



COLLABORATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN

THE IBERIAN NETWORK OF CROSS-BORDER ENTITIES

And

THE CONFERENCE OF ATLANTIC ARC CITIES

The **Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities** (CAAC) is a network of territorial cooperation that brings together local authorities of the European Atlantic façade in order to promote the cohesion of the territory and especially the urban dimension; through the defence of the particularities of the Atlantic Arc and the creation of cooperation projects between its members and with other actors in this area

and

The **Iberian network of cross-border entities** (RIET), cross-border association of territorial cooperation constituted by proximity organizations of the Spain-Portugal border (political, business and academic) for the endorsement of cooperation, discussion and the promotion of strategies in the Iberian area in particular and the European in general.

In a context where the relevance of policy cohesion is questioned, it is essential to create projects of added value from the ground, with the knowledge and the legitimacy that gives a local dimension that crosses borders. Thus, both networks want to highlight their complementarity in this sense.

Similarly, both networks want to respond to the challenge presented by the current policy of cohesion, which insists on a subsidiarity based on synergies between different initiatives and actors and where integrated strategies make up a new map of territorial cooperation.

The two networks assume as their own the desire for the Atlantic Arc agents to become a macro-region. A macro-region that establishes a mechanism for cooperation, both cross-border and transnational, covering the whole of actors and territories and progress beyond the maritime strategy, taking into consideration the importance of the active involvement of the cities to achieve a real territorial cohesion.



IN RESPONSE TO THESE OBJECTIVES, THE CAAC AND THE RIET CONSIDERE ESSENTIAL TO OFFICIALISE THEIR COOPERATION THROUGH AN AGREEMENT THAT:

1. Defence of the Atlantic macro-region

The signatory institutions of the present Protocol undertake to present a common front in defence of an Atlantic macro-region made by and for the territorial actors and that serves as a basis for its implementation.

In addition, both parties will work to shape the platform of the urban system of the macro-region, with the objective of ensuring the representativeness of local authorities and their full participation in the setting of strategies and actions in the field of the future macro-region.

2. Joint statements - Atlantic strategy

The undersigned organizations undertake to promote a platform of exchange and shared reflection in actions of communication and joint position papers on issues of common interest, especially in regard to the Atlantic area and its development strategy.

These documents, subject to a joint development between the signatory organizations, will have to be developed within the framework of concerted action between each of the two entities.

3. Invitation to participate in the seminars organized by each organization

In each seminar of open character organized on topics related to the Atlantic area, the signatory organizations will mutually invite each other to participate, and even intervene in events, in accordance with the themes addressed, when permitted by the agenda.

This issue becomes particularly relevant when organized seminars have a European territorial scope or covering all of the Atlantic area, such as OPEN DAYS. In this way, transmitted messages will be reinforced and a message of unity around the Atlantic area will be conveyed.

4. European projects

Contracting entities shall provide the common action of both institutions and their members, to promote common initiatives and inviting each other, on a preferential basis, part of the partnership of the European projects that each one develops in the field of the Atlantic area.

Also, even in the case of not joining the partnership, contracting entities may write letters of support to endorse requests for projects promoted by any of the organizations that have signed the present Protocol.



5. Exchanges with the European institutions

The organizations engaged by this Protocol consider a priority the visibility of this common agreement, and therefore engage to facilitate as far as possible the presence of the other network at meetings with the European institutions, whenever the subject of them is related to the strategy of the Atlantic or the structural funds. Also, those two entities will keep each other informed of the results of negotiations that, on these issues (the Atlantic strategy or structural funds). In particular on the exchanges at the community level as well as national or regional in the concerned Member states.

For the **development of this Protocol of collaboration**, the contracting entities shall constitute a **Coordination Committee**, consisting of two persons designated by the General Secretariats of each entity. This Committee shall have the purpose of defining, in the first quarter of each year, an annual action plan based on the fields of cooperation laid down in the present Protocol. Also, this Committee will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved.

This Protocol shall enter into force on January 1, 2016 and will be extended annually, except of an express notice of withdrawal from one of the parties.

And for the record to the appropriate effects, this agreement is signed in two copies, by the Presidents of both organizations.

**Conferencia de Ciudades del Arco Atlántico
(CAAC)**

**Red Ibérica de Entidades Transfronterizas
(RIET)**

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