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EDEN 2012-2017: an overview

EDEN – E-Database Empowering Network is a tool for European Cross-border Cooperation intended to serve policy-makers and administrators.

EDEN main objectives are:

- Collecting comprehensive information on European CBC activities;
- Offering the possibility of network building to practitioners.
• 2011: the Committee of Experts of Local and Regional Government Institutions and Cooperation elaborates a questionnaire directed to European CBC practitioners in preparation of the conference on “Removing obstacles and Promoting Good Practices on Cross-border Cooperation”. The results of the survey were published as a contribution to the 17th session of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government (Kyiv, 2011).

• 2012: under the mandate of the Council of Europe, ISIG elaborates a first follow-up questionnaire to update and expand the data collected the year before.

• 2014: a second follow-up questionnaire is launched and the EDEN database further improved: by 2017, it contains 592 case studies from more than 40 European contributors.
EDEN website: 2017 edition

EDEN is an online database of obstacles to and good practices for CBC designed by ISIG and supported by the Council of Europe. It can be reached on the following web site: http://cbc.isig.it/. 
The main objectives of EDEN are:

- To serve practitioners and institutional actors by providing the CBC experiences and good practices developed by their colleagues in more than 20 European countries.

- To develop a network of knowledge that may evolve in networks of partners for project making across the Council of Europe Member States.

- In order to do so, from September 2017 EDEN is hosted on an upgraded platform and benefits of new specific features to bring users a cleaner, more intuitive, and simpler approach to its content.
The rationale

EDEN | E-DATABASE EMPOWERING NETWORK - An online toolkit for Cross-Border Cooperation by the Council of Europe.

This website is a tool for policy-makers and administrators involved in learning from the best practices shared by their European colleagues and contains the collected experiences of more than 20 European countries regarding Cross-Border Cooperation.

Commission bi-étatique aux frontières françaises (France, Luxembourg, Allemagne, Suisse, Italie, Espagne, Brésil)

Mise en réseau des structures nationales d’appui à la coopération transfrontalière, MOT (France, Royaume-Uni, Belgique, Luxembourg, Allemagne, Suisse, Italie, Espagne, Andorre, Pays-Bas, Roumanie, Bulgarie)
A new interactive tool, easy-to-access from all devices

EDEN 2017 has a specific mobile-friendly design, looking its best and conserving its new features on computers, smartphones and tablets.
Enhanced search functionalities and interoperability between contributors and case study

The first section of the HP gives access to an evolved search mask allowing the user to browse the website directly – by freely inputting a search word – as well as by cross-referencing it with different variables (i.e. CBC areas, geographic location of the case study) or sorting it out using the categorization system.
Geo-localisation and intuitive thematic marking system

The second section of the HP brings the user directly on an interactive map where an intuitive marking system distinguish thematically the different case studies accessible in a specific geographic space. By clicking on the markers, the user is given basic information on the case study or the contributor.
In-depth focus on specific geographical areas

EDEN 2017 improved geo-localization system allows her to browse the data spatially through a specific Location Selection System (Country-Region-City) redirecting to a geographically-dedicated search interface.
Enhanced data organisation and accessibility

The information stored in EDEN 2017 are organized in case studies. For each case study, the user can easily access:

- a brief description of the CBC issue at stake;
- the obstacles faced by the actor during her action;
- the solutions/good practices implemented to overcome them.
Improved horizontal navigation and an interconnection between case studies and contributors

From each case study pages, the user can easily access:

- all the case studies uploaded by the same contributor
- All the case studies of the same thematic area (i.e. mobility, education, etc.)
- All the case studies pertaining to the same specific geographic area
E-DEN

Upgraded networking possibilities

From each EDEN contributor page, the user may

Access to a concise but exhaustive description of the institution’s goals, activity and specific CBC actions

Easily get in touch with the contact person to ask more informations or explore the possibility to develop a partnership or a network

Share all this information with a friend/colleague
EDEN data-collection tool: 2017 edition

www.cbc.isig.it
In order to update EDEN 2017, ISIG designed a specific data-collection tool (DCT) allowing to improve the data quality and quantity, its organisation and consultation possibilities.

- DCT specific features:
  - Improved quality and quantity of data through a new functional gathering structure.
  - Enhanced data organisation through the systematic implementation of the case study format.
  - Further integration with the web platform, granting an easier input and consultation of the information.
The DCT 2017 is a 4-tiers tool which allows for data gathering on contributors and CBC case studies.

Sessions:
1. Contact person information.
2. Contributor’s profile.
3. Update existing information on their CBC actions (if available)
4. New case studies (if available)
• The main target groups of the DCT 2017 are:

• the 48 institutions that already contributed to EDEN. The DCT will allow to update their previous CBC activities and add new actions.
The main target groups of the DCT 2017 are:

- new contributors willing to participate to EDEN (following CoE approval).
  a) as a consequence of visibility strategies and communication plan implemented by ISIG
  b) following the suggestion of existing contributors
EDEN 2018-2020
Steps ahead

Increase EDEN Visibility

A communication plan (social networks; monthly mailing list, etc.) and regular updates from contributors

Promote awareness of EDEN and its potentialities

Sponsorships by: the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities; AER; CEMR; AEEBR; etc.

Further diffusion and institutional use of EDEN

The EU member states spread knowledge about EDEN through the websites of ministries or specialised CBC bodies

International Conference
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPE
25 May 2018 | Dubrovnik, Croatia