

2024 ITEM / TEIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

Call for paper

Conference	The future of cross-border cooperation and mobility: horizontal integration and beyond.
Title of Paper	A self-centered approach of EU instruments: Active subsidiarity in cross-border cooperation.
Title	<p><u>Dr. Jean-François Clouzet</u> Doctorate in Political Science - University of Geneva Former head of project for the French-Swiss cross-border cooperation project "CEVA Léman Express safety and security body". Lecturer at Savoie Mont-Blanc University - Faculty of Law (Law and Institutions of French-Swiss cross-border cooperation) Deputy Director of the Institute for Crisis Studies and Economic and Strategic Intelligence (IEC-IES) Associate researcher at the law research center Antoine Favre (CERDAF) and the civil security research and studies center (CERISC-ENSOSP). Member of the GRUE and Team Europe. Courriel : jean-francois.clouzet@univ-smb.fr / Phone : +33677186627</p> <p>Biographical note : With degrees in law from the Universities of Aix-en-Provence and Lyon, and in political science from Geneva University, Jean-François Clouzet wanted to build an atypical and versatile profile ; the common thread of which is strategic intelligence through the practice of law and political science from different angles and with different experiences.</p> <p>He began his career as a professional fire officer, alternating between design positions at headquarters and operational positions. Wishing to take on new challenges by joining the Swiss Federal Railways, he directed the swiss-french security cross-border cooperation project “ CEVA-Léman Express security body”.</p> <p>At the same time, he complements this practitioner profile by maintaining a link between the conceptual dimension and practical application through research and university teaching. His areas of research and teaching are European union legal system, law and institutions of swiss-french cross-border cooperation, mobility and security.</p> <p><u>Dr. Tamara Espiñeira - Guirao</u> Doctorate in Geography (Rennes 2) - M2 Political Science (University of Santiago de Compostela) M2 European Studies Institut d'études européennes Bruxelles Lecturer at Sciences Po Rennes (Latin America, International Relations, New Urban Diplomacy) Associate researcher for Para-diplomacy at IGADI (Galician Institute of International Analysis and Documentation) and ESO (Espaces et Sociétés, UMR 6590- CNRS.) Member of the GRUE and Team Europe. Courriel : tamara.espineira@sciencespo-rennes.fr / Phone : +33673549390</p> <p>Biographical note : Dr. Espiñeira, with a Ph.D. in Geography directed by Jean Monnet Chair Guy Baudelle, holds also a degree in Political and Administration Sciences and a Research master's in European Studies. Qualified as "Assistant Professor" in Urbanism by the French Council of Universities in 2021, her Ph.D. thesis earned the international "Strategic Perspectives'" Prize from the <i>Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie</i> in 2023. Specializing in international cooperation, she focuses on regional development in areas like Central America, Southern Africa, and the EU Atlantic Arc. Her career began evaluating programs in Namibia and El Salvador. Serving later as Head of the Atlantic Cities network from 2009 to 2021, she played a key role in over 100 EU initiatives, particularly in programs like URBACT and INTERREG ; while she was also a member of some key EU expert groups. Currently a lecturer at Sciences Po Rennes, she covers International Relations, Latin American Studies, and the International authority of cities. As a researcher, she pioneered the "new urban diplomacy" concept, exploring cities' international mandate. Dr. Espiñeira now focuses on expanding the concept of active subsidiarity when used to empower less privileged entities in international contexts, exploring how they leverage their power at different scales.</p>

Abstract

Understanding the EU's multilevel governance not as a rigid system of scales but as a flexible and multidimensional space determined by the strategic rationality of the actors offers new perspectives. We then observe actors mobilizing to develop a specific agenda by using EU policies to their sole advantage and beyond mere integration issues.

The development of cross-border cooperation may seem paradoxical, depending on the time and the territory to which it applies. On the one hand, the cross-border space appears as an area of little visibility, conflict and fragility in EU policy. On the other hand, cross-border cooperation is presented as an instrument of political innovation that facilitates the application of the fundamental principles of European integration, in the territory of the EU and outside it.

In this way, cross-border cooperation brings us face-to-face with local authorities exercising active subsidiarity; and, at the same time, moving away from the predetermined expectations of European frames to choose instead a European instrument after an in-depth decision-making process designed to meet individual needs. It is a *governance in the interstices* that emerges beyond a immobile principle of subsidiarity and that highlights a strategic decision. This phenomenon can be observed through cross-border cooperation.

Based on the results of several years of action research and within the framework of a comparative analysis of public policies, this paper intends to confront the classic framework of multilevel governance with a field case, thus proposing a new scenario to measure the cross-border agency of sub-national governments in an self-centered context.

Keywords	Cognitive Europeanisation, cross-border cooperation, local governance, active subsidiarity, public decision-making, multi-level governance.
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