



Datar



COESIONET
RESEAU D'ETUDES ET DE RECHERCHES SUR LA COHESION ET LES TERRITOIRES EN EUROPE

Workshop synthesis
March 28 - 14h00 – 18h00

Crises and territories: what impacts of the European cohesion policy?

Regional case studies have been carried out three countries (France, Germany, Italy) trying to focus on different categories of regions: developed ones, less developed ones and intermediary regions. The case studies presented were the following ones:

	Federal organisation of the State	Centralised / decentralised organisation of the State
High development	Baden-Württemberg	Veneto Rhône Alpes
Catch-up development		Apulia Lorraine
Weak development	Mecklembourg-Vorpommern	Calabria Limousin

Four issues were addressed in each case study:

- the impact of the crisis in the different regions
- the governance to implement European cohesion policies
- territorial cooperation
- and services of general interest

The lessons drawn from the presentation of the French, German and Italian case studies and discussed during the debate are the following ones:

- the impacts of the crisis and the resilience of the territories vary in the regions according to the development paths chosen previously, to the vulnerability of the regions to external influence (globalisation, exports, supply chain etc.) and to the abilities of the national and regional actors to address the crisis
- the implementation of the European cohesion policy depends on:



Ce programme est co-financé par l'Union Européenne dans le cadre d'Europ'Act. L'Europe s'engage en France avec le Fonds européen de développement régional

- legacies of the territories (institutional, economic, administrative, political, structural deficits etc.)
- regional administrative and institutional capacity and resources
- mobilisation of the actors
- partnership both vertically and horizontally and the duration of it
- geographic positions of the territories (centre / periphery)
- the efficiency of the EU cohesion policy:
 - it is difficult to distinguish the contribution of EU cohesion policy from the national or regional policies even though positive results are obvious
 - the difficulty to identify the appropriate evaluation criteria: the use of the GDP is all the more insufficient since the impact of the EU cohesion policy seems to have particularly strong impacts on the governance because it enables the actors to use different ways of work and cooperation. But how to take this element into account in the evaluation criteria?
- the impact of the EU cohesion policy depends partly on the amount of the national financial allocation which is very small compared to the national funds in the most developed countries. Its contribution to territorial cohesion has to be analysed in the broader national context taking account of the the national redistributive mechanisms between regions and territories
- there is a tension between the objectives of the reduction of disparities at the inter-regional and at infra-regional level: the case studies tend to show that if disparities are reduced between the Member States, disparities at infra-regional level are increased. There is a constant trade-off between competitiveness and cohesion
- The “place based approach” has been questioned: how to better adapt the European framework to the local needs and resources?
- What should be the tasks of the national State?