The European Union considers Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) as a key element of its policy towards its neighbors, allocating for it at least 1 billion Euro for each of the last two programming periods (2007–2013 and 2014–2020). This money, and the programmes designed, should support sustainable development along the EU’s external borders, with the main purpose to reduce differences in living standards among the communities involved and to address common challenges across these borders, as priorities identified by the participating countries (PC). As actual unique cooperation mechanism, a CBC programme is based on balanced partnership between the PC, where the management is entrusted to a jointly selected local/national authority in a member state, and within a common legal framework and implementation rules, all parts of the institutional system. But how this mechanism is contributing to a real long-term cooperation that can survive if the money inflow will stop?

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