



## CRISI -Project<sup>1</sup> Policy Briefing 1/2015

The CRISI -project aims at providing an improved understanding of cross-border regional cooperation in terms of how different types of proximity and the integration of cross-border regional innovation systems (CBRIS) impact on knowledge transfer and innovation in SMEs.

The project is funded by the Marie Curie Actions Intra-European Fellowship within the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the EU under Grant PIEF-GA-2013-624930.

The first work package has generated the following empirically and theoretically informed ideas and policy suggestions:

- The promotion of socio-economic, and in particular the socio-cultural development of cross-border regions, is highly significant for achieving the cohesion and cooperation goals of the EU and its neighbours i.e. for facilitating interaction potentially leading to innovations
- The long-term innovative and competitive success of cross-border regions largely depends on their ability to create shared innovation systems
- There are positive outcomes and synergies to be gained from cross-border R&D collaboration, since new innovations emerge from enough but not too much difference
- The differences – for example in terms of language, technical expertise, laws, cultural habits and norms – commonly observed across a border can create barriers for effective cross-border innovation cooperation
  - However, these differences should be embraced, since they have the potential to lead to new combinations of knowledge and ways of doing things and, thus, to radically new innovations

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<sup>1</sup> Cross-Border Regional Innovation System Integration -Project (CRISI -Project)



- When looking for innovation cooperation partners the adjacent side of the border is often bypassed, resulting in under-used innovation capacity
  - The strengthening of the links between actors across the border will increase the innovation capacity of the border region as a whole
- In many intra-EU border regions, the border itself is not a substantial barrier, but the possibilities for cross-border integration have not been fully utilized off and have, remained under-utilized
  - When the border is a physical barrier or a barrier related to laws and regulations, the situation can be addressed and exploited relatively easily by targeted policy measures such as developing better transport infrastructure and bridging cross-border actors
- However, there are no “one-size-fits-all” solutions for developing cross-border innovation cooperation
  - The simple cloning of regional development strategies from other regions, and becoming obsessed with buzzwords from the development rhetoric, should be avoided
  - Instead, regionally specific contexts – such as local infrastructure, business culture and administrative/regulative institutions – should always be taken into account when planning cross-border development policies

**Further reading:**

Makkonen, T. (2015). Scientific collaboration in the Danish–German border region of Southern Jutland–Schleswig. *Geografisk Tidsskrift-Danish Journal of Geography*, 115:1, 27-38. [LINK](#)

**Links:**

Marie curie actions:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

CRISI -project webpage:

[http://www.surrey.ac.uk/shtm/research/projects/Economic/knowledge\\_transfer\\_in\\_cross\\_border\\_regional\\_innovation\\_systems.htm](http://www.surrey.ac.uk/shtm/research/projects/Economic/knowledge_transfer_in_cross_border_regional_innovation_systems.htm)

***The next CRISI -Project Policy Briefing will be published in early 2016***

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