

Territorial Cooperation in Europe

Description

The course aims at presenting a general overview on territorial cooperation in Europe. It has been divided into four sections: the first section will deal with the foundations and the general framework by questioning the origins, the evolution and the theoretical framework of territorial cooperation as it has developed in Europe after the end of the Second World War. A second section will depict the existing European policies in the field of territorial cooperation: Interreg, Neighborhood Policy, Macro-regional Policy, etc., with the objective to analyze decision-making procedures, implementation, spaces and impacts. In the third section, a thematic approach is being proposed. For each of the 5 identified topics (health, spatial planning, environment, culture, mobility), the aim is to assess how they have been imposed, which logic they follow, to which needs they respond and how the different stakeholders intervene and interact (multi-level-governance). Finally, a fourth section will evaluate how territorial cooperation is concretely practiced by the actors in the territories, which difficulties they encounter and which means they use in order to resolve them, but also whether there is a added-value of territorial cooperation in the European cross-border territories where it takes place.

Learning Outcomes

The aim is to acquire transversal and pluri-disciplinary knowledge on territorial cooperation (history, geography, political sciences, sociology, anthropology, spatial planning, etc.). It teaches a basic understanding of the history of European Integration as a decentered process by taking the example of territorial cooperation. The course also conveys the specific and technical terminology of territorial cooperation as employed by the European institutions. This also includes acquiring knowledge of certain key concepts of geography and political sciences on: borders, territory, spatial scales, multi-level-governance, European public policy. The course also helps to understand more largely the functioning of the EU institutions, its policies and programs in the field of regional policy. The aim is to confer competences on the analysis and the management of projects in a European context, which signifies: being able to identify actors, their objectives and their relationship, understanding the importance of EU Law (directives and regulations) for the project conception and implementation. The course also more generally aims at conferring competences on how to analyze projects of territorial cooperation (actors, opportunities, obstacles impacts) and how to assess projects and territories in Europe in a comparative perspective.

Keywords

European Public policies, European Integration, cross-border and transnational cooperation, intercultural understanding, territorialization, institutionalization, European programs, social actors, scales, multi-level governance.

How to follow this course

Each course is composed of several sequences, which are complementary and contain at least one video, which presents the key concepts and the essential questions, one detailed power-point and one scientific article. It will be completed according to the course by case-study analyses, stakeholders' interviews, etc.

Quiz

List of Quizzes for the whole content of the course.

- Each course comprises between 2 and 4 quizzes
- The quizzes are designed in order to take into account a pluri-disciplinary perspective in the field of Human and Social Sciences.

Please read more about these types of questions at: <https://docs.moodle.org/34/en/Questions>

Bibliography

- Wassenberg, B., Reitel, B., Territorial Cooperation in Europe, a Historical Perspective, Publications Office of the EU, Luxembourg, 2015.
- Wassenberg, B., Reitel, B. (eds), Critical Dictionary of borders, cross-border cooperation and European Integration, Brussels, Peter Lang, p. with the collaboration of Jean Peyrony and Jean Rubió, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, 2020.
- Medeiros, E. (ed.), European Territorial Cooperation. Theoretical Approaches to the process and impacts of Cross- Border and Transnational Cooperation in Europe, Springer, Heidelberg, 2018,

Course content (syllabus)

The course is divided into four parts each of which comprises between 2 and 5 topics.

1. General framework
 - a. History of European Territorial Cooperation: genesis and main steps
 - b. The European regional policy
 - c. A multi-level governance system: the EU, the States and the regional and local public bodies
2. Main policies
 - a. Interreg: historical, geographical and multi-level approach
 - b. The EU and its neighbourhoods
 - c. Macro-regional and maritime strategies
 - d. Cooperation in the Outermost regions
 - e. The Peace programme
3. Some thematic approach
 - a. Health
 - b. Spatial planning
 - c. Mobility and circulation
 - d. Environment and climate change
 - e. Culture
4. Unboxing CBC
 - a. Managing your project efficiently
 - b. Difficulties and challenges