

## THE INTEGRATIVE POWER OF “COMMON MINDSCAPES”: FROM TRANSNATIONAL VISIONS TO INNOVATIVE PROJECTS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

### COMMIN FINAL CONFERENCE

### SOME SUGGESTIONS ON THE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

#### Workshop Aims and Concept

The workshops should be structured and discussed along results of the COMMIN project and questions which arise from it. They should try to use the expertise of the international participants, both project partners and external, to provide a future perspective for transnational cooperation in the BSR in tangible projects. All workshops are accompanied by two COMMIN project partners, one to give a short input statement and the other to serve as a facilitator for the discussion. One of the two workshop chairs will then give a short report to the panels after the workshops. In the following, we will give you some suggestions for the input statements and the relevant questions for discussion (for each workshop individually) as well as for the report back to the panel (same questions for everybody).

#### **WS 1: CONNECTIVITY, COHESION AND LEGITIMACY IN CROSS-BORDER CONTEXTS**

#### Chair:

Ellen Højgaard Jensen (facilitator), Karl Schmude (input statement)

#### Input statement (10-15 minutes)

The input statement should draw on results from the COMMIN project (suggested documents and own expertise) and touch the following issues:

- Necessity of functional cross-border regions (macro regions, transnational development zones, etc.)
- Examples of good governance in functional cross-border regions and for the establishment of cross-border regions (e.g. transport, sectoral clusters, city networks)
- Factors hampering the development of functional cross-border regions

Useful COMMIN **document**: Recommendations on TEN-T (IRS)

#### Workshops Questions

The discussion after the initial input statement should try to answer the following questions:

- How can the cooperation between different sectors and different levels of authority be improved?
- How do networking and cluster strategies contribute to the overall BSR aims of sustainability, competitiveness and territorial integration?
- How can barriers to cross-border regional integration and regional development be neutralised?
- What sort of institutional framework is necessary for functional cross-border regions?

## **WS 2: PROMOTION OF INNOVATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER**

### **Chair:**

Rivo Noorkõiv (facilitator), Heikki Pusa (input statement)

### **Input statement (10-15 minutes)**

The input statement should draw on results from the COMMIN project (suggested documents and own expertise) and touch the following issues:

- Special features of learning and innovation in transnational contexts (compared to national contexts)
- Factors fostering transnational learning and innovations (actors, programmes, regulations, special fields, etc.)
- Challenges and problems arising from transnational knowledge transfer and barriers to innovation

Useful COMMIN **documents**: Documentations on Training Sessions in WP 2 (Jyväskylä, Nordregio)

### **Workshops Questions**

The discussion after the initial input statement should try to answer the following questions:

- How can sources for new innovation-based development in the BSR be strengthened?
- How can transnational transfer of technology and knowledge be facilitated and organised?
- What is the role of spatial planning in facilitating knowledge transfer?
- What should the overall organisational framework and the specific networks look like?

## **WS 3: INVOLVEMENT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS**

### **Chair:**

Zaiga Krisjane (input statement), Laila Kūle (facilitator)

### **Input statement (10-15 minutes)**

The input statement should draw on results from the COMMIN project (suggested documents and own expertise) and touch the following issues:

- Different planning systems/cultures and the role they attribute to stakeholder involvement
- Good examples for stakeholder involvement and interaction between public and private stakeholders
- Problems and limits of stakeholder involvement in transnational projects

Useful COMMIN **documents**: Tables elaborated by WP1, especially table on participation

## Workshops Questions

The discussion after the initial input statement should try to answer the following questions:

- How can the cooperation between the public and the private sector be increased?
- How can involvement of stakeholders contribute to preparing investments and generate innovation-based regional development?
- How can the foundations for innovation and absorbing new knowledge be laid in the society?
- How can stakeholder participation be organised in transnational projects?

## WS 4: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COMPLEXITY REDUCTION

### Chair:

Elke Pahl-Weber (facilitator), Pasi Rajala (input statement)

### Input statement

The input statement should draw on results from the COMMIN project (suggested documents and own expertise) and touch the following issues:

- Complexities and challenges arising from transnational project contexts
- Indicators and regulations for successful transnational projects and project management
- Problems and limits of project management in transnational projects

Useful COMMIN **document**: Best practice analysis (VASAB)

## Workshops Questions

The discussion after the initial input statement should try to answer the following questions:

- How can efficient communication between project partners and with relevant authorities outside the project be achieved?
- How can project handling be simplified and sustainable project routines be established?
- How can durable / sustainable project structures be established?
- How can project management contribute to innovations (both absorption of innovations from the outside and diffusion of innovations made in the project)?

## CLUES FOR REPORTS TO PANEL

All four workshops should give a summary report to the panel, considering the following clues:

- Successes and good examples/good practices
- Conflicts, inconsistencies and barriers
- Prerequisites / essentials for future transnational cooperation
- “Nice-to-haves” in future transnational cooperation