

Scenario Assessments

Scenario 1 – Continuation with redesign

This scenario is recognised as the only option that maintains the multilevel governance model and preserves existing cooperation frameworks. At the same time, most regions consider it challenging to realise under current conditions.

Opportunities:

- Maintains continuity and existing networks
- Preserves a multilevel platform (regional–national–EU)
- Enables redesign towards a more focused and relevant structure

Risks:

- Continued overlap with other cooperation structures
- Uncertain political commitment
- Reduced participation from Finnish regions

Conditions:

- Renewed and clearly expressed political commitment
- Participation from Finnish regions
- Clear mandate and limited thematic focus
- Secured financial and administrative capacity

Scenario 2 – Dormant Council

This scenario is widely considered administratively feasible and, for some regions, the most realistic short-term outcome. At the same time, it is generally viewed as weak from a strategic perspective and not considered a desirable long-term solution.

Opportunities:

- Maintains the structure in a stand-by mode
- Requires minimal use of resources

Risks:

- Gradual loss of networks, competence and institutional memory
- No added value for regional cooperation
- Delays necessary decisions and development of alternative cooperation

Conditions:

- Minimal administrative capacity
- A clear understanding that this is a temporary or fallback solution

Scenario 3 – Dissolution

Regional views diverge more clearly on this scenario.

Some regions consider it a necessary and realistic step, while others highlight significant risks. However, it seems clear that this is the most desirable scenario due to current circumstances, allowing the regions to focus on developing more flexible, targeted and effective forms of cooperation.

Opportunities:

- Provides clarity and reduces prolonged uncertainty
- Frees up limited resources
- Creates space for developing new and more relevant cooperation formats

Risks:

- Loss of the only multilevel governance structure
- Fragmentation of cooperation
- Loss of networks, institutional memory and coordination

Conditions:

- A coordinated decision-making process in line with the Terms of Reference
- A structured transition ensuring that key elements are safeguarded
- Identification of alternative cooperation arenas