



GRENSEKOMITEEN
VÄRMLAND - ØSTFOLD



Cross-border co-operation and regional development: what works?

Central Scandinavian Borderland

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EUROPEAN UNION

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Why are border regions often disadvantaged?

- They are often in mountainous areas, or divided by major physical obstacles like big rivers or a sea.
- The border itself makes them “remote”.
- A border limits the functional region for goods and services.



Borders and territorial cohesion

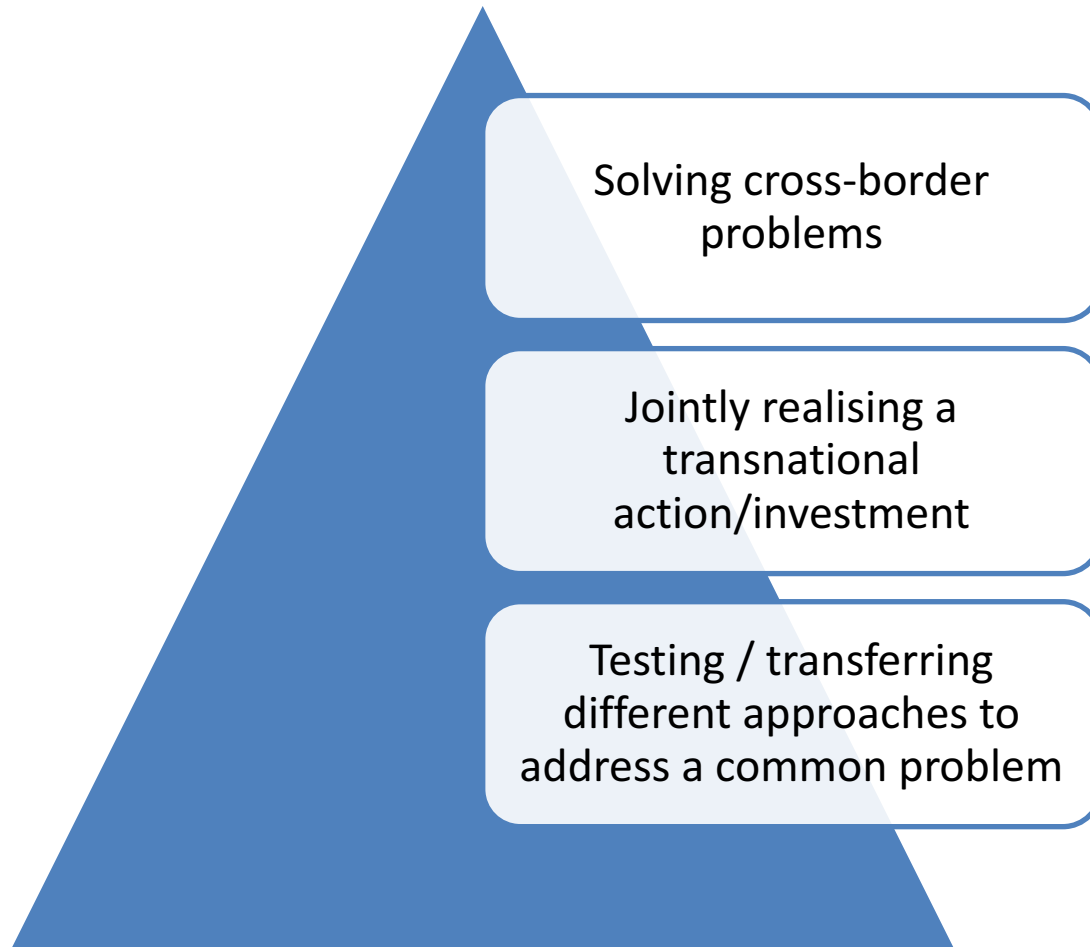
Barca Report 2009:

- Cross-border and transnational cooperation help to overcome institutional barriers, mobilise finances, support economic, social and cultural exchange and new relations.



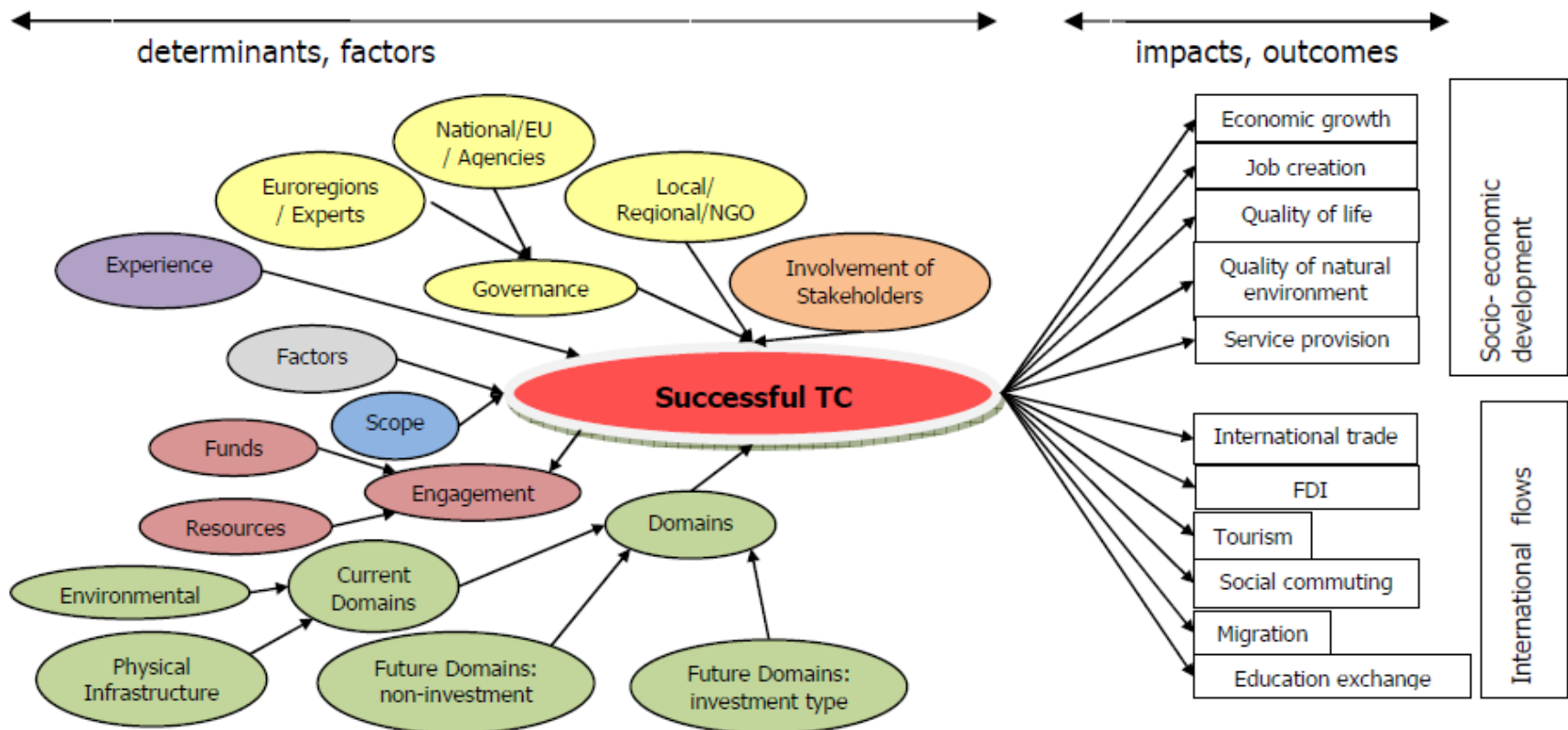
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Scope of co-operation



After Colomb,(2007)

Model of successful territorial co-operation



Keys to success

- Initiation of the co-operation by local or regional government or NGOs, rather than by experts / Euroregions / National or EU agencies.
- Committing resources to the co-operation.
- Simple forms of co-operation are the most likely to succeed.
- Culture, economy, natural environment, tourism or infrastructure.

Cross-border co-operation

- INTERREG A is seen to be influential on socio-economic development and quality of life, but has less influence on cross-border flows.
- Accessibility is a key theme in Sweden-Norway co-operation projects.
- Scope for sharing services across borders in sparsely populated areas – e.g. health services.
- Look at “near-border” but also “cross-border” opportunities.

What's needed?

- Political will.
- Legal framework is important in initiating a co-operation project and for financial aspects.
- Good formal and informal contacts between partners matters most for day to day work.
- Build a common vision for the cross-border area – shared objectives and branding.

Polycentricity

- Connect small and medium-sized settlements to nodes in major networks: secondary networks matter.
- Co-operate to generate economies of scale in sparsely populated regions.
- Need institutional arrangements to focus the efforts of partners and tackle barriers.

Hubs and interchanges



A new connection can boost places on the network, but further disadvantage those not connected.



Coordination, frequency, quality, reliability, cost.