

Charter of the TEIN Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network

Context

Border regions (40% of the EU territory) play a crucial role in Europe. The development of these areas is essential for the citizens living there (30% of the EU's population), for their competitiveness, and for the positioning of Europe in the context of globalization. Cross-border territories represent key areas within the EU, where both the effects of movement towards European integration as well as the remaining obstacles to integration can best be studied, whether this relates to the mobility of people, services, goods or capital. This is why border regions are often described as the laboratories for European integration.

However obstacles to cooperation remain problematic because of the lack of knowledge of the 'other' (culture, language, judicial-social-political system) and lack of appropriate methodologies for intercultural work. Thus there is a definite need for specialised training, counselling and support to be adapted to the specific characteristics of each frontier.

Against this background, the TEIN partners are proposing a coordinated solution to this need for knowledge, competences, tools and support.

Membership

The TEIN is led by the Euro-Institut in Kehl/Strasbourg on the German/French border, which was founded in 1993 as the first specialised cross-border cooperation institute in Europe. The Euro-Institut took the initiative in 2010 to bring together the partners which now make up the TEIN.

The following institutions are founding members of the TEIN:

- At the Austrian-Slovene-Italian border:
 - Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, School of Management
 - University of Ljubljana Faculty of Administration
 - ForSer.
- At the Czech-Polish border
 - Olza Association
 - Institut Euroschola

- In the Caribbean Space:
 - Euro-Institut Caribéen
- At the Irish-Northern Irish border:
 - Centre for Cross Border Studies
- On the East French-Spanish, Catalanian border:
 - ICRESS (Institut Catalan de Recherche en Sciences Sociales) / UPVD (Université de Perpignan Via Domitia)
- At the French-Italian border:
 - Université de Nice
- At the French-Belgian border:
 - European Cooperation, European Unit, Nord-Pas de Calais Region
- At the German-Danish border:
 - Department of Border Region Studies, University of Southern Denmark
- At the French-German-Swiss border:
 - Euro-Institut

This is not a closed list: other institutions, academics or resource persons willing to join the network are welcome to do so. The conditions for joining TEIN are set out in the following articles.

Objectives

The TEIN brings together training organizations and universities in order to facilitate cross-border cooperation and to provide practical solutions to the problems faced by the EU in building capacity on transfrontier issues.

The members of the TEIN:

- Exchange best practices;
- Analyse the specificity of training and research on cross border issues and in cross-border contexts;
- Capitalize on and draw synergies from the different local initiatives;
- Work on new products like
 - transferable training modules (e.g. training for cross-border project managers);
 - methods (e.g. need-analysis methods in cross-border regions);
 - tools (e.g. impact assessment toolkit for cross-border cooperation);
- Produce relevant research in this field whose results are disseminated to actors involved in transfrontier cooperation;
- Guarantee the quality of cross-border training throughout Europe by developing an accredited certification system for:
 - cross-border structures built on the model of the Euro-Institut;

- cross-border training programmes;
- cross-border research programmes;
- Contribute to the development of Bachelors and Masters modules in cross-border cooperation.

The TEIN will also:

- Enable bilateral projects in fields of common interest (exchange of learning units, expertise and lecturers, common research programmes, participation in conferences);
- Increase knowledge and awareness of cross border issues (at local, regional, national and European level) by producing high quality work in this field.

The TEIN is a strong network of excellence on transfrontier training, research, counselling and support.

Role of the lead partner

The Euro-Institut will:

- Coordinate and support the partners and the activities of the network;
- Coordinate the annual work plan;
- Organise meetings of the General Assembly of the TEIN (in partnership with the hosting institution);
- Promote the TEIN at local, regional, national and European level, with the support of the other partners in their countries and regions;
- Develop communication tools;
- Act as service provider for the other members if needed (for example, to help set up a Euro-Institut in another border region)
- Maintain contacts with other European border actors who might wish to join the TEIN.

Role of the members

The TEIN members are institutions working in the field of cross-border training and research, facilitating cross-border processes and building capacity in cross-border cooperation.

All partners will:

- Attend the TEIN meetings;
- Propose new projects and products for the TEIN;
- Work on joint projects which the TEIN agrees to undertake;
- Exchange best practices and share information with the other TEIN partners;
- Abide by the relevant quality criteria in cross-border training and research;

- Update their identity and reference grids annually;
- Contribute to the professionalization of actors in their own cross-border region (without competition with other members);
- Become TEIN 'ambassadors' at local, regional, national and European level;
- Keep the Euro-Institut informed about new products they develop and projects they undertake;

Associated members

Associated members are institutions, resource persons, academics and other interested persons working in the field of cross-border cooperation, training or research who are willing to work together with TEIN for the achievement of the objectives listed above.

Associated members can:

- Attend the meetings;
- Propose new projects and products for the TEIN;
- Work on TEIN joint projects;
- Exchange best practices and share information with the TEIN partners;
- Abide by the relevant quality criteria agreed by TEIN in their cross-border training and research.

If an associated member decides to work with TEIN partners on a joint product s/he is subject to the same rules as a full TEIN member.

Meetings

General Assembly. This takes place at least annually and will be the occasion for presenting the work done during the year and adopting the work plan for the coming year.

Project groups are likely to meet more often. Projects will be outlined in the annual TEIN work plan. Each member can choose in which project s/he wants to be involved. The partners do not have to take part in all projects but it is recommended that they participate in at least one project per year. A project group will be set up for each project consisting of participating TEIN members.. The project group can meet as often as required, if necessary by videoconference.

The Euro-Institut should always be informed about project group meetings even if not directly involved. The Euro-Institut has the right to attend any project group meeting if it feels this is necessary.

Projects

Each joint project has to be approved by the General Assembly (during the annual meeting or in exceptional cases via a written procedure). Bilateral projects between TEIN partners can occur without the decision of the General Assembly but it should be informed of every such project. A project group should be created for every joint project. A project group should never be closed to new participants. A partner who joins a project group undertakes to attend the meetings and do his/her part of the work.

The outputs of common projects (final reports, training tools etc.) are then the property of the TEIN network: each member of the network can use these, but cannot disseminate them without a common decision of the TEIN partners. The outputs will feature the TEIN logo along with the logos of participating members and funders.

Decisions

In the General Assembly, the decisions will be taken unanimously. Each member will have one vote. Associate members have no vote but can express their opinions which will be taken into account by the voting members.

Admission of new TEIN members and the exclusion of a current member will be by agreement of the General Assembly. The Euro-Institut has a right of veto in the accreditation/certification of new Euro-Instituts (*see also below*).

Quality criteria

In order to ensure the quality of cross-border training and research, the TEIN sets the following principles, particularly for the institutions wishing to be a Euro-Institut (since the Euro-Institut is a protected mark).

Other institutions which are not Euro-Instituts will agree with these principles and try to move closer to them in their work.

General principles

TEIN members should

- be located in a cross-border space;
- have partners on both sides of the border (or across several borders);
- be a public or a private institution with a mission to enhance the 'public good'; aim to facilitate cross-border cooperation through training and/or research;

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- aim to work with public sector actors with a public interest mission. Private actors are not excluded but should not be the main target group.
- have a bi-national or multinational team with a strong competence in the languages used at and across the relevant border(s) (taking into account European law concerning the free movement of persons);
- respect the languages of all participating border actors and ensure their use in all activities;
- develop the capacity to enable organisations with different cultural backgrounds to work together – intercultural management is essential.
- develop methods and instruments for training on cross-border issues adapted to the different cultures of the relevant border.

Those members wishing to become Euro-Instituts (and use the Euro-Institut label) must meet all these criteria.

Methodological principles

- To pay attention to the needs of the target group: to undertake a regular needs analysis;
- To guarantee a neutral approach during all processes of training and research;
- To propose, as often as possible, bi-national or multinational (depending on the border) training rather than national training;
- To work to enhance the harmony and effectiveness of exchanges between participants at TEIN events and in TEIN projects at all times;
- To provide simultaneous translation (consecutive, if possible) as often as needed (for training sessions and, if needed, for meetings);
- To guarantee the accessibility to training documents for the participants (and also, if possible, for TEIN members);
- To set up an evaluation process of the network's activities;

Quality criteria for training sessions on cross-border issues and in cross-border contexts

TEIN members are keen to ensure the quality of their cross-border training. For this reasons, the following points will be respected by partners for cross-border training courses:

- To have bi-national or multinational groups;
- To invite speakers representing both/all sides of the border;
- To respect of the needs of each side;
- To respect the respective cultures (also pedagogical cultures);
- To ensure co-production of intercultural training from a design, content and pedagogy perspective;
- To have an intercultural moderator;

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- To guarantee accessibility to the training documentation for the participants;
- To set up an evaluation process of the activities;
- To use the logo and communication tools of the TEIN;
- The network has agreed on the following levels of language integration in training:
 - 1st: Each language is used where everybody understands them;
 - 2nd: Each language is used and simultaneous translation is offered;
 - 3rd: Each language is used and consecutive translation is offered;
 - 4th: One of the border languages is used (which is also known by the participants from the other side of the border);
 - 5th: English or another third language is used;
 - (6th: Courses are delivered in separate languages if necessary).

TEIN members agree that one of its most important missions is to promote the learning of the language on the other side of the border.

In a longer term perspective the TEIN will reflect on a curriculum for cross-border studies and a joint certification procedure.

Quality criteria for research programmes on cross-border issues and in cross-border contexts

Members willing to work on TEIN research programmes on cross-border issues and/or in cross-border contexts will

- Work in bi-national or multinational teams;
- Define the subject according to a specific need;
- Keep TEIN regularly informed of progress;
- Promote TEIN at conferences and other events;
- Publish the work of TEIN.

Evaluation of members

A member can be evaluated at any time by decision of the General Assembly, when s/he is deemed not to have respected one or more articles of the TEIN Charter.

The result of an evaluation can be a new definition of a member's mission regarding TEIN activities or, in a 'worst case' scenario, his/her exclusion from membership. When a member is excluded, s/he loses the right to use the tools that are property of the Network.

For the members named 'Euro-Institut' (+ geographical situation), one of the consequences can be the loss of the title 'Euro-Institut'.

All decisions about evaluation will be taken by the General Assembly

New members

A 'Euro-Institut' (+ geographical situation) or another training or research institution with a cross-border competence can apply to become part of the network.

An individual resource person or academic can apply to become an associate member of the network. A condition of membership is that they are involved in some training, research and/or counselling project in the field of cross border cooperation.

A member of the network can also propose another member or associate member, with the General Assembly taking the final decision.

In order to become a TEIN member, the applicant has to agree to and to respect all articles of the Charter.

Funding

After expiry of the LEONARDO Partnership grant, members of the TEIN will seek other funding possibilities at EU level (at institutional funding as well as project grants or calls for proposals).

In case of external funding and project grants, the Euro-Institut will be the project leader – since TEIN currently has no legal structure – and will redistribute the funding to the other participating partners. Rules of redistribution will be agreed and defined in each case.

Annual membership fees will be €500 for institutions and €100 for associate members. This will facilitate the Euro-Institut in coordinating the network and developing the necessary promotion and communication tools.

Legal structure

In the longer term, TEIN members will reflect on the possibility of creating an association or another legal structure.