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Answer given by Ms Crețu
on behalf of the European Commission
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Cross border cooperation is still hampered by many legal, administrative and institutional obstacles. After an extensive Cross Border Review (2015) the Commission issued the Communication „Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions” (2017) with a list of concrete actions to address the most important obstacles. On this basis, the legislative proposal from the Commission for the new European Territorial Cooperation Regulation provides that a part of the budget of each cross border programme is dedicated to better governance. This will be part of the negotiations for the 2021-2027 programmes.

The Commission considers that the Interreg programme between Germany and The Netherlands should continue in the 2021-2027 period. The key strategic areas will be discussed with the partners of the programme.

This border region has a strong potential for cross border labour mobility. Awareness raising actions and tailor made information are essential to stimulate labour mobility. Hence, the Commission is in favour of supporting border info points. An existing EURES¹ cross-border partnership provides support services to cross-border actors in the field of employment. A further extension of these services is desirable. They can provide advice on vacancies, rights (social security, pensions, etc.), taxation, and recognition of skills/qualifications.

Language barriers and cultural differences can be overcome by closer cooperation between educational institutions, such as mixed kindergartens, school and student exchanges, traineeships or bilingual curricula, which can be supported by The Erasmus+ programme. The creation of a joint euroregional school may be explored by the partners of this border area and may be supported by Interreg.

¹ European Network of Employment Services