

# Governance of natural areas in the transnational context: Trilateral Nature Park Goričko-Raab-Örség

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# ESPON TANGO

## Territorial Approaches for New Governance

### Lead Partner

- Nordregio

### Partners

- Delft University of Technology / OTB Research Institute
- POLITO
- University of Newcastle upon Tyne
- Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering

## ESPON TANGO

# Territorial Approaches for New Governance

Evidence-base derived from

- a typology survey
- a survey of the relevance and practicality of indicators
- a dozen case studies across Europe of territorial governance at play

The focus of the case studies is to understand how actors and institutions at different levels formulate and implement policies, programmes and projects to achieve a certain territorial goal.

1	A Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
2	Territorial Governance to achieve resource efficient urban development in Stockholm: good practices without consistency?
3	Integration between public transport and urban development in the metropolitan region of Rotterdam-The Hague
4	Cross-border Cooperation in the River Rhine Basin
5	Target-based Tripartite Agreement among European Commission, Italian government and Lombardy Region
6	The territorial governance process within the South Loire Schéma de Cohérence Territoriale (SCOT)
7	Reinventing regional territorial governance - Greater Manchester Combined Authority
8	Is small really beautiful? Neighbourhood Planning in the UK, North Shields Fish Quay
9	Building Structural Fund Management systems. Learning by doing or imitating?
10	The ECC Pécs Project and the challenges of territorial governance
11	Public transport strategies in Ljubljana Urban Region (LUR)
12	Governance of natural areas in the Alpine Adriatic area: Trilateral Nature Park Goričko-Raab-Örség

Table 1: Overview of the 12 ESPON TANGO case studies

Territorial governance is the formulation and implementation of public policies, programmes and projects for the development\* of a place/territory by

1. co-ordinating actions of actors and institutions,
2. integrating policy sectors,
3. mobilising stakeholder participation,
4. being adaptive to changing contexts,
5. realising place-based/territorial specificities and impacts.

We consider 1) to 5) as “dimensions” of territorial governance which provide added value to achieving territorial cohesion.

\* We define development as the improvement in the efficiency, equality and environmental quality of a place/territory (in line with the Europe 2020 strategy).

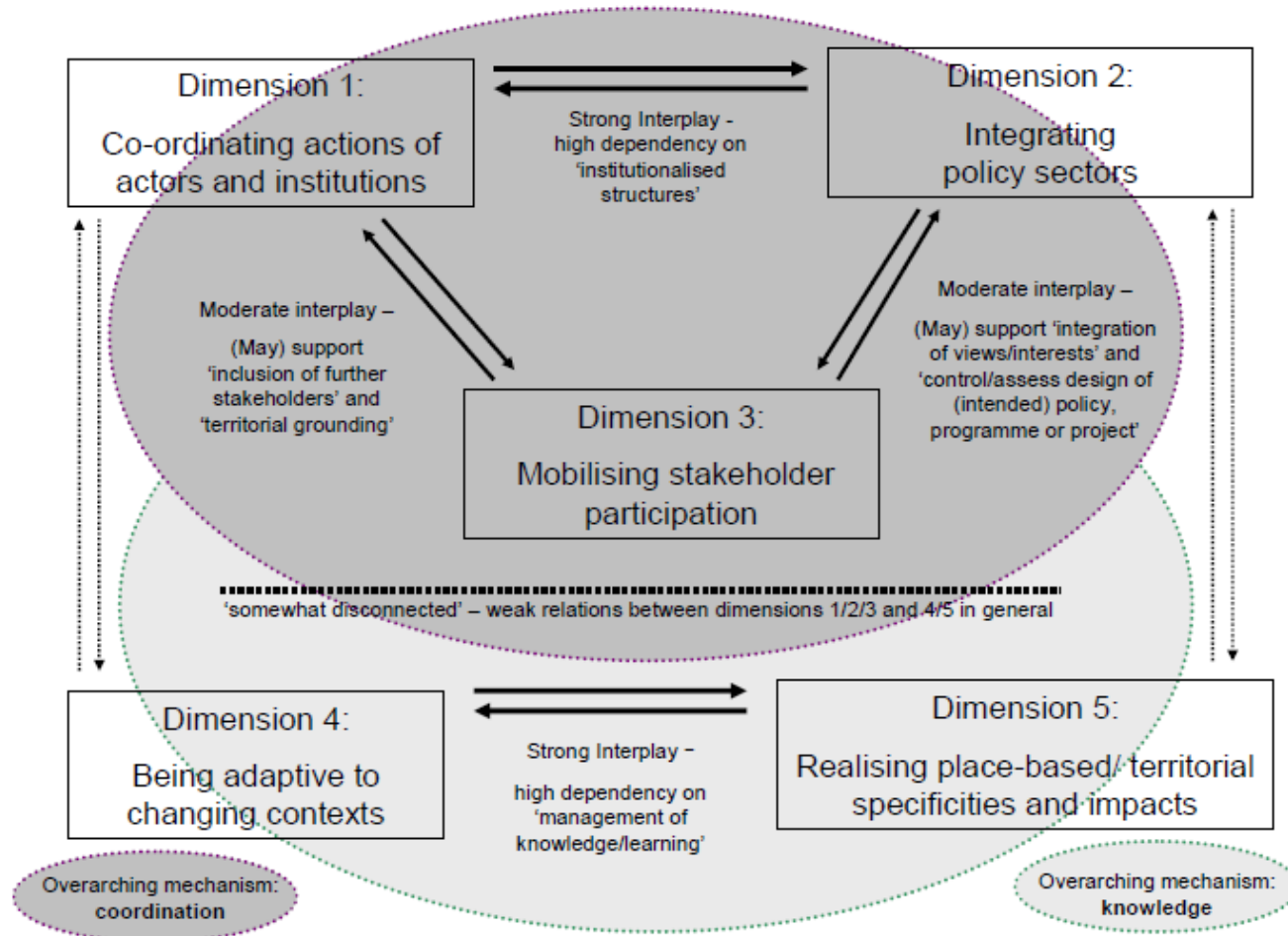
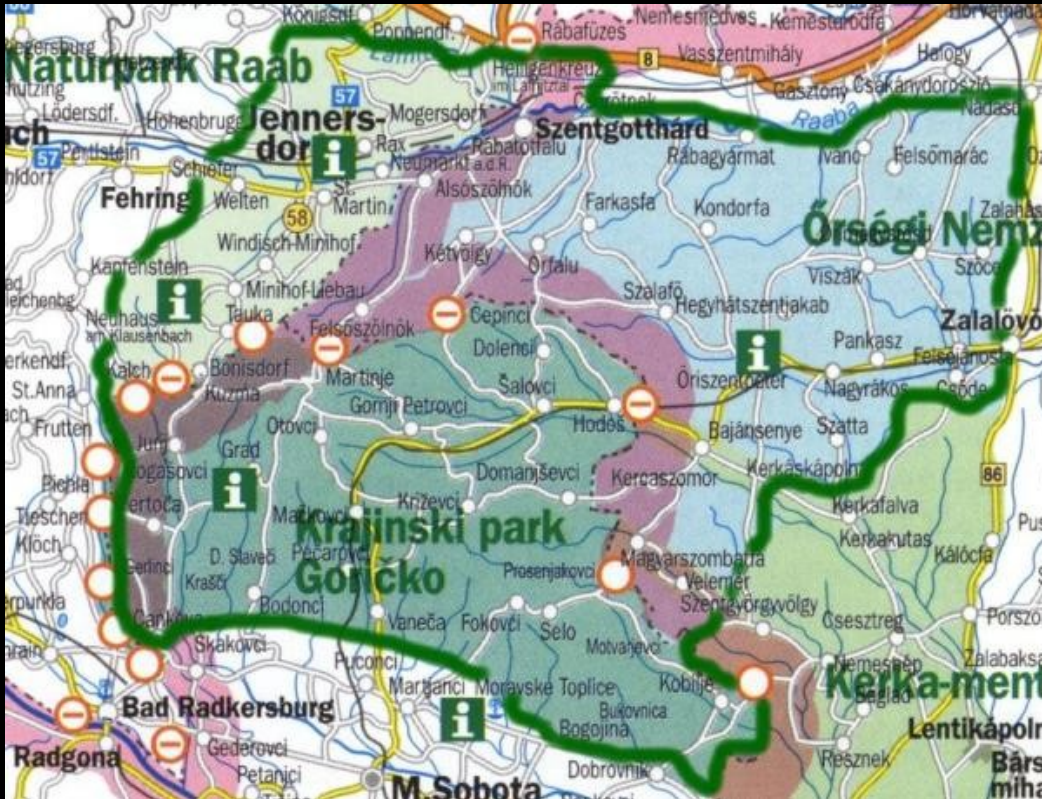


Figure 2: Inter-relationships between the five dimensions of territorial governance

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Goričko Nature Park in SI  
Naturpark Raab in AT  
Örsegi National Park in HU

## Governance of natural areas in the transnational context: Trilateral Nature Park Goričko-Raab-Örség

- The case study investigates the efforts for a coordinated protection and management of natural areas in the transnational context
- Trilateral Nature Park Goričko-Raab-Örség is a **cooperation structure** connecting natural areas in Slovenia, Hungary and Austria
- Despite the ambition for a joint trilateral park authority **the park for now operates as three separate parks**, each following its own national policy system and governance culture: Goričko Nature Park in Slovenia, Örség National Park in Hungary and Naturpark Raab in Austria



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- **Capacity to carry out cross-border coordination** is thus of crucial importance for the effective governance of natural areas,
  - informal contacts and decades of experience of actors involved play a key role
  - Connections and trust, needed for cooperation, are a legacy of previous collaboration, mostly through joint projects, either trilateral or bilateral, and the people involved
- **Social learning** is a rather central issue in relation to the ‘soft’ and **decentralized leadership model**

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- **Joint cross-border projects seem to be crucial** in this respect
  - Strengthening of informal ties between actors on different sides of the borders
  - Expanding common knowledge
- Park administrations informally **coordinate applications** for new joint projects building both on the formal knowledge and on the experiences gained in previous projects
- These are thus integrated also in **identification of new goals**, which is an important aspect of collective learning

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- **Park authorities** are the main partners involved in cross-border projects
- Additional partnerships are built during their implementation at the local, national and transnational levels, involving partners from all relevant sectors: **municipalities, ministries, research institutions, foundations, schools, universities and NGOs.**
- Widely branched **partnership network** and rich **cooperation experiences** form the basis for effective governance of natural areas across borders

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