

## INTERREG V DEUTSCHLAND-NEDERLAND

# IDEAS ON INTERNSHIP-PROJECTS RELATED TO THE EVALUATION OF INTERREG

### Context:

The Common Secretariat of INTERREG *Deutschland-Nederland*, based in Kleve (at the premises of the Euregion Rhine-Waal), is in charge of coordinating the general impact-evaluation of the INTERREG-Program 2014-2020. This evaluation is scheduled to take place in the second half of 2018 and the first half of 2019. The effect of the funding programme on the innovative capacity of the border region will be studied, as well as the general impact of cross-border cooperation on the region. Another part of this evaluation concerns the effects of the INTERREG-projects on the perception of the Dutch-German border as a barrier. For this aspect, a baseline measurement has taken place early 2015 and a second measurement has taken place in 2018.

This context of the general evaluation and repeated perception measurements offers an excellent opportunity for Master-students for their thesis-research and research internships. This all will be done in a thesis-lab. This lab would consist of members of the INTERREG-secretariat, the department of Geography Planning and Environment and Master-students. The results of the Master research projects would offer the secretariat valuable input for their evaluations and analysis. Although the point of departure is developments in the border region, this lab is open to students from all tracks within the Master Human Geography.

### Possible research topics could be:

- An analysis of concrete INTERREG-projects based on the dimensions that can be discerned in the perception of the barrier-effect of the national border;
- An analysis of the effect of selected INTERREG-projects (as 'cases') on the perception of the border as a barrier and to what extent they contribute to the reduction of the perception of the border as a barrier; what are the commonalities and differences;
- An analysis of the relation between the perception of the border and the socio-cultural and territorial cohesion in the border-region; which mechanism are at work;
- An analysis of 'external factors' (beyond INTERREG) that have influenced the perception of the border
- An analysis of the relationship between the perception of the border and actual cross-border behaviour;
- An analysis of the other dimensions (beyond the perception) effecting the border in its possible functioning as a barrier, specifically in relation to data-availability

- A further and deeper analysis of the results of the baseline measurement from 2015 and the measurement from 2018, for instance:
  - o What are the actual juridical-administrative barriers at the Dutch-German border region? What can be done to solve this, respectively, what has been done already? In regard to the citizens? In regard to the organisations?
  - o How can we explain that German respondents (citizens and organisations) do regard the border somewhat less as a barrier compared to the Dutch?

It is also possible to formulate other (more general) thesis topic, as long as it still relates to geographies of border regions and it is relevant for the INTERREG-partners.

Students (from all tracks) interested in working on these topics can apply for a research internship within this thesis-lab. The total number of places available is flexible, and determined in cooperation with the INTERREG-partners.

If you need more information, please contact Martin van der Velde ([m.vandervelde@fm.ru.nl](mailto:m.vandervelde@fm.ru.nl)).