

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 20 November 2017

CDDG(2017)20  
Item 4.4 of the agenda

## EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

### UPDATE OF THE EDEN DATABASE (On-line Toolkit for Cross-Border Cooperation)

For information and action

Secretariat Memorandum  
prepared by the  
Directorate General of Democracy  
Democratic Governance Department

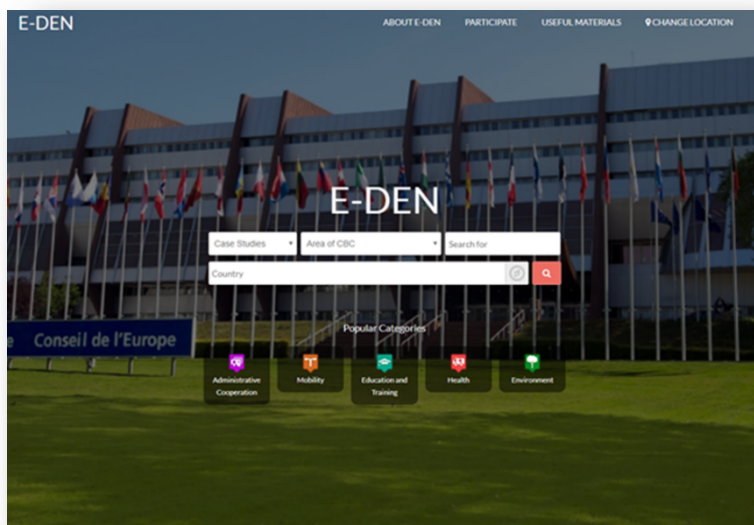
---

*This document is public. It will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.  
Ce document est public. Il ne sera pas distribué en réunion. Prière de vous munir de cet exemplaire.*

## Introduction

EDEN is an online database for cross-border cooperation (CBC) designed by ISIG (Istituto di Sociologia Internazionale di Gorizia) and supported by the Council of Europe. It can be reached on the following web site: <http://cbc.isig.it/>.

It is based on good practices collected through a questionnaire elaborated by the Secretariat in 2011 and published as a contribution to the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government (Kyiv, 2011). These core data are integrated by those from the follow up questionnaire elaborated by ISIG in 2012, 2014-2017. EDEN has the dual objective to gather information on CBC and to facilitate networking.



EDEN is intended to serve policy-makers and administrators interested in learning from good practices shared by their European colleagues and contains the collected experiences of more than 20 European countries regarding cross-border cooperation.

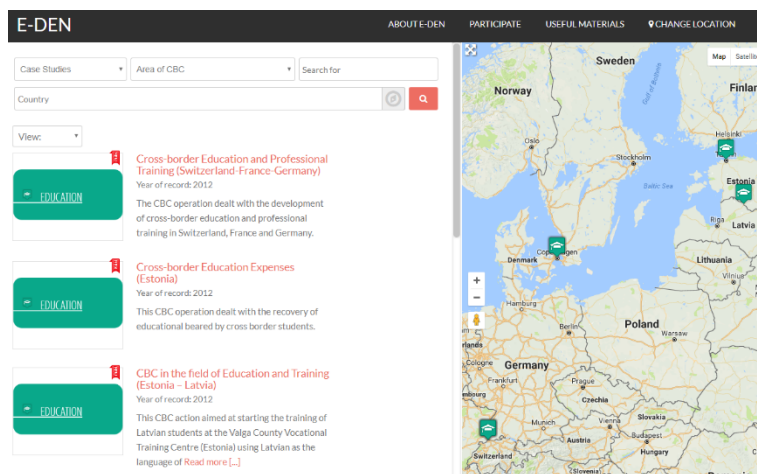
EDEN is based on the principle that knowledge is power. Faced with an obstacle during the implementation of a CBC

(cross-border cooperation) activity, the institutional actor can consult the database, look for similar cases and see what solutions have been developed by other institutions.



EDEN aims at developing a network of knowledge, which could also become a network of partners for projects across the Council of Europe Member States. Each contributor to the database can be reached by means of contact information, allowing users to ask for more information on a specific CBC activity or to propose a partnership to solve a common obstacle. EDEN contains case studies thematically

organised in 8 sections: Mobility, Labour Market, Health, Environment, Education and Training, Crisis Management, Crime Prevention and Institutional Cooperation.



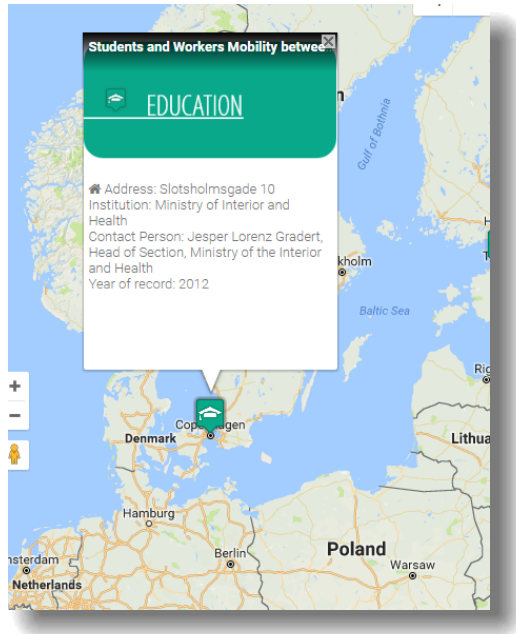
Each EDEN case study page is structured in tabs as follows:

- Case study description: briefly outlining the CBC issue at stake.
- Obstacles: outlining the specific obstacles that have been encountered in the implementation of CBC activities.

- Solutions and Good Practices:

outlining the eventual solution to the obstacles and/or the good practices put in place to overcome them.

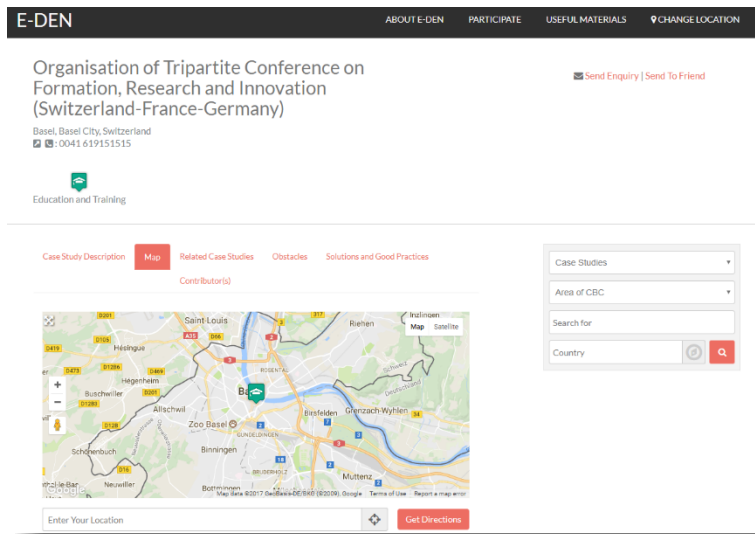
- Contributor: redirecting to the Contributor presentation page.
- Map: geographically pinpointing the Case study Contributor.
- Relevant Case studies: gathering thematically and geographically all the other relevant case studies.



In addition, EDEN contains also information on the project contributors. Each contributor page is structured as follows:

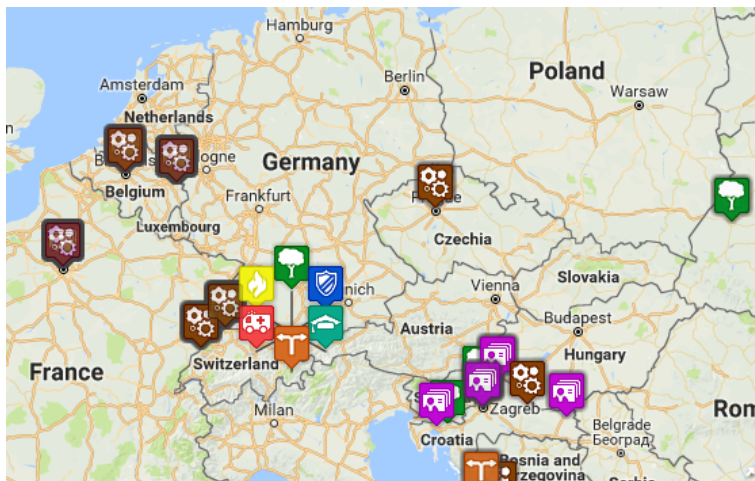
- Contributor Profile: showing the Contributor's contact information, describing its institutional role and its main CBC activities.
- Map: geographically pinpointing the Contributor.
- Input on obstacles: outlining the structural obstacles faced by the Contributor in its CBC activities.
- Input on Good Practices: outlining the general Good Practices implemented by the Contributor in its CBC activities.
- Related Contributors: listing the other institutions involved in similar projects.

As from September 2017, EDEN is hosted on an upgraded platform and benefits from new specific features to bring users a cleaner, more intuitive, and simpler approach to its content.



First, EDEN integrates a geo-localization system allowing the institutional actor to browse the data spatially, both through a Location Selection System (Country-Region-City) and an interactive map.

Second, EDEN's upgraded structure interconnects the information available on the single CBC action with all other operations sharing similar obstacles or comparable purposes.



Third, EDEN can be browsed also by contributing institution: each contributors page, other than presenting the specific institution, also allows the user to access further information, both thematically (by category) and geographically (by means of the map).

Finally, EDEN contains useful documentation on cross-border cooperation (SWOT Analysis and the Manual on removing obstacles to CBC).

As of 29 October 2017, the database contained 592 case studies and 48 contributors.

## Proposed action

ISIG proposed to expand the database by contacting existing contributors every six months and asking if there are new contributions, and by including new stakeholders wishing to participate. To this aim, a special page contains a contact form that can be filled out to express interest in contributing to the database. ISIG will be contacting the users for more information. Finally, to this aim ISIG will elaborate a new specific questionnaire that will be disseminated in November/December 2017

Moreover, ISIG prepared a communication plan to increase visibility of EDEN (LinkedIn group, Facebook page, monthly mailing list managed by ISIG) of the database.

The CDDG might wish to invite the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to also support the EDEN database by promoting awareness and use of it among local and regional authorities in Europe.

Certain other bodies, with or without observer status in the CDDG, such as the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the Council of European Regions and Municipalities (CEMR) and the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) could also be invited to promote the EDEN database and to make use of it.

Finally, the member states should spread knowledge of the EDEN database at the level of their national (regional) administrations involved in cross-border cooperation, and make it accessible (for example) through the web-sites of the ministries or specialised bodies with whom they maintain links.

## Action required

The members of the CDDG are invited to visit the database (<http://cbc.isig.it/>) the various updates, functions and possibilities will be presented by a representative of ISIG at the meeting of the CDDG on 4-5 December 2017.

The CDDG is then invited to present its observations, if any, on its content and functioning and to formulate its opinion on the measures to promote the database referred to above and approve those or any other measures as appropriate.

Furthermore, at its meeting on 4-5 December 2014, the CDDG appointed Mr Edwin Lefebre as rapporteur for transfrontier cooperation.

The tasks of the rapporteur are as follows: follow activities in the field of transfrontier (cross-border) co-operation; report back the CDDG or its Bureau as appropriate; raise, as the case might be, the awareness of the Committee on important developments concerning transfrontier cooperation across Europe; and act as a coordinator of EDEN should the need arise.

The CDDG is invited to renew the rapporteur's mandate, or to designate a new rapporteur on cross-border cooperation as the case may be, who would also include providing an impetus for and following the implementation of the activities by the CDDG and its member States..