Eurocidade Chaves-Verín

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« EGTC » project Launch conference, Strasbourg, 19 November 2008

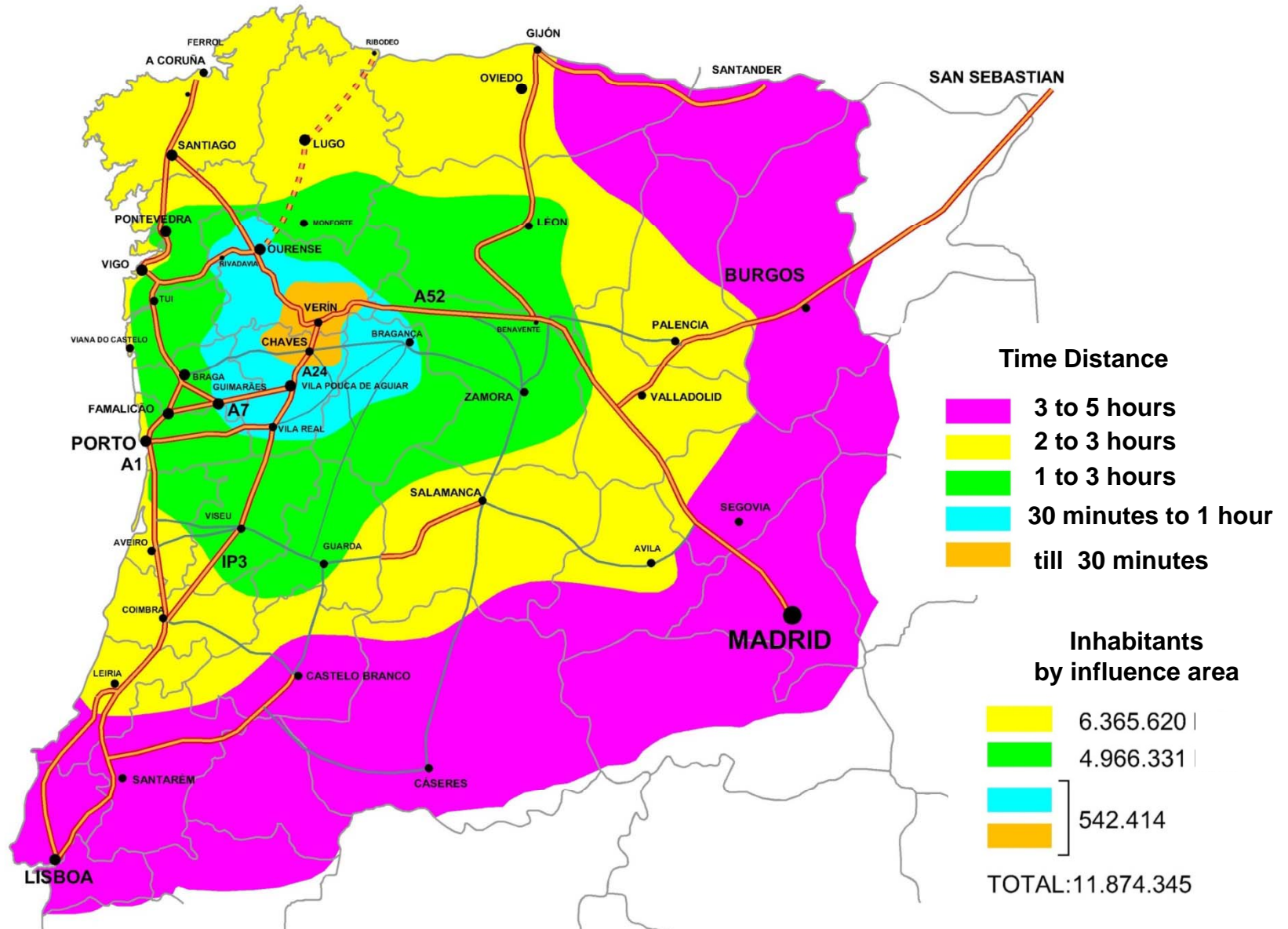# Eurocidade Chaves-Verín:
An instrument for economic & social development

Eurocidade Chaves-Verín location & main data

	Chaves	Verín	Eurocidade
Area (km^2)	591,28	93,87	685,25
Inhabitants	44.186	13.991	58.177
Popul. density (inhab./km^2)	74,72	149,05	84,90
Parishes	51	18	69

Eurocidade Chaves-Verín

History of the cross-border co-operation

2007
- **September:** Working Group Constitution
- **November:** Opening of the Technical Support Office of the Eurocidade
- **December:** Visibility Plan Presentation by Portuguese & Galician
  Governments

2008
- **February:** Experts start to prepare the Strategic Agenda
  Eurocidade Stand in Chaves popular fair
  VII Eixo Atlântico Painting Biennial

- **March:** Focus group: more than 60 socio-economic agents participate in
  the strategic Agenda preparation
  Travelling Exposition of young artists from both municipalities

- **April:** POCTEP (Interreg IVA) applications
  Eurocidade Stand in Verin popular fair

- **May:** Secondary Educations Encounter days
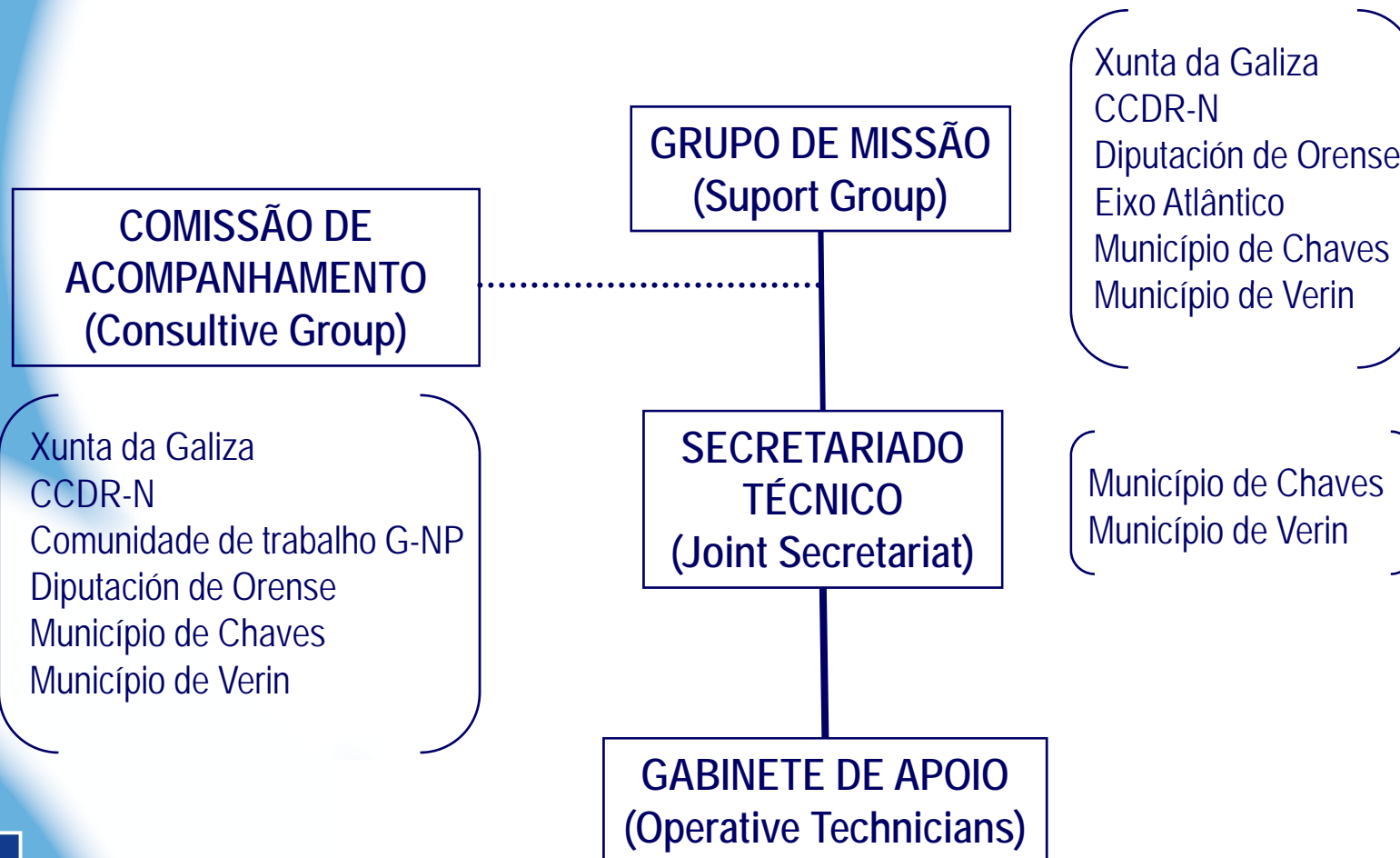 Creation of the Eurocidade´s researchers group

History of the cross-border co-operation

2008

- **June:** Entrepreneurship Dinamization and Development Seminars
  Common celebration of the International Childhood Day in
  Chaves

- **July:** Strategic Agenda Presentation & Approval
  First Common Cultural Agenda
  Convention signature: Chaves municipal hot springs facilities and Verin
  public sports installations, same prizes for eurocitizens

"Meeting" with languages activity during **scholarship holidays**

- **September:** Presentation of the Project at an Euro-region G-NP Congress

- **October:** Joint participation in Termatalia (International Thermalism Fair)
  Presentation of the project in Open Days (Brussels)

- **November:** Eurocidade Senior Thermalism Program Launch
  Launch of the first edition of cross-border scholarships

Current cross-border governance

NO JURIDIC FORMULA IN PLACE. OBJECTIVE: EGTC
(STRATEGIG AGENDA RECOMMENDATION) - DRAFT IN PREPARATION

GRUPO DE MISSÃO
(Suport Group)

Xunta da Galiza
CCDR-N
Diputación de Orense
Eixo Atlântico
Município de Chaves
Município de Verin

COMISSÃO DE
ACOMPANHAMENTO
(Consultive Group)

Xunta da Galiza
CCDR-N
Comunidade de trabalho G-NP
Diputación de Orense
Município de Chaves
Município de Verin

SECRETARIADO
TÉCNICO
(Joint Secretariat)

Município de Chaves
Município de Verin

GABINETE DE APOIO
(Operative Technicians)

Current cross-border governance

Strategic Objectives

- Enforce social cohesion, improving quality of life conditions
- Promote human resources qualification
- Foster natural and cultural heritage reassessment
- Consolidate and develop the local entrepreneurial sector
- Develop the tourism sector (specially thermal springs/spa)
- Integrate and promote the logistic sector
- Share infrastructures and sportive practices
- Promote culture (common usage of infrastructures and equipments)
- Develop rural areas (by promoting the local production)
- Take profit of sinergies and common potentials
- Create larger scale economies in different sectors

Current cross-border governance in Eurocidade Chaves-Verín

Strategic Agenda

❖**First Axis: Euro citizenship -** involve the local population into the project and create advantages in daily life, coming from this second-generation cross-border cooperation formula

❖**Second Axis: Sustainable Development -** inventory, preserve, recover and boost common natural heritage

❖**Third Axis: Economical Promotion -** develop competitiveness and entrepreneurship among local stakeholders increasing local add-value

First Strategic Axis: Developing the Eurocidade

Objective	Actions	Examples
Free Social Zone	Promoting the euro-identity	Eurocidade card
	Joint cultural development	Joint cultural agenda
	Sharing sportive resources	Cooperation between teams
	Education, training and employment	Cross-border Arts School
Health City	General access to public health services	Joint action plan for the most important issues in public health
	Eurocidade, a reference in european health and nature	Adequate professional training
Creative City	Endogenous criative pratices	Promoting creative projects about the Eurocidade
	House of writing	Reading ateliers
	Creative experiences disemination	Economical creative festival
	Training for creativity	Sectorial programs for creative training implementation

Current cross-border governance in Eurocidade Chaves-Verín

Second Strategic Axis: Sustainable territory

Objective	Actions	Examples
Ecological Tâmega River City	Increasing the quality of water and rivers (key of development) and take profit of it for tourism, sports...	Tâmega river water recovering; eco-ciclying-road
	Creating a green quality system	Creation of the Tâmega environmental corridor
	Environmental changes: common Local Agenda 21	Increase the usage of the green/renewal energy
Cooperative territorial planning	Sharing information about territorial management	Creation of a specialized commission
	Joint planning and management of territorial systems	Common territorial planning offices
Two connected quarters of the same city	One public transport system	Public/private cross-bordar transport net.
	Increasing connectivity to global network and to new technology	Elimination of over cost communications
	Studing and promoting alternative transports	Increase bike usage

Current cross-border governance in Eurocidade Chaves-Verín

Third Strategic Axis: Economical Development

Objective	Actions	Examples
Health & Wellness destination	Add value to thermal springs resources	Innovation and Development Center for thermal products
	Renew thermal equipments and hotels	Support for rehabilitation of touristic equipments
	Global touristic destination related to nature and water	Thermal spring knowlege center
Commerce, restaurants and events: flow promoters	Common commercial area	Commerce support services
	Reassessment and re-qualification of restaurants activities	Support for restaurants modernization
	Promote tradictional fairs and develop specialized fairs	Common and integrate fairs planning
Logistic city: getting advantage of the strategic location	Planning for merchandise transportation	Support zones and services for merchandise transports
	Integrated system for logistic platforms and for entrepreneurial support	Joint working group for strategic reflection and action establishment

Perspectives: AT A GLANCE

1. Juridical framework through an EGTC

2. Strong internal and external communication for the promotion of the citizenship involvement and for the Eurocidade territorial image (branding).

3. Using the Support & Accompaniment Commission for the elimination of legal and administrative barriers

4. Promoting sectorial structures of cooperation in the Eurocidade

5. Anchor project: creation of a **Social free area** end development of the **"Eurocity of the Water"** trade

Why to be involved in the "EGTC" project?

Expectations

- To put in common with other cross-border conurbations instruments/processus to establish a structure of governance.

- Benchmarking and exchange of best practices

- Together, transmit to UE the need of solutions, formulas and positive discrimination measures to improve quality of life in cross-border conurbations, where it has always been penalised due to the existence of frontiers.

Potential contributions:

- Strategic Agenda already in place

- Eurocidade Chaves-Verín constitutes a good practice in terms of strong and positive relationships with upper-local institutional and political levels and other larger scales of cooperation (Euro-region Galicia-North Portugal)

Conclusions

- Cross-border Conurbations have to be though and worked in a tripled perspective:

    - Population

    - Territory (planification & use)

    - Governance formula

- Cross-border conubations have to face up several challenges:

    - Institutional levels (cooperation, barriers...)

    - Daily life (eurocitizenship not only in the paper)

    - Visibilty of the project