



## **Research stay at Eurac Research – EU Cross-Border Cooperation - STSM**

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<b>Home Institution</b>	Université de Lausanne (CH)
<b>Host Institution</b>	Eurac Research – Institute for Comparative Federalism (IT)
<b>Grant period</b>	04/07/2022 to 29/07/2022

### **Statement about the STSM:**

I applied for a STSM as doctoral student in Political Science at the University of Lausanne, working on EU cross-border cooperation. The topic of my dissertation perfectly fits the themes of the IGCOORD COST Action - in particular horizontal coordination. Being awarded a STSM at Eurac Research has enabled me to make considerable steps forward in my research through exchange and collaboration with researchers working on the same topic from various disciplines.

### **Purpose:**

The following two main goals were defined at the moment of the grant application: First, by working closely to researchers dealing with cross-border cooperation for a lot of time, I could access data and tools that would support me in the creation of the index of cross-border integration. The lack of a systematic data collection at cross-border level poses major challenges to my research, which I could address by exchanging with scholars facing similar issues and collecting new data for their own projects. Second, I could gain deeper knowledge of the cooperation in the Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino, one of the best practices of cross-border cooperation in Europe and a largely researched topic at Eurac. This would help identify new aspects of collaboration and develop a best-case scenario for my index of cross-border integration.

### **Description of the work carried out during the implementation of the Grant:**

During my research stay, I worked on the three tasks: data collection within the framework of my PhD thesis; study of the cross-border cooperation arrangements between Tyrol (AT) and Trentino-South Tyrol (IT); collaboration activities. Firstly, I presented my research project to on-site researchers and worked on the data collection process for my doctoral dissertation. Exchanging with colleagues on the topic of my thesis resulted in fruitful discussions and helpful suggestions for my project. I also benefitted from meetings with colleagues from other disciplines, especially legal scholars and regional scholars, which provided me with new inputs and a more interdisciplinary understanding of my area of interests, namely European cross border cooperation. Secondly, I gained insight into processes and institutions of horizontal coordination in the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino, deepening



my knowledge of this well-known case of successful cross-border cooperation in Europe - especially concerning policy areas like mobility, higher education, and environment. Particularly, I was given access to the work of Eurac Research's colleagues on this issue, thus also developing an idea for my contribution for the WG2 edited volume. Thirdly, I cooperated with colleagues, participated in their activities, and contributed to their online research blog with a blog article.

**Description of the main results obtained:**

During my research visit, I was able to meet the two foreseen objectives of the STSM (see section "Purpose" above). First, regarding my work on EU cross-border cooperation and the development of an index of cross-border integration, I was able to receive support especially through suggestions about additional indicators that I could consider. This helped me deal with the lack of systemic data collection on a large-scale. Second, I gained deeper knowledge of the instruments of horizontal coordination in the Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino. This allows me to have a more solid understanding of the challenges, reasons of success, and tools of coordination characterizing this cross-border region.