

Added Value of joining the EGTC Rhine-Alpine

The main objective of the EGTC is to facilitate and promote the territorial cooperation among its members and to jointly strengthen and coordinate the territorial and integrated development of the multimodal Rhine-Alpine Corridor from the regional and local perspective.

What is an EGTC?

- Legal basis of European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

An EGTC offers significant effects and concrete advantages for its members. Since the Rhine-Alpine Corridor can be looked upon as a spatially coherent axis with a multitude of common interests and interrelations between its single regional areas, there is a wide scope for cooperation. The EGTC instrument is intended to increase the cohesion of the Union by facilitating territorial cooperation and reducing its practical difficulties through a legal body that can increase legal certainty and stability for cooperation initiatives. Such groupings possess their own legal personality. Successful examples of such cooperation may, for example, be the joint development of an area or the implementation of a project co-financed by the EU.

Advantages of an EGTC

- In legal terms

The EGTC, which is legally autonomous, can be the lead partner of projects that are co-financed (or not) by community funds, enter into contracts with third parties, issue calls for tenders on behalf of its members, conduct cooperation projects, or carry out operational programs. These actions serve to formalize the commitment of the partners through the functioning of the organs and the budgetary voting process. Additionally, the EGTC facilitates the articulation between the legal framework of each member and offers legal guarantees for the joint actions.

- In political terms

Guarantees the members' democratic and equitable representation in the EGTC organs while simultaneously representing a framework that serves as the only point of contact between the national and European levels (European visibility).

- For projects

Practically speaking, an EGTC facilitates the advancement of a cooperative project by maintaining continuity in operations and decision-making, coordinating members and activities, particularly through the EGTC Office tasks advancing shared goals and stimulating the creation and execution of projects, while also guaranteeing the continuity of the cooperation.

- For cross-border cooperation

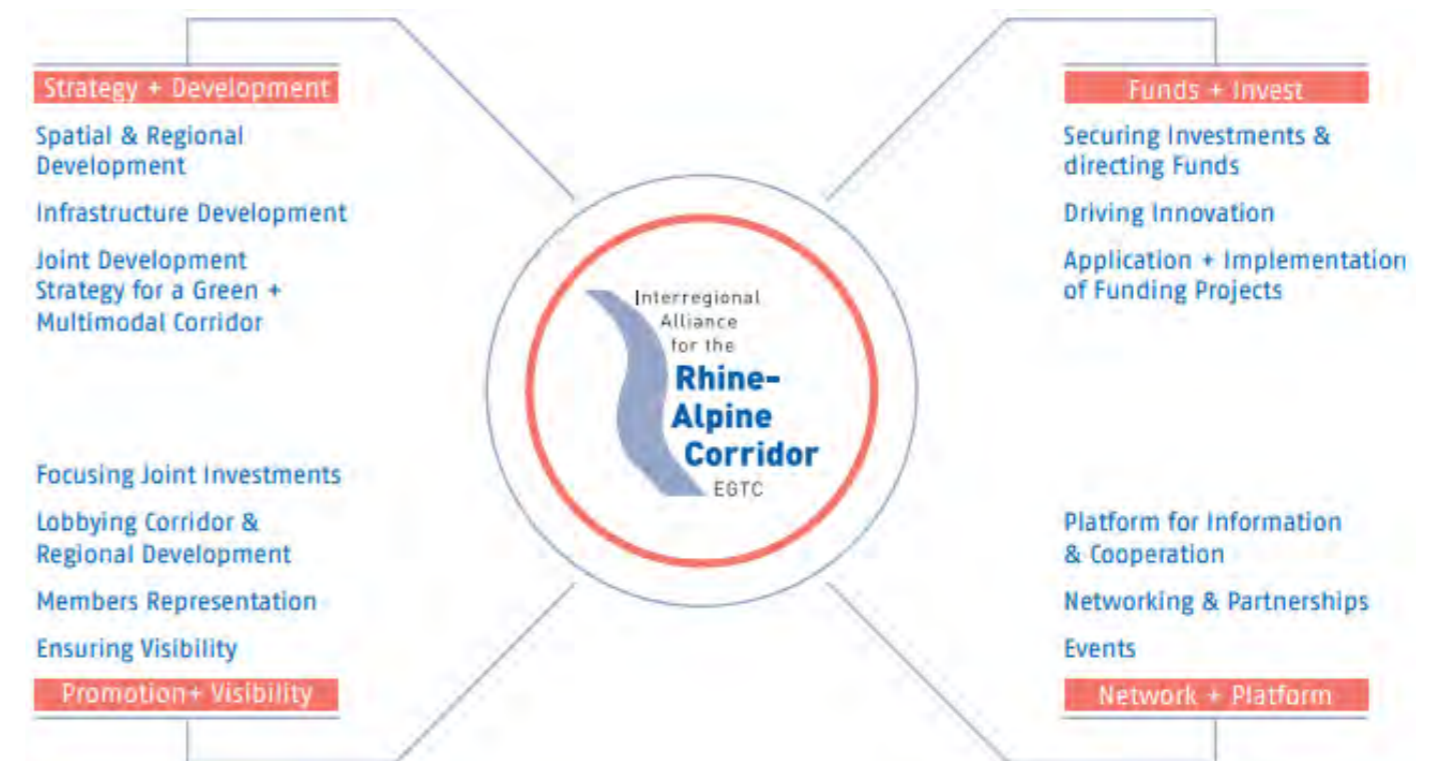
In the cross-border context at the local and regional levels joining an EGTC may be especially warranted. It enables border entities to overcome drawbacks associated with their border location, which is frequently relatively peripheral in the context of national priorities and resource allocation of the region. Lastly, and more broadly, a lot of EGTCs are based on extensive histories of collaboration and seek to increase it, either qualitatively or statistically.

Conclusion

The relative importance of the advantages varies amongst individual EGTCs and their members. This holds true for the various "types" of EGTC as well as the tasks that fall under them, such as territorial reference, thematic focus, participation in an European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) program or project, etc.

In summary an EGTC allows for the establishment of stable cooperation structures and enables action continuity. Simultaneously an optimisation of the utilisation of public funds is enabled through its democratic structure, allowing for the unification of policy for the pursuit of common strategic goals. The unified presentation and visibility as one cohesive unit, as opposed to 25 singular entities, enables the EGTC Rhine-Alpine Corridor to be an effective instrument for its members in a coordinated manner.

Overview of the EGTC Rhine-Alpine Functions



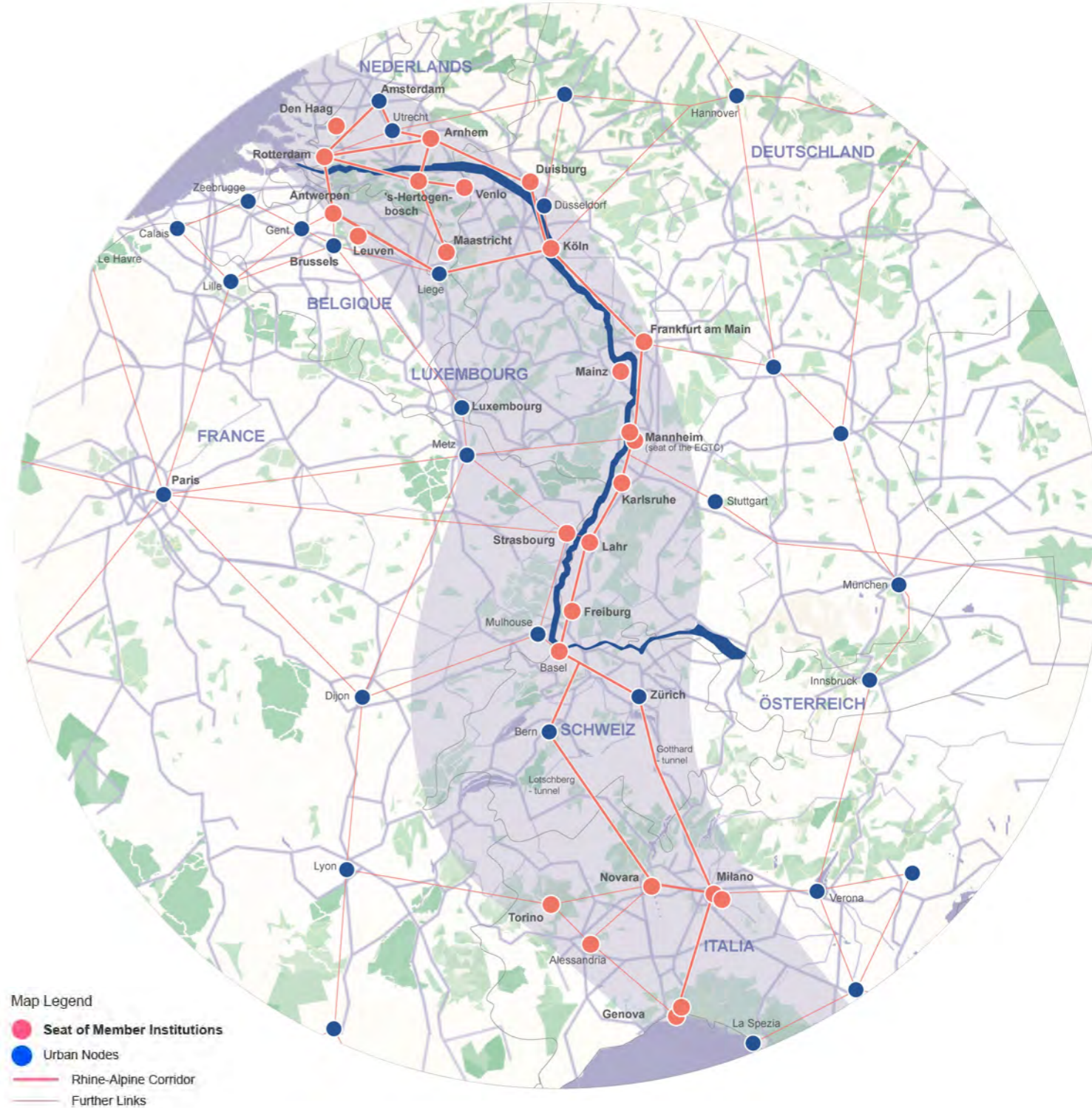
How to become a member



The Process

Additional entities situated in the Corridor area can join the EGTC upon application with approval of the Assembly. The EGTC appeals to cities, regions and other territorial authorities, public equivalent bodies (e.g. ports, infrastructure providers) along the Rhine-Alpine Corridor to join the EGTC. Potential members will be guided through the approval procedure by the EGTC. Every potential member of an EGTC needs formal approval given by the competent national authority. A potential member organization signs a declaration of intent to join the EGTC and submits it together with the Convention and the Statutes of the EGTC to its national authority responsible for approving EGTCs. A template declaration of interest as well as the Convention and the Statutes can be provided by the EGTC Rhine-Alpine Office.

EGTC Rhine-Alpine Spatial Overview



Step 1

- Internal decision
- Eligible entity decides to join

Step 2

- Approval by EGTC
- Member is approved in Assembly

Step 3

- National Approval
- Application to and Approval by National Authority

Current Members

