



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**Time for a revolution?:
Transnational
Co-operation in the new
programming period**

Moray Gilland, DG Regional Policy
Budapest, 27 March 2008



A Word to the Wise

"Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the co-operation of many minds"

Alexander Graham Bell



Another Word to the Wise

**“Co-operation is 1% inspiration
and 99% perspiration”**

**Moray Gilland
(with apologies to Thomas
Edison)**



Taking Stock - positives

- Co-operation as a whole with much increased importance
 - Clear added value and political importance for transnational co-operation
 - Easy to preach to the converted
 - Specialised actors and outcomes have drawn positive benefits
 - Links with EU's Territorial Agenda and territorial cohesion dimension
 - Long distance travelled in a very short space of time
-



Taking Stock - the not so positives

- Same total budget for twice the Member States
 - Perception of complexity
 - Visibility is not always guaranteed
 - Often viewed as peripheral for regional development purposes
 - Effective integration of non-Member States
-



Challenges ahead

- How to make transnational co-operation more relevant?
 - How to achieve more with less?
 - How to move forward, to change, to develop?
 - 3 Key Areas:
 - ◆ Content
 - ◆ Visibility of results
 - ◆ Programme relationships
-



Re-assessing Content

- Regulations provide a more focussed, targeted framework on programme content
 - Need to develop a more concrete, relevant dimension - supporting projects with a direct, visible impact
 - Need to fix co-operation within the geography of the programme - less interregional co-operation
 - Evolution already evident: move away from the pure studies and evaluation approach of 97-99 period
-



Content risks and opportunities

- A need to consider larger projects with greater physical and political impact
 - Programme bodies must steer project generation & development more: providing a directing influence on potential projects
 - More joined-up thinking - closer links to national and regional programmes
 - More concrete results - literally and metaphorically
-



Achieving Results

- The need for Visibility
 - Getting the message out about the importance of transnational co-operation
 - Raising awareness and profile of transnational actions and explaining the successes - at the right level, in the right format
 - Think publicity and information from the very beginning of the programme - and the project
-



Programme Relationships

- Relationships between countries critical for effective programme implementation
 - Vital to build solid relationships at committee level, and among national contact points
 - Those involved must work for the good of the programme, not simply the good of their country
 - Equally needed at project level
 - Strong progress in recent years
-



Where does South-East Europe stand?

- On *content*, programme is in line with regulations
 - Need to steer project partners in the right direction
 - Need to build better links with Convergence programmes
 - On *visibility*, evidence is all around!
 - Build on good experience of CADSES
 - Better targeting of information
-



Where does South-East Europe stand?

- On *programme relationships*, still learning from CADSES experiences
 - More training required at project level on coordinating multi-country partnerships
 - Better, regular links among key programme actors
-



Conclusions

- The next period cannot be merely a continuation
 - Not quite "revolution", but much more than "evolution"
 - A step change in attitude, in approach, in content is required
 - Think "relevance", think "concrete"
 - How can we all make a real difference?
-