

Paper title:

Impact of Corona to the Cross-Border Cooperation within the EU

Author:

Jaansoo Annika

Abstract:

Intergovernmental cooperation is necessary for regional economies to develop resilience to external shocks like economic crisis, natural disaster, and global pandemics. Cooperation is, however, extremely fragile. It requires a high level of trust to withstand the challenges meted out by disruptive events, especially when cooperating governments are situated within a multi-level governance arrangement. Here, we look at the impact that border closures had on Cross Border Cooperation in Europe. Beginning in March 2020, numerous countries began to close part or all of their national borders to try to contain the spread of Covid-19. We observe significant variation in how cross-border cooperation initiatives responded to these border closures. We explain this variation in terms of the intersection between trust and institutional settings. Our empirical work suggests that high levels of trust and facilitative institutional environments promote the resilience of regional cooperation to external shocks like border closures because of COVID-19.