

Adaptation of Ukrainian legislation to EU legislation regarding CBC on the path of Ukraine's integration into the EU

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Introduction

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The Law of Ukraine "On International Territorial Cooperation of Ukraine" is an important element of adapting national legislation to the standards of the European Union.

Law “On international territorial cooperation of Ukraine”

Section I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section II. ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TERRITORIAL COOPERATION

Section III. STATE SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
TERRITORIAL COOPERATION

Section IV. FINANCIAL SECURITY OF INTERNATIONAL TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION

Section V. FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Key points: Principles

The principles of international territorial cooperation, defined in Article 2 of the law, deserve special attention. Among them are mutual responsibility of subjects and participants, respect for the internal affairs of the state, observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, mutually beneficial cooperation and partnership. Of key importance is the principle of respect for state sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of state borders, which in modern realities is gaining particular relevance.

Key points: forms of international territorial cooperation

1 Euroregions and EGTCs

The law defines several specific forms of international territorial cooperation that are of particular importance in the European context. In particular, a Euroregion is defined as a form of cross-border cooperation carried out in accordance with bilateral or multilateral agreements. EGTCs are a widespread practice in the European Union and allow for effective solutions to common problems of border territories.

2 ECGs

The law introduces the concept of a **ECGs** as a form of international territorial cooperation body established on the territory of the member states of the Council of Europe. This form of cooperation promotes the development of interterritorial and cross-border cooperation in areas of joint competence in accordance with the powers established by national legislation.

Key points: Subjects and participants of international territorial cooperation

The role of authorities in international cooperation

The law clearly defines the subjects of international territorial cooperation of Ukraine: local executive bodies, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government bodies and their associations. These subjects interact with the relevant authorities and self-government bodies of foreign states within the limits of their competence established by the legislation of Ukraine.

Key points: Subjects and participants of international territorial cooperation

The law defines in detail the powers of the **central executive body** that ensures the formation and implementation of state regional policy in the field of international territorial cooperation. According to Article 9 of the law, this body: a) approves draft agreements on the formation of ECGs and EGTCs and their statutes; b) approves the form and procedure for submitting reports on the implementation of cooperation; c) registers agreements.

It is also worth emphasizing that the law defines the functions of central executive bodies in the field of state support for international territorial cooperation, among which the important function is the function of approving the participation of subjects of international territorial cooperation in the establishment of bodies of international territorial cooperation or making decisions to refuse approval.

Key points: Subjects and participants of international territorial cooperation

Non-state participants in cooperation

Along with government bodies, the law also defines participants in international territorial cooperation: legal entities and individuals, associations of local governments, their associations, other public associations. This approach corresponds to modern trends in the development of international cooperation, where non-state actors play an increasingly important role.

It is worth emphasizing that the law stipulates that a legal entity that does not carry out commercial activities may be a member of a EGTC only if the majority of its management bodies are financed, controlled or appointed by state or local authorities. This point is questionable, as in practice this provision may unreasonably restrict the rights of non-governmental organizations to participate in the EGTC. Such restrictions may narrow the diversity of participants, which negatively affects the effectiveness and democracy of cross-border cooperation.

Key points: The significance of the law for regional development

The law defines the **key instruments** of international territorial cooperation: projects and programs. An international territorial cooperation project is defined as a set of interrelated measures aimed at solving common development problems in various areas. A program is a set of interrelated tasks and measures implemented through such projects.

Key points: The significance of the law for regional development

One of the **positive norms** of the Law of Ukraine “On International Territorial Cooperation” is the consolidation of the obligation of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to develop and approve a state program for the development of international territorial cooperation (Article 8 of the Law).

Such an approach is of important strategic importance, since:

- Ensures the consistency of state policy in the field of territorial cooperation;
 - Guarantees the sustainability of financial and institutional support, in particular in the form of state financing of MTS projects;
 - Creates the prerequisites for the coordinated development of cross-border initiatives in different regions of Ukraine;
 - Promotes the adaptation of Ukrainian policy to European Union standards, especially in the context of the use of instruments similar to INTERREG programs.
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Conclusions

The Law of Ukraine “On International Territorial Cooperation of Ukraine” is a fundamental element of the state’s European integration strategy, meeting the obligations to adapt national legislation to the *acquis communautaire*, especially in the field of cross-border cooperation. Creating a legal basis for the active participation of regional and local authorities in international relations through Euroregions, EGTCs and other forms of interaction, the law not only establishes the conceptual framework and principles of such cooperation, but also contributes to decentralization and strengthening the role of regions, ensuring sustainable and systematic development of cross-border cooperation, which is a necessary prerequisite for the full integration of Ukraine into the European legal space and gaining membership in the European Union.