

Association for European Border Regions (AEBR)

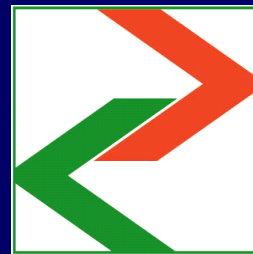
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Secretary General



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Asociación de Regiones Fronterizas Europeas (ARFE)
Association des régions frontalières européennes (ARFE)
Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
Comunità di lavoro delle regioni europee di confine (AGEG)
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Stowarzyszenie Europejskich Regionów Granicznych (SERG)

**Final Conference
"EGTC" URBACT Project
Esztergom, 6-7 May 2010**



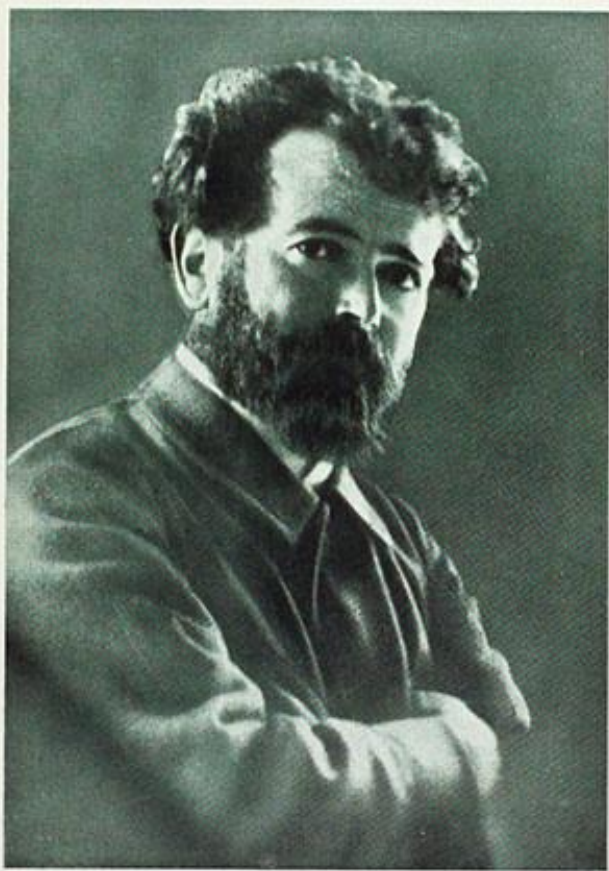
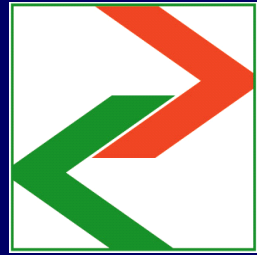
**Identification of Future Needs
based on the Results of the Project**

**Opening of the Initiative to other Cross-
Border Territories in Europe**

Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

Emil Gött (1864-1908)

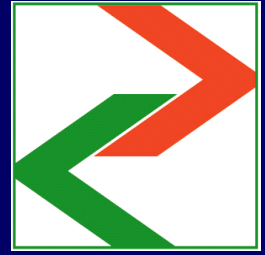
Sayings, Aphorisms



Emil Gött.

"Borders must not create the feeling that this is where you come to an end, but rather that this is where you still need to grow"

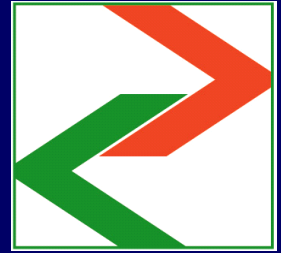
Key question



To which extend the on-going sharing of experiences on CB governance within the “EGTC” URBACT project can be extended to other CB territories, such as euroregions?

(It is a very relevant debate for all CB territories, structures and programmes; being the EGTC URBACT Project a first bottom-up systematic approach to it. CB territories need this sharing!)

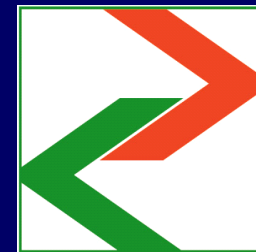
Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) is a story of Multi-Level Governance



- **50+ years of “formal” CBC; centuries of “informal” and “abnormal” CBC**
- **Laboratory for European Integration**
- **Central Europe (Rhine basin), Northern Europe, Mediterranean regions, Eastern Europe (Caucasus), ...**
- **America and Africa**



Long European Tradition

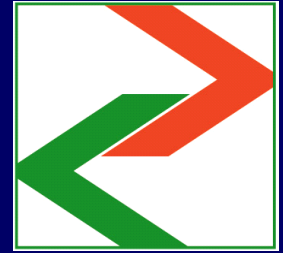


- **1960:** 20 border regions in Scandinavia, NW Europe and the Rhine basin
- **1980:** 40 (Iberian Peninsula, the Alps, the Pyrenees and Ireland)
- **2000:** 120 border regions in Europe
- **2010:** 200 structures (regions and euroregions)

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- Inter-State CBC
- Regional-state cooperation
- Regional-municipal, regional-regional (asymmetry)
- Municipal CBC

AGEG – AEBR - ARFE



1971	10 members	(projects)
1980	30	(programmes, instruments)
2010	100	(generalisation)

≈ 200 European border areas

Represents the interests of CB regions towards the Council of Europe, the European Union and the national Governments.

Crossborder Cooperation Areas 2007
Régions de coopération transfrontalière 2007
Regionen grenzübergreifender Zusammenarbeit 2007

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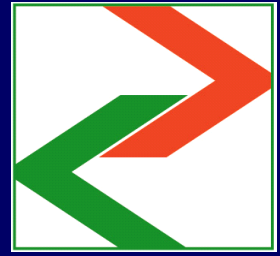
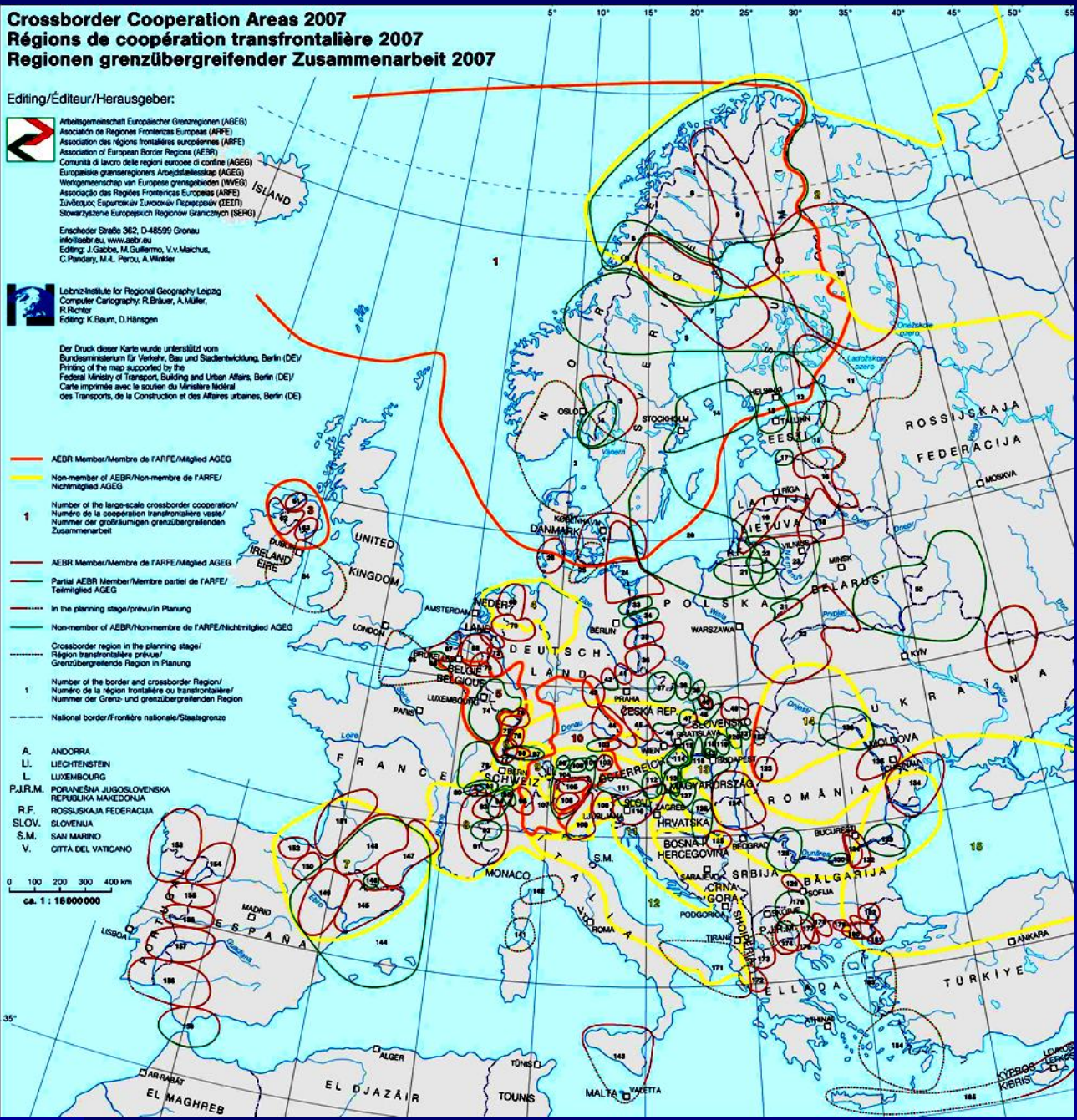
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- AEBR Member/Membre de l'ARFE/Maglid AGEG
- Non-member of AEBR/Non-membre de l'ARFE/
Nichtmitglied AGEG
- 1** Number of the large-scale crossborder cooperation/
Numéro de la coopération transfrontalière vaste/
Nummer der großräumigen grenzübergreifenden
Zusammenarbeit
- AEBR Member/Membre de l'ARFE/Maglid AGEG
- - - Partial AEBR Member/Membre partiel de l'ARFE/
Teilmitglied AGEG
- - - - - In the planning stage/prévu/in Planung
- Non-member of AEBR/Non-membre de l'ARFE/Nichtmitglied AGEG
- - - - - Crossborder region in the planning stage/
Région transfrontalière prévue/
Grenzübergreifende Region in Planung
- 1** Number of the border and crossborder Region/
Numéro de la région frontalière ou transfrontalière/
Nummer der Grenz- und grenzübergreifenden Region
- - - - - National border/Frontière nationale/Staatsgrenze

- A. ANDORRA
- L.L. LIECHTENSTEIN
- L. LUXEMBOURG
- P.J.R.M. POPIRANESNA JUGOSLOVENSKA
REPUBLIKA MAKEDONIJA
- R.F. ROSSIJSKAJA FEDERACIJA
- S.LOV. SLOVENIJA
- S.M. SAN MARINO
- V. CITTA DEL VATICANO

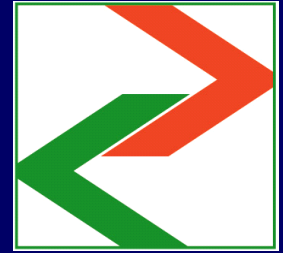
0 100 200 300 400 km
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European CBC
 Cooperation
 structures in
 2007

(keep on
 growing)

EUROREGIONS and similar structures



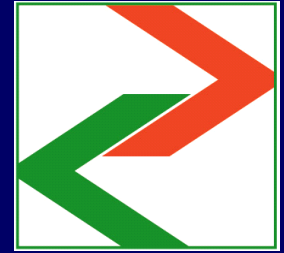
- **EUREGIO**, German-Dutch border
A **name**, an **area**, and a **mission**
- CBC of **regions** and **municipalities**; **economic** and **social** partners

Similar regional profiles and shared problems:

- common historical heritage
- comparable agricultural, textile and clothing monostructural activities and,
- bad infrastructures

INTERREG PROGRAMMES

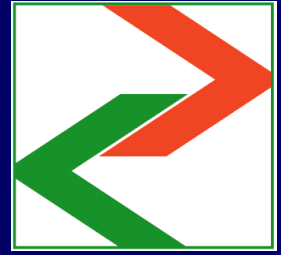
EU Programmes exist and are healthy, but... ...legal instruments?



- **No single EU wide legal instrument**, for all Member States (and far beyond) for CB, IR or TN cooperation
- **The Nordic Agreement (1977)** CBC between municipalities
- **Multilateral inter-state agreements:** Madrid Outline Convention (Council of Europe) and **Additional Protocols:** framework for bilateral/trilateral inter-state agreements
- **Bilateral agreements:** Benelux Agreement, German/Dutch **Anholt Agreement** or **Karlsruhe Agreement**
- Numerous **conventions, treaties, agreements and protocols** at bilateral and trilateral level
- Regional and local agreements, led to many **border and CB 'working communities'** (Euregios and similar structures) on the EU's internal and external borders;
- **Project-specific cooperation**, through direct bilateral regional *and/or* local agreements or through European and national legal instruments (e.g. European Economic Interest Group (EEIG), mixed economy companies)

The **European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)** – Next: **ECG**

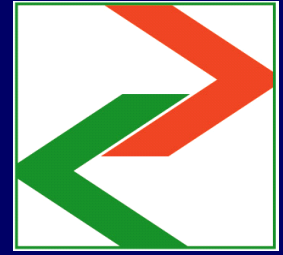
European experience shows:



- Supranational integration processes does not guarantee cohesion in very diverse territories. Their own dynamics strengthen more developed areas (*territorial dumping*).
- There is a need of a “**positive discrimination**”: territorial cooperation programmes and projects (**Interreg**) to enhance **economic, social and territorial cohesion**.

From “general territorial development” to CBC

(José Luis Rhi-Sausi, CeSPI, Rome)

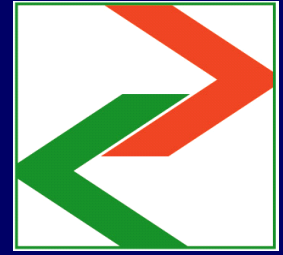


- CBC opens a **new dimension of local development**, breaking national stiffness and creating new areas which do not fit in the traditional logic of States

DIFFICULTIES:

- **Mistrust** by central governments
- **Differences** in economic structures
- **Different levels** of management capacity
- **Divergences** in decentralization (asymmetries)

Debate on specific structures for CBC (Rhi-Sausi, CeSPI):

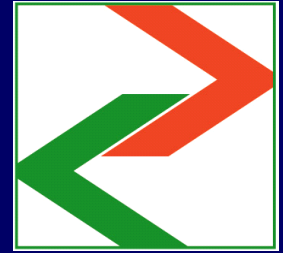


- Risk of duplicating objectives, functions and services with existing institutions
- Chaotic growth of non-specialized institutions
- Need to combine horizontal and vertical policies:

SUBSIDIARITY – MLG – EGTC (EGC)



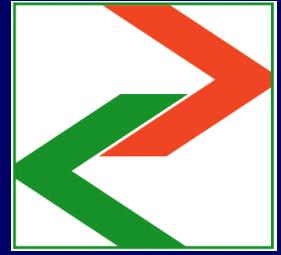
CBC:



- It is not a new administrative level
- There are no exclusive competences in CBC structures (delegation)

The trick of Subsidiarity, Decentralization and Integration lies not in giving up sovereignty, but in sharing it towards a Common Objective

Phases in CBC:



- **Information:** common knowledge and trust across the border
- **Consultation:** before starting measures with potential impact on the other side of the border
- **Harmonization:** of laws, regulations, procedures, etc.
- **Integration:** of territories (single areas)

Diversity

from being an obstacle to create opportunities

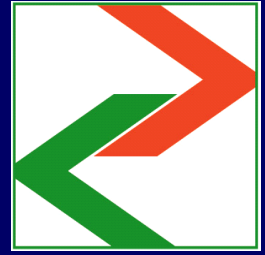


Various:

- Cultures and social systems
- Administrative structures and powers
- Fiscal and social legislations
- Many other political activities

- Citizens have grown up in different environments
- They will not sacrifice aspects of everyday lives
- No State will alter its tried and trusted structures

Challenges for Integration Across Borders

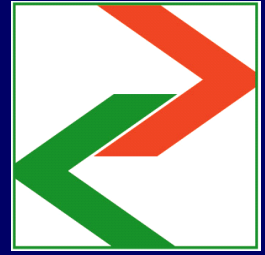


- **Different identities, feelings, systems, etc... will collide at the borders in the years to come (diversity)**
- **Difficulties to normalize relationship across borders**
- **Economic, management, administrative differences**

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Common objective of the EU (and far beyond): from an economical alliance to a political entity**
- **CBC closes gaps in integration processes: there is no way back**

Day-to-day at border areas: Preliminary conclusions



- The work made by CB structures can only be successful if supported by citizens and regional/local politicians from both sides of the border, generating trust
- At the borders, the citizens deal with practical aspects of Europe every day (Laboratories for European Integration)
- There will be no regulation compatible with all countries (except EGTC / ECG)



Cross-border Cooperation (CBC)

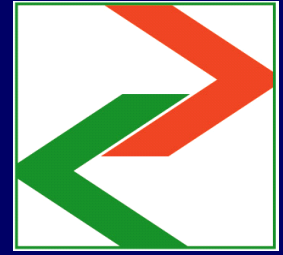


CBC has never been a national priority, but it is a (Pan-) European task and political objective of the Union

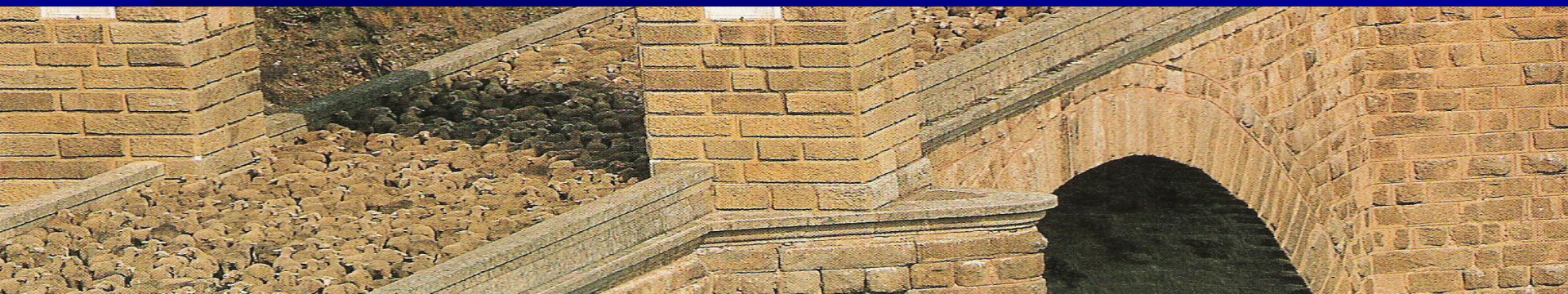
(Pan-) European integration



Objective: Critical Mass



- **CB regions cover half of their potential areas of influence**
- **CBC makes easier to achieve a critical mass: synergies, efficiency, joint planning and managing**
- **Creation of CB influence areas**
- **Creation of alliances for joint sustainable benefits**



CBC Added Value



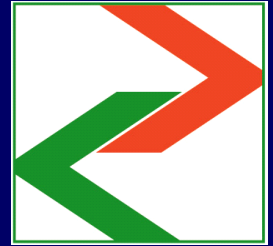
- (Pan-) European
(Continental)
- Political
- Institutional
- Socio-economic
- Socio-cultural



Specific added value to implement the Lisbon Strategy

(Mistake: too restricted)

Equally valid for EU2020



- **Additionality** of cross-border programmes and projects
- **Synergy** through CBC
- **Joint Research and Innovation**
- **CB Networking**
- **Benchmarking** (exchange of best practice and know-how)
- **Spin-off effects** by overcoming borders
- Efficient **CB resource management**

PERMANENT CBC STRUCTURES

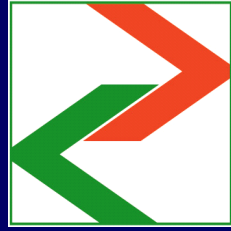
(EUROREGIONS, EGTCs (EGCs), GITs, ...)

Addendum: Evidences of CBC specific added value to implement the Lisbon Strategy/ the EU2020 and any other European Strategy for integration and cohesion



1. CB spatial and development concepts
2. Creation of CB infrastructures
3. Promotion of growth / economic dev't in addition to national dev't
4. New CB business relationships between producers and suppliers
5. New cooperation and sales opportunities for SMEs
6. Establishment of a CB labour market
7. Bilingual CB professional training
8. Establishment and improvement of CB public transport links
9. CB tourism concepts and projects
10. Greater catchments areas for business activities and services
11. A more efficient use of public funds
12. Joint research and innovation
13. Additional synergies and spin-off effects
14. Sustainable CB management of environment and environmental protection
15. CBC as model for "new governance"

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Photo: Kazimierz Branny, Czech-Polish border, 8th July 2006

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