



*Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations*



# **Final conference of the EGTC URBACT project**

**Identification of future options and  
opportunities  
based on the results of the “EGTC” URBACT  
project**

**« EGTC » URBACT Final conference**

**Esztergom, 7 May 2010**





*Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations*

# **Welcome**

**Jan ORAVEC**

*Mayor of Sturovo*

**Tamás MEGGYES**

*Mayor of Esztergom*

*For the Ister-Granum EGTC*





*Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations*

# **Introduction**

**Dr. Hans-Günther CLEV**

*Director General of MOT, Lead partner*



# Introduction

- The “**EGTC**” project is a working group co-financed by the URBACT II programme
  
- **The URBACT II programme (2007-2013)** is a European exchange and learning programme:
  - promoting sustainable urban development
  - enabling cities to share good practices with professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe
  - enabling cities to improve local urban policies by developing pragmatic sustainable solutions

More information: <http://urbact.eu/>

# Introduction

- The “**EGTC**” **URBACT** project:
  - Network of 6 cross-border agglomerations (different political, cultural, socio-economic contexts)
  - Exchange on cross-border governance tools, including the EGTC
  - To improve their system of transfrontier partnership
  
- A **global coordination** led by Mission opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT), supported by a Lead Expert (Christian Lamour)
  
- **Duration:** 24 months (May 2008 - May 2010)

**MOT, Lead Partner**

**Lille Métropole Urban Community**  
Eurométropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai,  
FR/BE

**Slubice**  
Frankfurt on Oder/Slubice  
conurbation, PL/DE

**Chaves**  
Eurocidade Chaves-Verin, PT/ES

**Esztergom**  
Ister-Granum EGTC, HU/SK

**Canton of Basel Stadt**  
Trinational Eurodistrict Basel,  
CH/DE/FR

**Urban Community of Strasbourg**  
Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau,  
FR/DE



○ Lead partner (LP)  
● Cross-border conurbation  
● Project partner (PP)

# Mission opérationnelle Transfrontalière, Lead partner

## Main goal

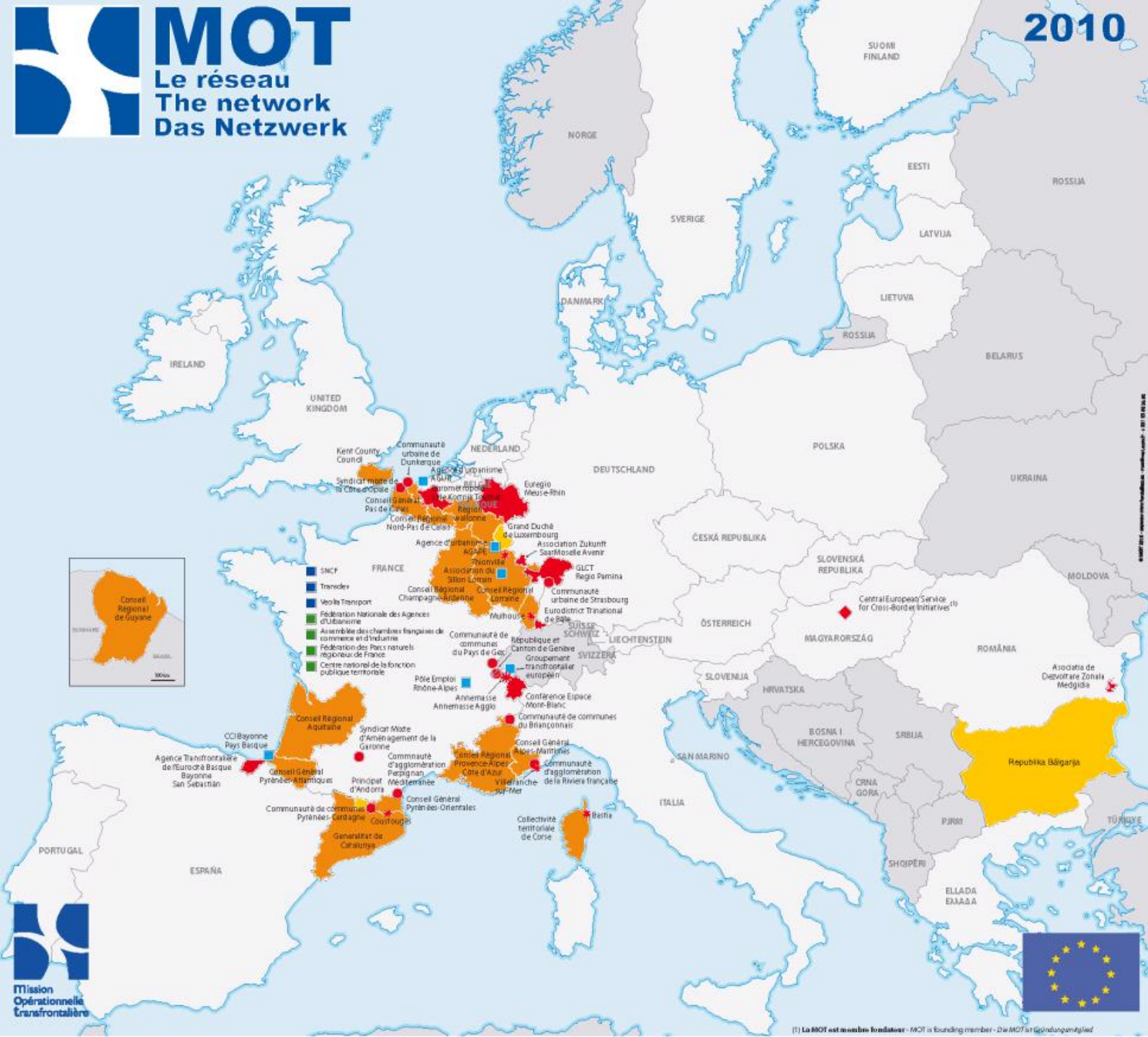
To ease the implementation of cross-border projects and promote cross-border cooperation - Since 1997

## Main activities:

- 1) Operational assistance
- 2) Networking and training
- 3) Helping to outline a coherent policy
- 4) European activities



- Catégorie d'adhérents**  
Category of members  
Mitglieder Kategorien
- Etat State Staat
  - Région Region Region  
Comté County County  
Canton Canton Canton  
Département Département
  - Groupement plurinational de collectivités territoriales  
Plurinational grouping of local authorities  
Plurinationaler Verband von Gebietskörperschaften
  - Groupement de collectivités territoriales  
Grouping of local authorities  
Verband von Gebietskörperschaften
  - Commune  
Municipality  
Gemeinde und Kommune
  - Réseau de collectivités locales transfrontalières  
Network of cross-border local authorities  
Netzwerk von grenzüberschreitenden Gebietskörperschaften
  - Entreprise Company Unternehmen
  - Réseau Network Netzwerk
  - Autre structure  
Other structure  
Weitere Struktur





# Final outputs of the « EGTC » URBACT project

- Based on thematic seminars
- A **Booklet** with a CD that contains:
  - ✓ **6 Local Action Plans to improve cross-border governance** : one per cross-border agglomeration, with the contribution of the **Local Support Groups**
  - ✓ **Handbook**
    - Methodology followed by the project partners
    - Best practices of local cross-border actions
    - Synthetic table on the lessons learned and the recommendations of actions
  - ✓ **European Action Plan**
    - Lessons learned at local level
    - Recommendations addressed to regional/national and EU authorities

# Thematic approach of the “EGTC” project (1/2)

- The “Leadership” agenda of CB governance (or internal governance)
  - The role of individual political leaders
  - The organization of the technical work (dedicated staff/administrations)
  - The articulation between the politicians and the technicians
  - The financial solidarity
  - The institutionalisation of a collective leadership (e.g.: EGTC)

# Thematic approach of the “EGTC” project (2/2)

- The “Community” policy of the CB governance networks (or involvement of civil society)
  - The development of CB projects implying an active role of the local population
  - The role of media concerning the connection Leaders-citizens-CB Conurbation
  - The use of participative democracy to develop a sense of CB community

# Final outputs of the « EGTC » URBACT project

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    - **Recommendations addressed to regional/national and EU authorities**

# How to capitalise the results of the « EGTC » URBACT project?

- ❑ **Presentation of the « EGTC » URBACT project partners' expectations to pursue and deepen the exchanges and bring-up the recommendations**



# **Opening of the initiative to other cross-border territories in Europe**

**Ernests LIBIETIS**

*Head of development and project department  
of the City of Valka*

**Martin GUILLERMO RAMIREZ**

*Secretary General, AEBR*



## **Valka / Valga (Estonia/Latvia)**

**Ernests LIBIETIS**

*Head of development and project department  
of the City of Valka*

# Valka / Valga 1 city 2 states



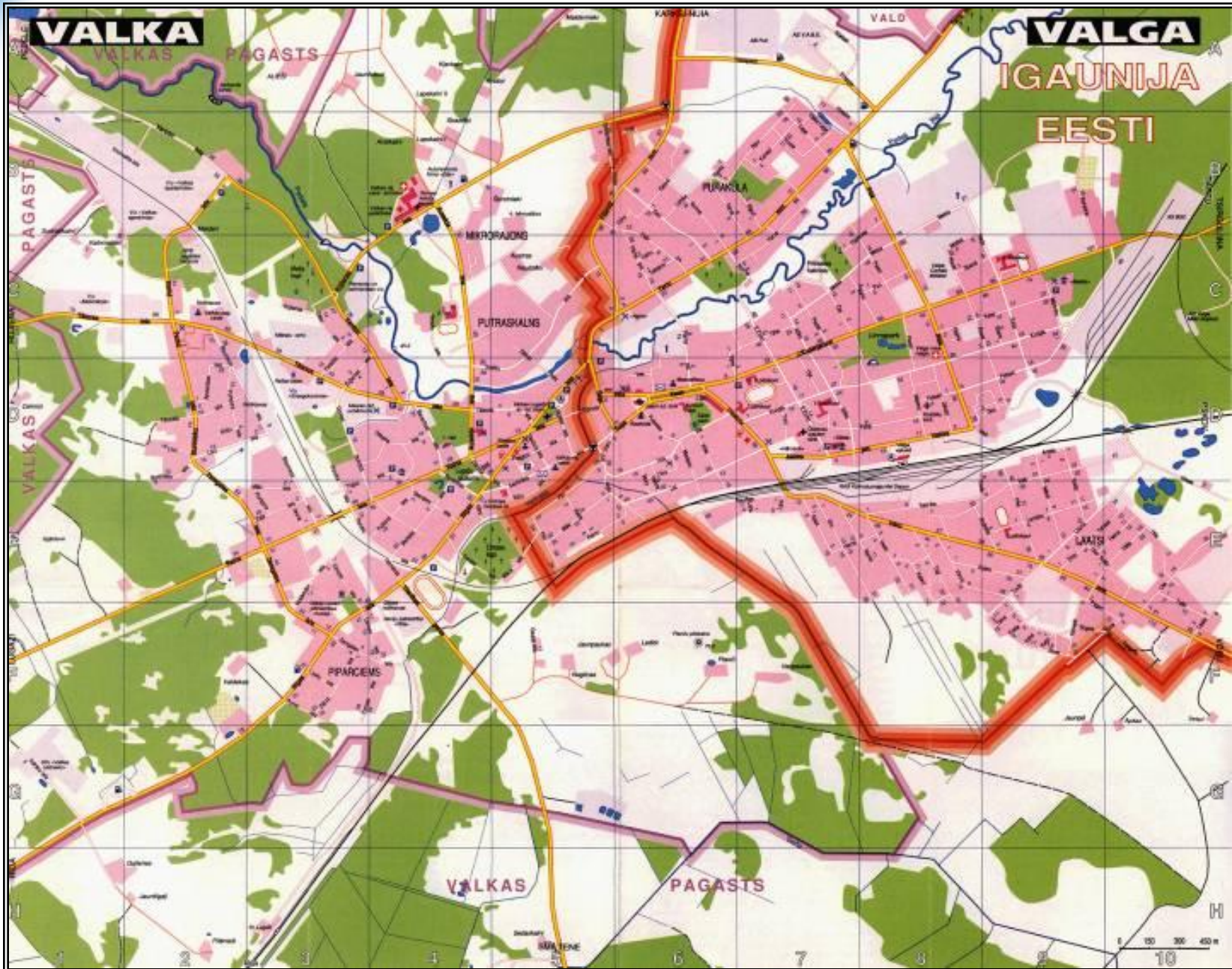
Valka - Valga







1 city, 2 states



# General information

## Valka, Latvia

- Territory – 14.4 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population – 6 100
- Distance to Riga – 155 km

### National structure:

- Latvians – 67.2%
- Russians – 22.9%
- Estonians – 1.4%

## Valga, Estonia

- Territory – 16.5 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population – 13 890
- Distance to Tallinn – 245 km

### National structure:

- Estonians – 62.3%
- Russians – 27.4%
- Latvians – 2.3%

# History

- **1286 – first mentioned in historic sources as Walk**
- **1584 - Polish King Stefan Bathory granted the town rights**
- **19th century – became an important railway junction**
- **1920 – divided between the new independent countries of Latvia and Estonia**
- **From 1940 – Soviet regime**
- **1991 – re-establishment of independence**

# Why co-operation?

- To use existing resources jointly
- Town as an entirety, progressing to considerable co-operation centre
- Environment and its protection has no state borders
- Cultural diversity

# Milestones in co-operation

- Dec 1995 – the first co-operation agreement between Valga and Valka was signed
- May 2004 – joining European Union
- July 2005 – Valga – Valka joint secretariat was established
- Dec 2006 Valga-Valka became members of City Twin Association
- Dec 2007 Estonia and Latvia joining Schengen agreement

# Co-operation

## 1. Town administration

- Common development plans, Master plan
- Common marketing – logo, slogan, booklets, souvenirs, mascot, DVD, town map
- Joint secretariat for co-ordination of co-operation
- Monthly meetings of leaders of Valga and Valka municipalities

Perspective: development of common town centre and infrastructure (ice hall, cinema, tourist visitors centre, former Soviet military bunkers, improvement of border line area)

## 2. Environment and tourism

- Development of Pedeli recreation area what unites two countries
- V-V tourism and marketing strategy 2007-2016

### Perspective:

- Continuation of development of Pedeli recreation area in Valka
- Development of common marketing of the city

### 3. Education, culture, sport

- Culture – common cross-border events
- Sport – common cross-border events, meetings
- Education – common summer camps for youth, common art education
- Dec 2006 V-V common development plan in the fields of education, culture, sport

Perspective: Vocational education for Estonians, Latvians in Valga,  
higher education in Valka, opportunity at schools to study the language of the neighbouring country



## 4. Health care and safety

- Jan 2007 Valga-Valka common development plan of health care
- Co-operation projects between Valka and Valga fire-brigades

### Perspective:

- Valga hospital services for inhabitants of Valka with the same conditions (agreement between Estonia and Latvia)

## **Project “Increasing Attractiveness of Valga/Valka”**

- Financed by Estonia-Latvia Programme (2008 – 2010)
- Development of a joint tourist visitor centre and a joint ice hall (technical documentations)
- Development of abandoned former Soviet military bunkers and border line area in Valka as a tourist attraction (detail design)
- Infrastructure along the Pedele River
- Joint image of Valga-Valka (maps, mascot, souvenirs, DVD, book)

## **Project “Development of common art environment in Valka/Valga”**

- More than 30 Estonian kids attending Latvian Valka Art School
- Financed by Norwegian Financial Instrument programme “Cross-border co-operation” (2009-2010)
- Reconstruction of Valka Art School building (new classes, exhibition hall)
- Joint art and cultural education activities



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**Paldies!  
Aitäh!**

**Welcome to**

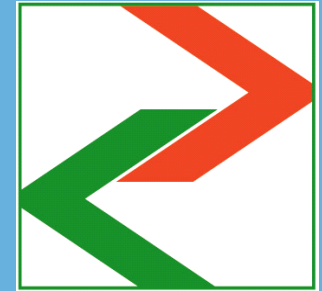
**Valka, Latvia, and Valga, Estonia!**

**[www.valka.lv](http://www.valka.lv)**

**[www.valgalv.ee](http://www.valgalv.ee)**

E-mail: [ernests.libietis@valka.lv](mailto:ernests.libietis@valka.lv)





# Association for European Border Regions (AEBR)

**Martin Guillermo RAMIREZ**

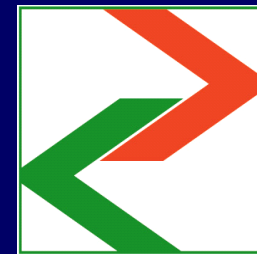
**Secretary General**





Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Grenzregionen (AGEG)  
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)  
Europæiske grænseregioners Arbejdsfællesskap (AGEG)  
Werkgemeinschaft van Europese grensgebieden (WVEG)  
Associação das Regiões Fronteiriças Europeias (ARFE)  
Σύνδεσμος Ευρωπαϊκών Συνοριακών Περιφερειών (ΣΕΣΠ)  
Stowarzyszenie Europejskich Regionów Granicznych (SERG)

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



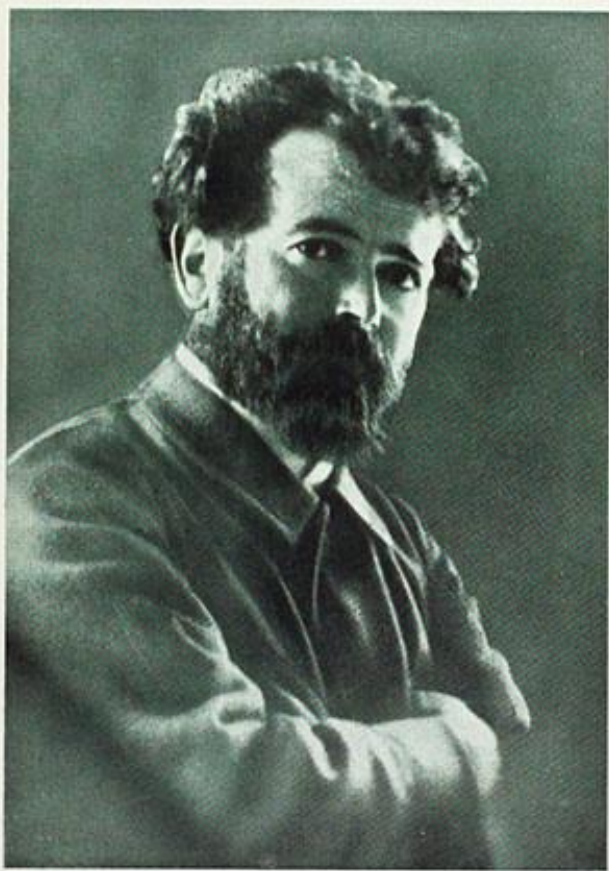
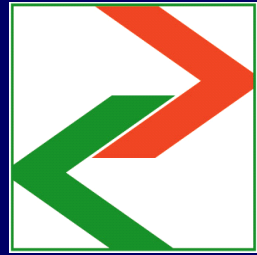
**Identification of Future Needs  
based on the Results of the Project**

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

**Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)**

# *Emil Gött (1864-1908)*

## *Sayings, Aphorisms*

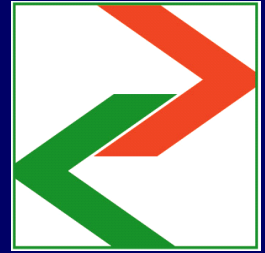


*Emil Gött.*

***"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"***



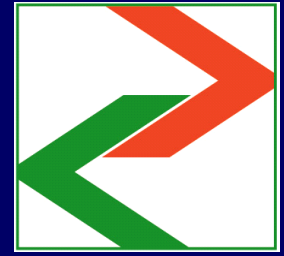
# Key question



**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!)

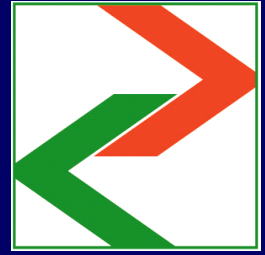
# **Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) is a story of Multi-Level Governance**



- **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

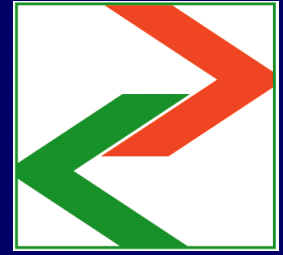


- **1960:** 20 border regions in Scandinavia, NW Europe and the Rhine basin
- **1980:** 40 (Iberian Peninsula, the Alps, the Pyrenees and Ireland)
- **2000:** 120 border regions in Europe
- **2010:** 200 structures (regions and euroregions)

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

# AGEG – AEBR - ARFE



<b>1971</b>	<b>10 members</b>	(projects)
<b>1980</b>	<b>30</b>	(programmes, instruments)
<b>2010</b>	<b>100</b>	(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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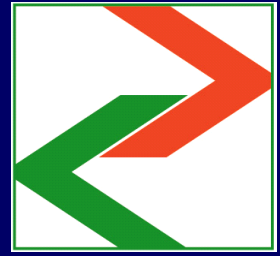
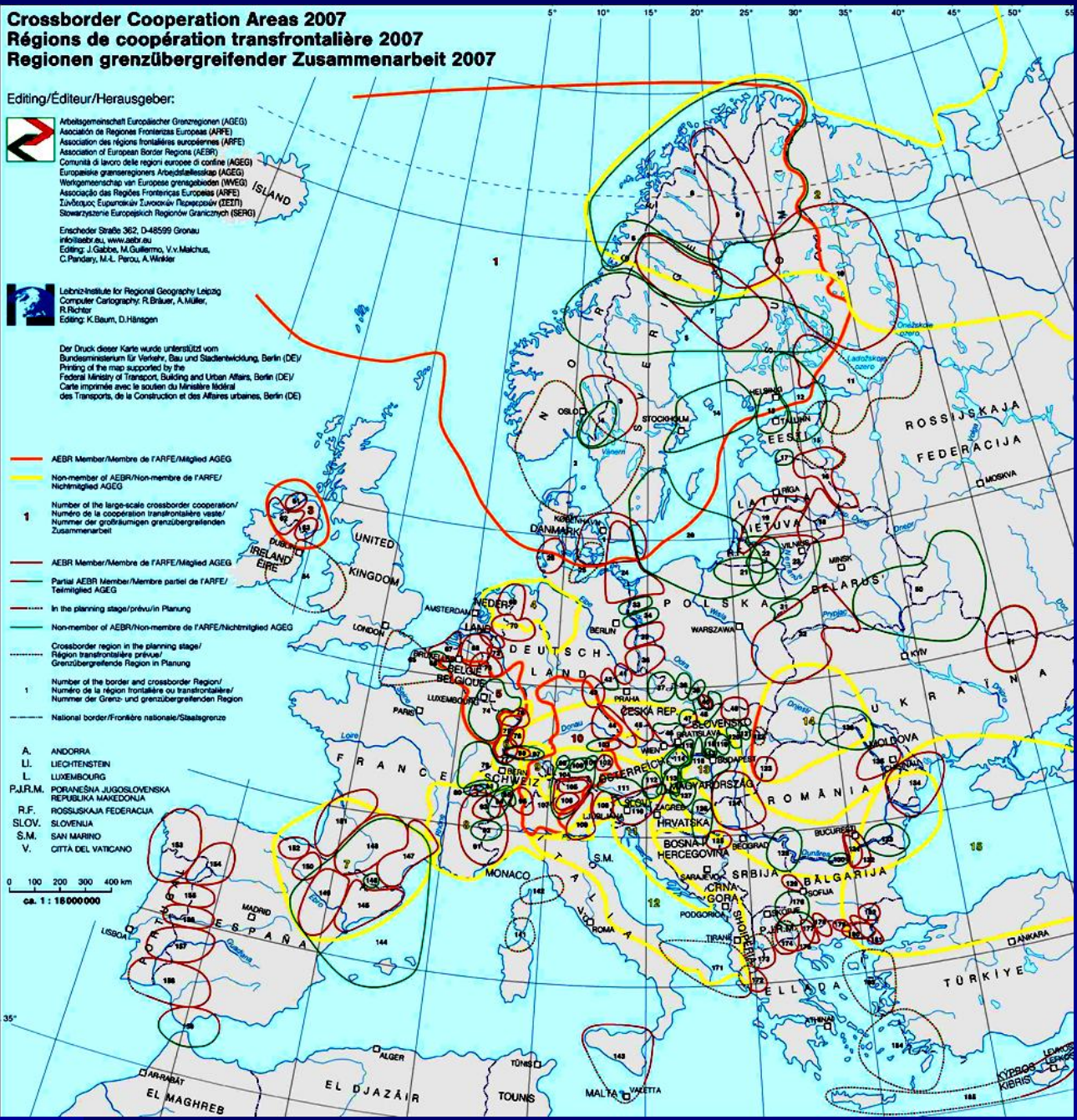
Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography Leipzig  
 Computer Cartography: R.Bräuer, A.Müller,  
 R.Richter  
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Der Druck dieser Karte wurde unterstützt vom  
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- AEBR Member/Membre de l'ARFE/Maglid AGEG
- 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. POBANSKA, JUGOSLOVENSKA  
REPUBLIKA MAKEDONIA
- R.F. ROSSIJSKAJA FEDERACIJA
- S.L.O.V. SLOVENIA
- S.M. SAN MARINO
- V. CITTA DEL VATICANO

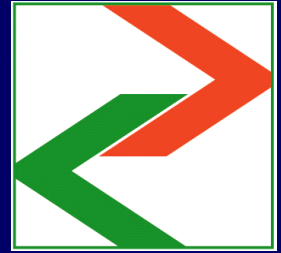
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European CBC  
 Cooperation  
 structures in  
 2007

(keep on  
 growing)

# EUROREGIONS and similar structures



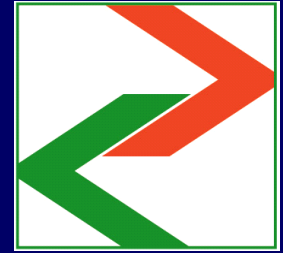
- **EUREGIO**, German-Dutch border  
A **name**, an **area**, and a **mission**
- CBC of **regions** and **municipalities**; **economic** and **social** partners

## **Similar regional profiles and shared problems:**

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

## **INTERREG PROGRAMMES**

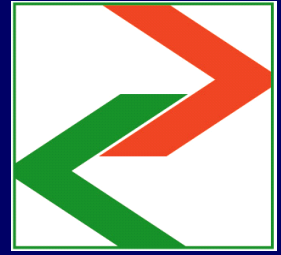
# EU Programmes exist and are healthy, but... ...legal instruments?



- **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:

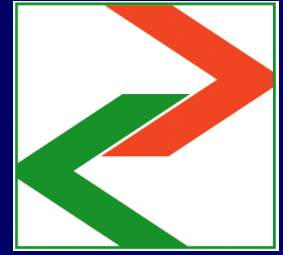


- Supranational integration processes does not guarantee cohesion in very diverse territories. Their own dynamics strengthen more developed areas (*territorial dumping*).
- There is a need of a “**positive discrimination**”: territorial cooperation programmes and projects (**Interreg**) to enhance **economic,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



# From “general territorial development” to CBC

(José Luis Rhi-Sausi, CeSPI, Rome)

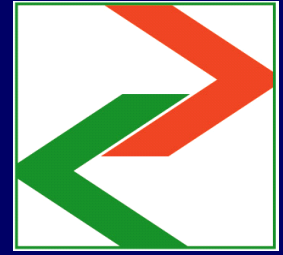


- CBC opens a **new dimension of local development**, breaking national stiffness and creating new areas which do not fit in the traditional logic of States

## **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):

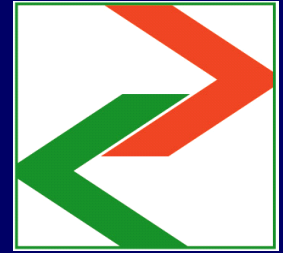


- Risk of duplicating objectives, functions and services with existing institutions
- Chaotic growth of non-specialized institutions
- Need to combine horizontal and vertical policies:

**SUBSIDIARITY – MLG – EGTC (EGC)**



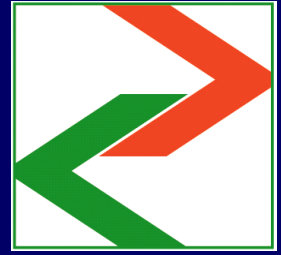
## CBC:



- 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

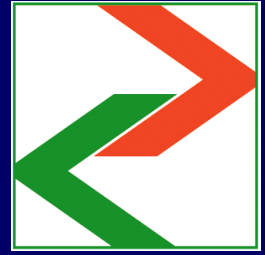
from being an obstacle to create opportunities



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

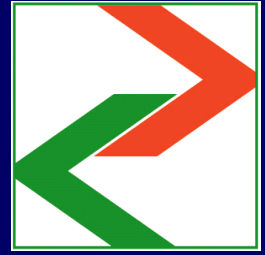


- **Different identities, feelings, systems, etc... will collide at the borders in the years to come (diversity)**
- **Difficulties to normalize relationship across borders**
- **Economic, management, administrative differences**

## 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)



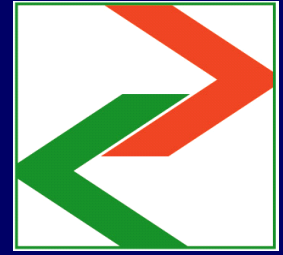
CBC has never been a national priority, but it is a (Pan-) European task and political objective of the Union

(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



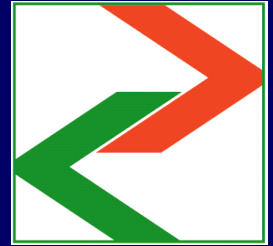
- (Pan-) European  
(Continental)
- Political
- Institutional
- Socio-economic
- Socio-cultural



# 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**

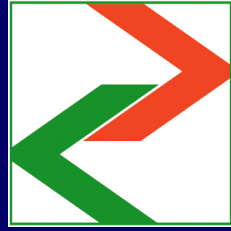
**(EUROREGIONS, EGTCs (EGCs), GITs, ...)**

# 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"

Association of European Border Regions  
Enscheder Strasse, 362  
D-48599 Gronau (Germany)  
Phone: +49-2562-70219 – Fax: +49-2562-70259



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION**



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

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[www.aebr.eu](http://www.aebr.eu)



# **Cross-border governance and European territorial cohesion**

**José Antonio RUIZ DE CASAS**

*Territorial Cooperation unit , DG REGIO,  
European Commission*



# **Links with the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation**

**Alfonso ALCOLEA MARTINEZ**

*Committee of the Regions*

**1. The EGTC as a tool to cross-border governance.**

**2. Current activities of the Committee of the Regions.**

**3. Contribution from the URBACT project EGTC to the CoR activities**

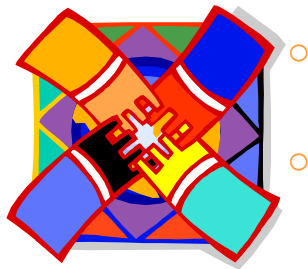


## 1. The EGTC as a tool to cross-border governance.

- The EGTC Regulation gives a legal framework for territorial cooperation
- Legislative instrument at EU level, but anchored at the territory.
- Legal personality: stability, certitude, engagement, participation
- Multi-level governance: The EGTC allows a variety of multi-level institutional formatting.
- Territorial cohesion: Legal capacity to deliver structuring development projects
- Potential in macro-regions.
- Potential vis-à-vis Third Countries

## 2. Activities of the Committee of the Regions (I)

- Provisions of the Treaty: Specific consultative role on cross-border cooperation.
- Regulation 1082/206/EC (art. 5) → Information to the CoR
- Agreement of the Bureau in 2006 → Play a supportive role
- Principles:



- Interinstitutional cooperation.
- Constructive and forward-looking approach.

## 2. Activities of the Committee of the Regions (II)

### ■ Monitoring:

- Implementation of the legislation
- EGTC set up and in constitution

■ Some implementation gaps in AT, BE, DE, IT. MT has not implemented.

■ Currently 13 EGTC have been constituted + 1 recently signed.

## 2. Activities of the Committee of the Regions (III)

List of EGTC setups:

- ❖ « Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai », FR–BE, 01/2008
- ❖ « Ister-Granum », HU–SK, 05/2008
- ❖ « Galicia-Norte Portugal », ES-PT, 09/2008
- ❖ « Amphictyony », GR-CY-IT-FR, 12/2008
- ❖ « UTTS », HU-SK, 12/2009
- ❖ « Duero-Douro », ES-PT, 03/2009
- ❖ « Karst-Bodva », SK-HU, 02/2009
- ❖ « West Vlaanderen / Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d’Opale », FR-BE, 04/2009
- ❖ « Euroregion Pirineus - Mediterrània », ES-FR 08/2009
- ❖ « Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau », FR-DE 02/2010
- ❖ « ZASNET », PT-ES, 03/2010
- ❖ « Grande Region », LUX-BE-FR-DE, 04/2010
- ❖ « Hospital de la Cerdanya », ES-FR, 05/2010
- ❖ « Archimed », ES-FR-IT-GR-CY (signed 04/2010)

## 2. Activities of the Committee of the Regions (IV)

- Studies 2007 and 2008.
- Study 2010: “The EGTC developments on the ground”
  
- **Open Days** monographic workshops.
  - Workshop on EGTC the 6 October 2010 afternoon.
  - Open Days meeting point → stand on EGTC.
  - Open Days university → Open to studies on EGTC.

## 2. Activities of the Committee of the Regions (V)

- Opinion on “The EGTC” adopted in 2008 (rapporteur Ms Mercedes Bresso, PES/IT)
  
- Opinion “**The EGTC: towards the legislative revision**”
  - Rapporteur: Mr Nuñez Feijoo (EPP/ES) appointed in february 2010.
  - First debate in COTER: June 2010.
  - Adoption of the draft opinion by COTER: November 2010
  - Adoption by the plenary: February 2011.

## 2. Activities of the CoR (VI)

- Website & common consultative platform.
- Expert group and progressive transformation into a network.
- Joint Consultation on EGTC: Open till 20 July 2010.




eu   

JOINT CONSULTATION

on

The review of the EGTC Regulation

Open till 20 July 2010

Open to National Authorities, EGTC setups, EGTC under constitution, Regional and Local Authorities, associations and experts

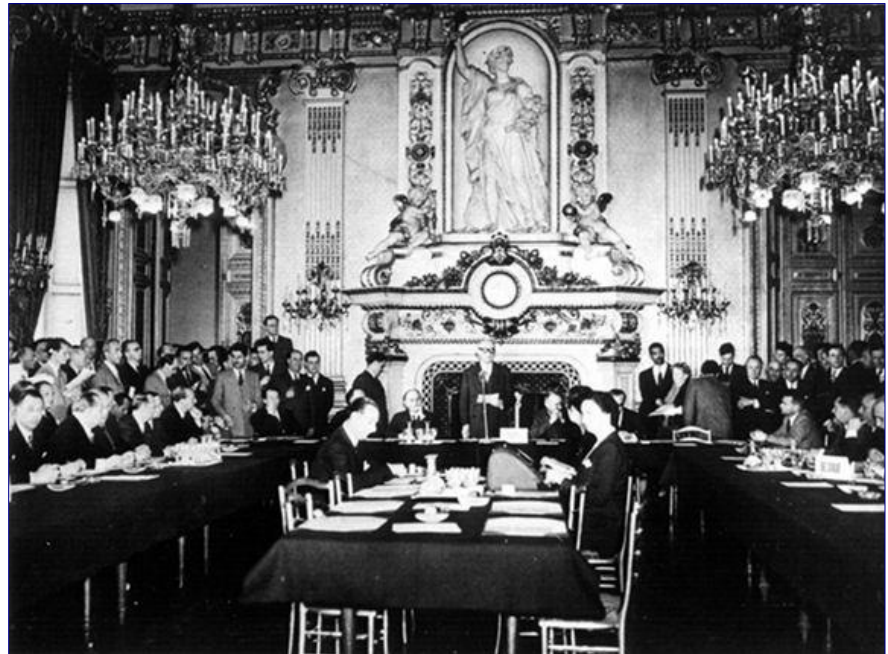
**EGTC GECT**

### 3. Synergies URBACT project EGTC and the CoR

- Most valuable expertise.
- Contribution to the Joint Consultation.
- Direct contribution to the CoR opinion on EGTC.
- Presentation during the Open Days.
- Work together with the EU2020 Monitoring Platform.
- Standing EGTC network!
- Possible URBACT EGTC 2.0 ?



## Conclusive words:



*Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.*

Robert Schuman, 9 May 1950



*Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations*



**Thank you**

**Merci**

**Gracias**

**Obrigado**

**Vielen dank**

**Dziękuję**

**Dank u wel**

**Köszönöm**

**Dakujem**

***Alfonso Alcolea***

***alfonso.alcoleamartinez@cor.europa.eu***

***http://cor.europa.eu/egtc***





# **Links with the Euroregional Cooperation Grouping**

**Auke VAN DER GOOT**

*Vice President of the European Committee on  
Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR),  
Council of Europe*


# Involvement in CB issues

- **Vice-Chair of the European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR)**  
– 3rd Protocol
- **Senior Policy Adviser in the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations – EGTC**
- **Member of the Benelux Steering Committee on Transfrontier (Cross-border) Co-operation – Benelux Convention on CBC/TFC**

# Innovative character EGTC

- not only LRAs, but also State level
  - bodies governed by public law within the meaning of Art. 1 (9) EU Directive 2004/18
  - applicable law – laws of Member State where the EGTC has its registered office
- 
- control of management of public funds (major infrastructural projects, incl. tramways, hospitals)
  - use EGTC Regulation is optional (preambular provision no. 5)

# Keep it simple

- **1980 – Treaties CoE (Madrid Outline Convention and Additional Protocols)**
- **1986 – Benelux Convention CBC (BE-NL-LUX)**
- **1991 – Anholt Convention CBC (NRW-LS-NL)**
- **1996 – Karlsruhe Convention CBC (GER-FRA-CH-LUX)**
- **2002 – Brussels Convention CBC (BE-FRA)**
- **2006 – EGTC Regulation**
  
- **Why not just have an EGTC?**      

# Update Benelux Convention CBC

- **Take on board some of the innovations of EGTC Regulation**
- **Be in line with the new Benelux Union Treaty (incl. cooperation with GER & FRA)**
- **Maintain flexibility of Benelux Convention**
  - **public law body (binding on 3rd parties)**
  - **administrative agreements**
  - **joint consultative body**
- **More seats option: headquarters and additional seat(s)**

# CDLR

- A short presentation of the CDLR and of its activities on governance and cross-border cooperation
- **European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy**
- **Comité Directeur / européen sur la démocratie locale et régionale (CDLR)**



# CDLR – Composition

- **Intergovernmental committee on local and regional governance issues**
- **Intergovernmental means: civil servants from Ministries, such as Ministry of the Interior, Ministry for Regional Development etc.**
- **HUN: Dr István BALÁZS, General Director, Ministry of Local Government**
- **SK: Mrs Silvia SLAVČEVOVÁ, Head of the State Secretary Office, Ministry of Interior**

# CDLR's subcommittees

- LR-IC - HUN: Ms Viktória ZÖLD-NAGY, Department of Public Administration Offices, Notaries and State Authority Ministry of Local Self-Governments
  - LR-GG – SK: Ms Zuzana BARBORÍKOVÁ, Head of Unit, Department for co-ordination and modernisation of Public administration, Public administration section, Ministry of the Interior (also LR-DP 2008)
  - LR-FS – HUN: Dr Judit HARASZTI, Senior Councilor, Ministry of Local Government
- 
- LR-CT – SK: Ms Eva GASPAROVA, Ministry of Interior, Public Administration Section, International and Transfrontier Co-operation Department (2007)
  - LR-DP – HUN: Dr Ildikó FORGÁCS, Ministry of Local Government (2008)

# Legal instruments (1)

- **Recommendations (soft law)**

Rec (2000)1 on fostering transfrontier co-operation between territorial communities or authorities in the cultural field

Rec(2005)2 on good practices in and reducing obstacles to transfrontier and interterritorial cooperation between territorial communities or authorities

Rec(2007)5 on the conclusion of transfrontier co-operation agreements in South-Eastern Europe

See for texts at: [www.coe.int/local](http://www.coe.int/local) (legal instruments)

# Legal instruments (2)

- **Conventions (binding on parties)**

Since 1980, CoE adopted 7 conventions in the field of local and regional authorities, 4 out of them dealing with TFC/CBC

See for texts at: [www.coe.int/local](http://www.coe.int/local) (legal instruments)

- In the 1970s, CoE's Standing Conference of LRA's asked the Committee of Ministers to prepare a convention that recognizes the **right** of LRA's to engage in co-operation with neighbouring authorities across a state border

# Legal instruments (3)

## 1980 Madrid Outline Convention (MOC)

- The first and only international treaty whereby States commit themselves to enabling their LRA's to engage in CBC/TFC
- The aim of MOC is: facilitating and fostering
- This not the same thing as recognising the right of LRA's to engage in CBC/TFC
- But the MOC places the duty on the State to take all appropriate action in order precisely to “facilitate and foster” TFC/CBC.

**36 member States of the CoE are a Party to the MOC,  
incl. HUN and SK**

# Legal instruments (4)

- **1985 European Charter of Local Self-Government – why innovative?**
- Article 10 of this Charter recognises the right of local authorities to co-operate with other authorities and **join international associations** to promote their goals and defend their interests as well as **“to co-operate with their counterpart in other States”**

**44 member States of the CoE are a Party to the ECLSG ;  
only 3 are missing (AND, MC and RSM)**

# Legal instruments (5)

## 1995 - Additional Protocol – right of LRAs

**21 ratifications: SK yes – HUN not yet**

As the general legal framework for co-operation of local/regional authorities across borders in Europe, the MOC together with its Protocol will be useful to the new member States in their governmental reform processes (implementation Art. 10 Eur. Charter of Local Self-Government)

## 1998 - Protocol No. 2: interregional co-operation / twinning

**20 ratifications: SK yes – HUN not yet**

This Protocol complements the existing MOC and the Additional Protocol, which are concerned with relations between adjacent communities that share common borders. Twinning agreements have begun to spring up between areas that are further apart. Protocol No. 2 serves as a legal text to cover these new arrangements. It recognises the right of authorities to make such agreements and sets out a legal framework for them to do so.

# Legal instruments (6)

## **2009 - Protocol No 3 on ECGs** *(Euroregional Co-operation Groupings)*

Open for signature since 16 Nov 2009 at the Ministerial Conference in Utrecht (NL)

### **9 signatures:**

MC Utrecht: BEL – FRA – GER – LITH – MONT – NL – SLO

since MC Utrecht: ARM (18 Mar) – LUX (21 Apr)

SK not yet – HUN not yet



# EGC's added value (1) (3rd Protocol)

- Demonstrate the added value of the Euroregional Cooperation Grouping tool to cross-border governance

*EGTC Regulation is clear in itself*

- **use EGTC is optional**
- **designed for State level, LRAs and bodies governed by public law according to EU Regulation 2004/18**
- **in principle designed for management of projects**  
such projects are co-financed or not by the EU
- **to receive EU funding, use of EGTC is optional**
- **room for additional legal instruments (preamble no. 5 explicitly mentions CoE *acquis*)**

# ECG's added value (2)

*3rd Protocol is clear in itself*

- **use ECG is optional**
- **primarily designed for LRAs**  
other partners (State level or all legal persons established for the specific purpose of meeting needs of the general interest) can be **involved as members – majority of voting rights for LRAs**
- **aimed at TFC/CBC and ITC/IRC in common areas of competence of all partners involved**  
CB governance, CB consultation and CB agreement (litter, library)  
concrete smaller-scale CB projects can perfectly be run by ECGs
- **in principle not designed for management of large-scale (infrastructural) projects**  
funding projects is not explicitly mentioned in 3rd Protocol

# ECG's added value (3)

EGTC 2006	ECG 2009
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State, LRAs and public law bodies</li> <li>2. prior authorisation obligatory</li> <li>3. management of large scale (infrastructural) CB projects</li> <li>4. therefore detailed provisions</li> <li>5. EU co-financing is possible</li> <li>6. national implementation legislation</li> <li>7. 3 years (one country is still missing), disparities between national legislations</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. LRAs (State and public interest bodies can be <b>included</b> as partners)</li> <li>2. prior authorisation optional</li> <li>3. CB governance, consultation and agreement + small scale CB projects</li> <li>4. less detailed provisions</li> <li>5. EU co-financing is possible</li> <li>6. signature and ratification by member states</li> <li>7. 9 signatures: SK and HUN still missing; 0 ratifications so far</li> </ol>

# EGTC <-> ECG (1)

- Which articulation between the EGTC and the ECG; in other terms, which collaboration between the Committee of the Regions and the Council of Europe on this topic?
- border regions and opportunities for CBC
- border regions and disparities between national legislations
- flexibility in use of legal instruments for CBC

## Priority areas

- Rec(2005)2 on removing obstacles in CBC at local and regional levels
- network of EGTCs, ECGs or other CBC groupings to share experiences (European Recommendation no. 11)
- Reflection on the creation of a European statute of CB staff (European Recommendation no 2) → Urbact project?

# EGTC <-> ECG (2)

- **network of CB actors** providing technical assistance and bringing up the needs from the local to the national level (Recommendation 10)
- **Recs addressed to regional/national authorities:** bring them to the attention of the CDLR (Committee of Ministers CoE) and the Congress (CLRAE)
- Political level : Working Group on inter-regional co-operation in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (chaired by Karl-Heinz Lambertz)
- Interministerial (civil servant) level: CDLR (LR-IC subcommittee)

# Wider “EGTC” URBACT input

- Eventually, which contribution from the “EGTC” URBACT project to the Council of Europe’s activities?
- Reflection on the problems of staffing in EGTCs, ECGs and other CB groupings
- Linkage between networks of EGTCs and other CB groupings, incl. ECGs
- Network of CB actors at State level



# **Challenges of cross-border cooperation in Hungary**

**Dr. Jenő HAMORY**

*Head of department, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs, Economic Relations Department,  
Hungary*



# Comparative Advantages of Hungary

- **Geography:** multitude of borders (7) with neighbours
- **Carpathian Basin:**
  - common language
  - identical traditions, culture
  - „go-between” role for Hungary
- **Crossroads at European level, regional „turntable”**
  - East-West
  - North-South
- EU-membership (stages: 2004, 1992, 1987, 1968)
- Inviting, inclusive nation, open economy



# Possible Financial Resources

- EU-funds (E.T.C., 2007-2013): EUR 685 mn
- Transnational programmes
  - Central Europe, EUR 246 mn
  - South East Europe, EUR 206 mn
- A part of national Regional OPs
- A (smaller) part of mainstream national OPs
- Development projects along the borders by neighbouring countries
- In total: over **EUR 1 billion!** – should be more but:  
**never before so vast resources allotted for enhancing cross-border cooperation!!!**

# Chances and Challenges

- **European trends:**
  - „Europe of regions” (more funds for border areas)
  - „Europe of civil society” (cooperation among smaller communities)
- **E.T.C.:** real and feasible cross-border development trends are necessary!
- **EGTC**
  - new, „articulated”, „fine-tuned” instrument
  - mustn't be over-estimated but should fully be utilised!
  - from institutional to real development phase
  - *IsterGranum EGTC*: pioneer role in Central Europe

# Danube Region European Strategy

- Great medium term opportunity for Hungary
- Preparation for the 2014-2020 period
- Out of 11 preliminary Hungarian programme proposals submitted to EC – three with Hungary in the lead:
  - ***seamless Europe*** (to eliminate trade and transport bottlenecks)
  - ***preservation of live water values*** in Danube area
  - ***environment friendly transport*** in Danube region (shipping, intermodal transport facilities)
- **Further Hungarian proposals to be expected:** strengthening business contacts, closer cooperation among SMEs, labour market cooperation

# Vision for the Future

- ***Hungarian hopes for the medium term future:***
  - bigger proportion of EU funds for ***cross-border*** developments
  - when the crisis is gradually over the „going will be better” for the national economies of the whole Carpathian Basin including regions along borders
  - further ***refinement*** and „articulation” of EU and regional ***instrumentary*** (Cohesion Policy, E.T.C., Danube Strategy)
  - ***abolishment of virtual and factual borders*** within the Central European (Carpathian) region
  - ***economic*** cooperation will be a priority



**Thank You for  
your Attention!**

[jhamory@kum.hu](mailto:jhamory@kum.hu)





# **Final roundtable**

**José Antonio RUIZ DE CASAS**

*Territorial Cooperation unit , DG REGIO, European  
Commission*

**Alfonso ALCOLEA MARTINEZ**

*Committee of the Regions*

**Auke VAN DER GOOT**

*Vice President of the European Committee on Local  
and Regional Democracy (CDLR), Council of Europe*



# **Synthesis of the morning session: needs and opportunities for exchanges**

**Dr. Hans-Günther CLEV**

**Director General of MOT, Lead partner**



*Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations*

# Conclusion

**János KNAPP**

*Vice Mayor of the City of Esztergom*



European Union  
European Regional Development Fund





*Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations*



**Thank you**  
**Merci**  
**Gracias**  
**Obrigado**  
**Vielen dank**  
**Dziękuję**  
**Dank u wel**  
**Köszönöm**  
**Dakujem**

***More information on the website:***

***<http://urbact.eu/egtc>***

