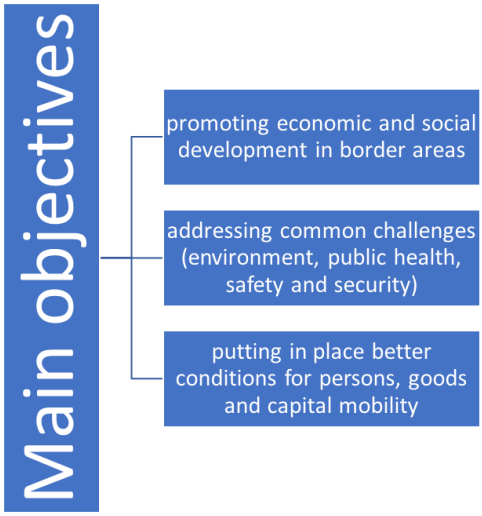

Figure 3. Main objectives of cross-border cooperation

Source: Official Journal of the European Union, 2006 [10]

Cross-border cooperation is established between EU countries and the neighbourhood ones having in common sharing a land border or a sea crossing [8,15]. In cross-border cooperation are included also the transnational cooperation in large

transnational territories, or in other cases, around sea basins and interregional cooperation [9]. Cross-border cooperation is designed according to territorial cooperation principles, but in the same time it is tailored in order to adapt to European Union external relations [14].

The commitment and the ownership are the two characteristics that transform the cross-border cooperation programmes into a cooperation mechanism which relies on the partnership between the countries, management by an authority, local or national from a member state, and at last, the legal framework being a common one and also the implementation rules [1,12].

The European and Neighbourhood and Partenrship Instrument regulation valid for 2007-2013 included as partners 17 countries, but in the European Neighbourhood Instrument valid for 2014-2020, the Russian Federation has not included any more. The prosperity of the area and the good neighbourlines are the objectives for both instruments [3,13].

Even it is not listed in the partner countries, the Russian Federation is enabled through ENI to participate to cross-border and regional cooperation actions. It also can participate in multi-country programmes, and the action fields include cooperation on education, with an emphasis on student exchanges.

In ENPI regulation, the partener countries are mentioned in the objective of the regulation in reference with the progressive participation in the internal market of the European Union and also the intensification of trade.

The next programming period brought the emphasis on progressive integration next to sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation. The market access was improved and free trade areas could be noticed.

In the ENPI regulation the sustainable development is mentioned to be promoted in all aspects. The regional and local development in rural and urban areas are intended to reduce the imbalances and to improve the development capacity.

The evolution in all policy aspects conducted to the mentioning of smart and inclusive development, also sustainbale in ENI regulation in order to cover the realities and needs in the territories. The poverty and social exclusion reduction are aimed as objectives in this regulation [8].

The development of science and education is supported through promoting capacity building and innovation. The territorial dimension is very well aspected through cohesion, more precisely internal economic and social cohesion. In the ENPI regulation, the rural and urban areas are pointed out to reduce the imbalances and also to support local development, while in ENI the rural areas and agriculture development is mentioned with a stress on food security.

The programming period 2014-2020 brought multilateral environmental agreements in order to support environment protection, climate change being in attention more lately and the disaster resilience. The management of natural resources includes in ENPI regulation the fresh water and marine resources [3].

The ENPI regulation was intended also for the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals as the instrument was supporting the policies aimed at poverty reduction. The social implications of the instrument covered the social inclusion and protection, and going forward to labour standards.

The transport and infrastructure was one of the EU priorities at bilateral level and the transport infrastructure interconnections at multi-country level in ENI, while in the former instrument the transport sector included the interconnections, networks and their operations with focus on security and safety of international transport [2]. Due to the

attention oriented towards renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, the clean transport is also on the table.

The ENPI refers to food safety for citizens through supporting actions mainly in sanitary and phytosanitary fields. The stability, the security and prosperity of the zone implied a certain degree of integration and cooperation in economic and political domain according to to ENPI, while in the ENI the security is referred close to mobility and migration management, prevention of conflicts.

CONCLUSIONS

Even if they refer to the same field, between the two instruments are some similarities and differences due to the necessity of better tailoring to the political directions and the needs of the partners.

Maybe at the first glance, one can say that the instrument for the programming period 2014-2020 is more simple than the one corresponding to the previous programming period, there must be underlined that many fields were covered by specific programmes in that period and the regulation of the instrument is covering large areas of cooperation.

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