

STATEMENT

European Territorial Cooperation 10 Reasons why the UK should participate

1. **International collaboration is vital to our continued success.** ETC projects create new partnerships, open new markets, and facilitate access to them, while at the same time opening our own economy to inward investment.
2. **ETC supports the UK in achieving its goals and ambitions.** From the UK Industrial Strategy and the Export Strategy through to the 25-Year Environment Plan, the Culture is Digital Strategy and the Integrated Communities Green Paper, many existing ETC projects support UK government ambitions and would continue to do so in the future.
3. **ETC programmes are value for money.** ETC projects require a focus on solving a particular challenge and involving a wide range of relevant partners from a broad geographical area. This means that these projects allow UK organisations to test, apply, and deliver results beyond what they could achieve on their own or nationally with the same resources.
4. **ETC programmes leverage resources.** For modest government investment, ETC acts as an incentive for attracting additional public and private resources.
5. **International collaboration leads to innovative solutions.** ETC projects can enhance the UK's excellence in key fields including clean growth, mobility, and the challenge of an ageing society.
6. **ETC supports SMEs on the path to export.** SMEs establishing new business relationships via ETC is a first step towards discovering export markets.
7. **ETC partnerships lead to policy change and have a long-term impact.** Sharing knowledge, developing solutions and building partnerships with a critical mass can support future delivery of public services, first developed and tested through an ETC project.
8. **Participation in ETC is complementary to, rather than in competition with, investment in other EU programmes.** ETC supports public bodies, HEIs, SMEs and community initiatives. ETC is the seed funding to support smaller-scale projects with international reach and relevance that might otherwise not find their place. Horizon Europe is aimed at research and innovation excellence, while Erasmus+ is about mobility of individuals to share knowledge and experience.
9. **Future ETC programmes will strengthen innovation in crucial sectors for local and national economic growth.** Interregional Innovation Investments, as proposed for the future of ETC, could support public authorities and LEPs in the delivery of Local Industrial Strategies through collaboration across the EU on shared strengths and challenges.
10. **ETC is an existing and valued mechanism which delivers results.** The UK government and the EU have consistently recognised the need for continued cooperation. Proposals for the future of ETC facilitate this potential.

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We, the undersigned, call on the UK government to take into account these ten compelling reasons for remaining in the ETC programmes when negotiating the UK's future relationship with the EU.