

The **European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation** (EGTC or GECT) is a European legal instrument designed to facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. The EGTC is a legal entity and, as such, enables regional and local authorities, and other public bodies from different member states, to set up cooperation groupings with a legal personality.

EGTC members can be EU Member States, Regional or local Authorities, Associations or any other public body. The EGTC is unique in the sense that it enables public authorities of various Member States to team up and deliver joint services, without requiring a prior international agreement to be signed and ratified by national parliaments.

The EGTC can carry out many types of cooperation action with a view to strengthening the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the European Union. They can implement cross-border, transnational or interregional cooperation programmes and projects, co-financed by the structural funds or other EU funds, or they can carry out tasks without European co-funding. The limits are the activities of police, justice or foreign policy tasks.



ORGANIZATION

The AEuCC staff shall be light and flexible: no direct hiring is expected and all the activities shall be performed by the officers of the Municipalities already responsible for the single national associations (AeCC, AfCC, ArCC).

The official seat of AEuCC is at Ayuntamiento de Totana, Plaza de la Constitución 1, E-30850 Totana (Murcia), Spain.

The Assembly is composed by five components from each member. The Executive Committee is composed by the four incumbent Presidents of the national Associations.

The President shall be nominated by the Assembly and shall remain in office for two years. The President in charge of the AEuCC for 2014 and 2015 is Mr Antoine Di Ciaccio from France, Project Director is Mr Giuseppe Olmeti from Italy, Administrative Direction is at the Municipality of Totana, Spain.

Information are available at the following national points of contact (POC):

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CITIES



EUROPEAN GROUPING OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION CITIES OF CERAMICS



Museum of ceramics (Onda, Spain)



Ceramic fair (Horezu, Romania)



Ceramic fair in Aubagne (France)

EUROPEAN GROUPING OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION CITIES OF CERAMICS - EGTC LIMITED (AEUCC – EGTC LIMITED)

A NEW EUROPEAN GROUPING OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION (EGTC-GECT) TO DEVELOP COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CERAMIC ART AND CRAFT

On 7 January 2014 a new EGTC was registered in Europe under Spanish law: its name is "Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Ciudades de la Cerámica, AECT limitada" (in English: "European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Cities of Ceramics, EGTC limited"), acronym: "AEuCC, AECT limitada" (AEuCC in short)



Traditional ceramics (Romania)

MEMBERS AND HISTORY

The members of AEUCC are four longstanding national Associations of Ceramics Cities, based in Italy (AiCC), France (AfCC), Spain (AeCC) and Romania (ArCC). Each of them represents Municipalities with "ancient ceramic tradition" (Italy, 34 cities; France, 22 cities; Spain, 32 cities, Rumania, 10 cities). In total, the area of the AEUCC EGTC includes 98 cities.

The Italian Association of Cities of Ceramics (AiCC) was established in 1999 under a national law. In its wake in 2003 the French Association (AfCC) was developed, followed in 2007 by the AeCC in Spain and the ArCC in Romania. The four associations had a strong and continuous cooperation until they decided to merge in a GETC.

The AEUCC is open to new members, which need to be "associations of cities of ceramics" (at least three cities from the same country). In order to enlarge the EGTC, the cities willing to create a new association are granted "observer status" and are allowed to participate in the AEUCC works.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

AEuCC is set up to develop territorial and transnational cooperation in the field of ceramic art and craft, mainly to create social and economic cohesion, by developing projects and services for the ceramic sector stakeholders.

In the spirit of this mission, the main objectives are the development and enhancement of:

- projects and joint actions;
- cultural, artistic, ethnographic heritage;
- tourism based on ceramics;
- ceramic craft (new products, design, processes, new materials, marketing);
- vocational training and competitiveness;
- international events (conferences, exhibitions, fairs, etc) to enhance knowledge and good practices;
- promotion activities on a territorial scale even greater than the European one;
- production processes, energetic efficiency and saving, environment and quality of life, pollution reduction;
- analyze, study and research economic development and employment, innovation, new technologies, business practices, internationalization, clustering, patents and intellectual properties;
- new national association of ceramics cities;
- European identity.

FEATURES, TASKS, CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

AEuCC is a kind of EGTC not created on specific and defined (and geographically limited) territorial scale, nor created with a specific management subject; rather, it is a wide and focused sectoral structure, with a territorial cooperation and cohesion goal. AEUCC could be managed as a "good practice" in this field of EGTC

AEuCC will operate on the base of the following tasks:

- reaching the objectives of the Statute;
- developing projects and services to meet the needs of stakeholders in the field of ceramic art and craft;
- fund hunting and raising related to the development of the ceramics sector;
- managing and developing relations and networks in the ceramic field.

Further developments are forecast for the near future, such as:

- enlarging to a bigger scale with the creation and inclusion of more A*CC (Hungary, Slovenian, Poland, Germany are working on it; Portugal, Turkey and the United Kingdom have a great ceramics potential),
- becoming the "ceramic art and craft" reference and advisory subject on EU and national programmes, actions and strategies.

At the same time, AEUCC will deal immediately with challenges and issues:

- starting, developing and reaching a process of joining and consolidation in the ceramic art and craft public sector networking;
- obtaining grants and financing from the EU which allow to plan professional and long-term services and projects;
- involving in the project and promoting it to all the ceramic art and craft stakeholders (museums, schools, etc);
- enlarging the network on a full European scale and developing partnership on a global scale.



1. Artistic ceramics (Deruta, Italy)
2. Contemporary ceramic. Author: Joan Serra (Spain)
3. Traditional Ceramics (France)



Museum of ceramics (Faenza, Italy)