



Chapter 4

Cross–Border Cooperation (CBC) in a Multi–Level Governance System in Southeastern Europe Territories: How to Manage Territorial Governance Processes in Serbia– Romania Border Space

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ABSTRACT

*Considering the actual panorama of a multi-level governance on EU, the macro-
regional strategies - specifying the EU strategy for Danube region (EUSDR)*

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Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) in a Multi-Level Governance System in Southeastern Europe

fosters coordination across three dimensions: sector policies; different levels of governance from EU to regional or local, and across administrative boundaries. This chapter analyzes and assesses the ability, challenges, and obstacles of Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) strategies, projects, and programs to improve integration and cohesion peripheral territories as is the case of the border region of Romania – Serbia, enabling articulating border areas and creating synergies among them. In this regard, it will be considered the latest findings on new insights towards spatial integration in border and transnational contexts. The chapter presents some hypothesis for a good-planned, long-term sustainability for this territory and lesson learned regarding the coordination and management of policies in the EU's system of multi-level governance that could have a wider application and scope.

INTRODUCTION

In last decades, European integration policy has helped to reduce the fragmentation of the European territory (Dominguez, & Pires, 2014). In this context, the spatial policy is an instrument serving the Union's internal and external policies and contributes directly to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Borders are the sovereign 'interface' between countries (Henrikson, 2010), and their degree of openness, which can change over time, depending on the situation with regard to the process of Europeanisation (Decoville, & Durand, 2017). "In strategic planning, planners need to think increasingly in terms of open, porous borders despite the fact that in concrete planning activities, politics, and governance, the region continues to exist largely in the form of bounded and territorial political units" (Paasi, & Zimmerbauer, 2015).

Although the INTERREG programs were intended to support cooperation across national boundaries, they were often criticized for creating additional boundaries through the definition of the program's areas of cooperation. In recent years, EU macro-regional strategies promote a specific approach to addressing the functional interlinkages between territories (Dühr, 2011). EU macro-regional strategies introduce a new layer of governance to the existing 'many vehicles for multilateral cross-border cooperation already at work in the EU and broader European space' (Dangerfield, 2009). There are four EU macro-regional strategies covering the Baltic Sea Region, Danube Region, Adriatic and Ionian Region and the Alpine Region. EUSDR (EU strategy for Danube region) was adopted in 2011 and nine EU member states are involved in the Strategy: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as five non-EU member states, Bosnia Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and Ukraine. However, the challenge now lies in the implementation of the EU macro-regional strategies and

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