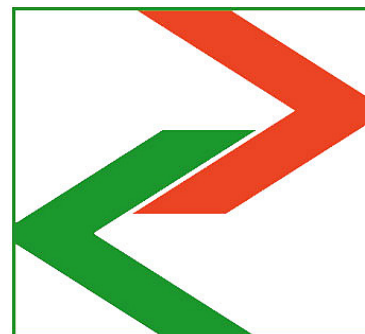


Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Grenzregionen (AGEG)  
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Wergemeenschap van Europese grensgebieden (WVEG)  
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Σύνδεσμος Ευρωπαϊκών Συνοριακών Περιφερειών (ΣΕΣΠ)  
Stowarzyszenie Europejskich Regionów Granicznych (SERG)  
Ассоциация Европейских Приграничных Регионов (АЕПР)



## AEBR Newsflash April 2010

### MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER HAHN



On 14 April 2010, a delegation of AEBR representatives met EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn. The meeting focused on the future of European Cohesion Policy and its necessary strengthening after 2013. The debate about the EU 2020 Strategy was also tackled, as well as some of our views on the EGTCs and the desirable amelioration of Interreg after 2013. A press release can be found on:

[http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=279#279](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=279#279)

*(From left to right: AEBR Secretary General Martín Guillermo Ramírez, AEBR Executive Committee member Wilhelm Patri, Commissioner resp. for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn, AEBR Vice-President Gabriele Lackner-Strauss, AEBR President Karl-Heinz Lambertz, AEBR Advisory Committee Chairman Jens Gabbe).*

### MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE “CROSS-BORDER HEALTH”



*Meeting of the AEBR Task Force “CB Health” in Essen/Germany, 13.04.2010*

On 13 April, the AEBR Task Force “Cross-Border Health” met in Essen/Germany. For the full report with the main results, please visit [http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=288#288](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=288#288).

### EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION SUMMIT: THE EGTCs AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION, CÁCERES/SPAIN

On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010, the **EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION SUMMIT: THE EGTCs AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION** will be held in Cáceres, Spain. This event takes place in the scope of the Spanish Presidency, and is co-organised by the Spanish Region of Extremadura and the Association of European Border Regions. The programme as well as the draft working paper of the Spanish Government are available for download on [http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=280#280](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=280#280)

### TFEB MEETING ON 27 MAY 2010 IN SEVILLA, SPAIN

The AEBR TFEB (Task Force External Borders) will have its next meeting on 27 May 2010 in Sevilla (Region of Andalucía, Spain). One of the main topics will be a discussion on Mediterranean cooperation, and the especial case of Morocco.

## AEBR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 28 – 29 May 2010, EVORA/PT

The next Executive Committee meeting of AEBR will take place on 28 and 29 May 2010 in Évora (Alentejo/Portugal). Main topics are i.a. the current state of the debates about the European Cohesion Policy and Territorial Development, including reports of the meetings kept with relevant European institutions about this. The AEBR Task Forces will also include some reports on their respective sectorial issues, and information on project preparation will also be provided. The members will keep on exchanging experiences on the implementation of Interreg projects, following the process initiated in Oulu last February. Finally, updated information will be distributed on the AEBR General Assembly and Annual Conference in Dundalk-Newry (Ireland-Northern Ireland), 21-23 October 2010.

Members of the AEBR Executive Committee will find the meeting documents in the restricted area of the AEBR online forum (<http://forum.aebr.eu>).

## 9 MAY – EUROPE DAY

Numerous activities are taking place everywhere in Europe to mark that special day. Click [http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=289#289](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=289#289) to see what some AEBR member regions are organising on that day.

## CONTRIBUTION OF AEBR TO THE COR CONSULTATION “YOUR VOICE ON EUROPE 2020”

On 3 March 2010 the European Commission has proposed Europe 2020 – A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth – as the successor of the Lisbon Strategy. The Committee of the Regions held a consultation entitled "Your voice on Europe 2020", to which the AEBR submitted a statement. This paper is available for download in English and German: [http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=287#287](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=287#287)

## RECENT NEWS FROM EU INSTITUTIONS

### **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the citizens' initiative adopted**

The [proposal for a Regulation on the citizens' initiative](#) was adopted by the European Commission on 31 March 2010. According to this proposal, European citizens would for the first time be able to directly suggest new legislation through the European Citizens' Initiative.

All information can be found on: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat\\_general/citizens\\_initiative/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/citizens_initiative/index_en.htm)

### **Cohesion policy: Strategic Report 2010 on the implementation of the programmes 2007-2013 - New Commission report presents first assessment of roll-out of European cohesion policy**

Commissioners Johannes Hahn (Regional Policy) and László Andor (Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) presented this report, according to which € 93 billion of EU funding has been allocated to projects for investment in jobs and growth in Europe over the last three years. Furthermore, the report assesses the rate of progress of each country towards delivering agreed objectives against the EU average and reports on alignment with overarching EU objectives to promote growth and jobs. It also promotes an open debate on achievements and challenges of cohesion policy programmes.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/policy/reporting/doc/com\\_2010110\\_en.doc](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/reporting/doc/com_2010110_en.doc)

## „Evaluating Regional Policy: insights and results“ – Info regio Panorama



The new edition of the magazine Info regio Panomara focuses on the results of Cohesion Policy 2000-06 and which evaluation methods should be used. It furthermore explains why the evaluation gives added strength to Cohesion Policy, and what the positive and negative aspects of the 2000-06 programming period are in the eyes of the different people interviewed in the magazine. Furthermore, Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Policy, shares his priorities and hopes for the future. The magazine is currently available in English, French and German.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/panorama/pdf/mag33/mag33\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/panorama/pdf/mag33/mag33_en.pdf)

## Nominations for RegioStars 2011 now open



"RegioStars – the awards for innovative projects", launched in 2007, is an annual event to recognise and reward innovative projects supported by EU cohesion policy. The awards this year include for this first time a public award for the most popular photo!

Applications should be submitted by the Managing authority (national or regional) in cooperation with the project partner. The deadline for submission is **16 July 2010**.

Information and application forms are available on the website of [Regio Stars 2011](http://www.regiostars.eu).

## New evaluation studies on impact of EU cohesion policy investment in transport and environment

From 2000 to 2006, more than one third of the EU budget was invested through cohesion policy and its three funds – the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund.

Focused on the ERDF, DG REGIO has carried out a series of ex post evaluations on different aspects of the policy. Two reports on the [Transport](#) and [Environment & Climate Change](#) sectors are now available. They raise critical issues and give recommendations on how Europe's cohesion policy can deliver better results in the future.

## Apply now for the 2011 European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards!

The European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards identify and promote best practices in the conservation of tangible cultural heritage and stimulate cross border exchanges of knowledge and experience throughout Europe. Furthermore, they aim at raising public awareness about Europe's cultural heritage and at encouraging best practices through the power of example. Outstanding heritage achievements are awarded in the categories 'Conservation', 'Research', 'Dedicated Service by Individuals or Organisations', and 'Education, Training and Awareness-Raising'. **The deadline for applications is 1 October 2010**. Find out more about the application procedure at: <http://www.europanostr.org/apply-for-an-award-2011/> and [European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage](#).

For the **2010** edition, **29 winners** from 15 EU countries were recently announced: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news2585\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news2585_en.htm).

## Outline for cohesion policy reform presented by the Committee of the Regions

Following a plenary debate with Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, local and regional politicians adopted an outlook opinion drafted by Michael Schneider (DE/EPP). The opinion urges EU partners and national governments to retain an ambitious cohesion policy as a "core element" of the European integration model.

Full information as well as links to interviews with Commissioner Hahn and representatives of the Committee of the Regions can be found at <http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/PressTemplate.aspx?view=detail&id=2fa90667-71e5-478b-ae4c-541cdc317bf7>.

## Call for a public debate on 'The future of European agriculture policy'

At the end of the year the European Commission will publish a Communication on the future of the CAP after 2013. Before setting down any initial policy guidelines for this strategic sector, Commissioner Ciolos launched a

public debate on the Common Agricultural Policy's future, objectives, principles and contribution to the 'Europe 2020' strategy to inform the preparatory work for the decision-making process. In addition to how the CAP can contribute to developing the Europe 2020 strategy, the public debate will centre around four main topics:

Why do we need a European Common Agricultural Policy?

What are society's objectives for agriculture in all its diversity?

Why should we reform the CAP and how can we make it meet society's expectations?

What tools do we need for tomorrow's CAP?

Consultation website: <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/debate/index.htm>

### European macro-regions – a future model of regional cooperation?

The conference on Europe's macro-regions, which took place on 13 April 2010 at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels, focused on the role that European macro-regions could play within the European Union's Cohesion Policy. Information on the conference as well as speeches and presentations can be found in the [website of the Committee of the Regions](#).

### Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development

The edition of the *REGI NEWS* for April is available for download on

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201004/20100420ATT73064/20100420ATT73064EN.pdf>

## EVENTS OF EU INSTITUTIONS

- 3 May 2010, St. Gallen (CH): **Conference on "Democracy and Decentralisation"**  
<http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/topics/eu/euroc/chprce/registg.html>
- 6 May 2010, Brussels: **SME Finance Forum**. The European Commission is organising a high-level conference with SMEs, banks and other financial institutions, on how to address the current challenges in access to finance for SMEs. More information: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/finance/financing-environment/sme-finance-forum/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/finance/financing-environment/sme-finance-forum/index_en.htm)
- 7 May 2010, Messina: **Fighting Corruption at local and regional level**. Conference organised by the Committee of the Regions and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. More info: [www.cor.europa.eu/fighting\\_corruption](http://www.cor.europa.eu/fighting_corruption).
- 10-11 May 2010, Sevilla: DG meeting on the Territorial Agenda  
<http://www.eu2010.es/es/agenda/grupostrabajoycomites/feb21sevilladirgral.html>
- 10-11 May 2010, Ruse (BG): **Conference on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region**
- 10 May 2010, Paris: **European Commission Information Session on the LIFE+ Programme**. Registration Deadline: 3 May 2010. For further information, please visit <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm> or contact [lifepplusworkshops.france@gmail.com](mailto:lifepplusworkshops.france@gmail.com).
- 17 May 2010, **Culture Infoday**, European Commission (Directorate General Education and Culture) – Latest infos as well as targeted advice on the preparation and submission of applications. Programme and further information: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/events/infoday\\_culture\\_2010\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/events/infoday_culture_2010_en.php). Further info days will be held in other countries, see list with information on dates and locations on [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/events/ccp/2010\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/events/ccp/2010_en.php)
- 18 May 2010: **ESPON Info Day and Partner Café**, Brussels. The aim of the event is to provide information on the new funding opportunities and the eligibility criteria for the new calls opening on 3 May 2010; and to provide a networking opportunity for potential project partners. It is open to all those interested in learning more about opportunities for taking part in ESPON project activities, including policy makers, scientists, experts, and representatives of universities, research institutes and companies around Europe. The programme is available at the [ESPON Website](#). Please register by using the **ESPON online registration form** available [here](#). Deadline for registration is **6 May 2010 at 15h00**.
- 18 - 21 May 2010, Gijón: **European Maritime Day, Stakeholder Conference**,  
[http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/index_en.html)
- 19-21 May 2010, Dunkerque: **6<sup>th</sup> European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference**.

<http://www.dunkerque2010.org/>

- 21 May 2010, Strasbourg: **Bureau of the Congress and its Chambers**
- 20-21 May 2010, **Regions for Economic Change conference 'Building Sustainable Growth' and RegioStars Award Ceremony**, Brussels, organised by the European Commission, **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN** (Programme: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/sustainable-growth/programme\\_en.cfm?nmenu=4](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/sustainable-growth/programme_en.cfm?nmenu=4), Registration: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/sustainable-growth/registration\\_en.cfm?nmenu=5](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/sustainable-growth/registration_en.cfm?nmenu=5) )
- 27 May 2010: **Forum for Outermost Europe**, Brussels, organised by the European Commission - DG REGIO, in cooperation with the Spanish Presidency of the EU ([http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/themes/outermost/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/themes/outermost/index_en.htm))

## PRESENTATIONS OF AEBR MEMBER REGIONS

In the past editions, we informed you about *East Border Region* (R.O.I./N.I.), *Euroregion Yaroslavna* (RU/UA), *Euregio Silva Nortica* (CZ/AU), *Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig* (DK/DE), *Euroregion Danubius* (RO/BG), and *Euroregion Elbe/Labe* (DE/CZ). In this edition, you will get to know **EUREGIO** (DE/NL), **Euroregion Bîlé-Biele Karpaty** (SK/CZ), **Euroregion Lower Danube** (RO/UA/MD), **ICBAN** (I/NI), **DKMT Euroregion** (HU/RO/SRB), **Euroregion Rodopi** (GR/BG) and **Euregio Karelia** (FI/RU).



The **EUREGIO** at the German/Dutch border was the first Euroregion that was created in Europe. Furthermore, EUREGIO was one of the founding members of the Association of European Border Regions. In the presentation in our website, you will find detailed information about the activities of EUREGIO.

[http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_regions.php?lc=en&nid=290](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_regions.php?lc=en&nid=290)



**Euroregion Bîlé-Biele Karpaty**, covering regions from Slovakia and the Czech Republic, was founded in the year 2000. Since that year, Euroregion Bîlé-Biele Karpaty has been a member of AEBR. The presentation gives an overview on main achievements up to now and planned actions for the future.

[http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_regions.php?lc=en&nid=281](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_regions.php?lc=en&nid=281)



**Euroregion Lower Danube**, situated at the external border of the EU, covers border areas in Romania, Ukraine and Moldova. The presentation contains detailed information about the activities of this Euroregion, which joined the AEBR as full member in the year 2001.

[http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_regions.php?lc=en&nid=282](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_regions.php?lc=en&nid=282)



**ICBAN** is one of three local authority led cross border networks working in the Ireland/Northern Ireland border area. Find out more about this network, which joined the AEBR as full member in 1997.

[http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_regions.php?lc=en&nid=284](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_regions.php?lc=en&nid=284)



The **Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa Regional Cooperation**, commonly known as **DKMT Euroregion**, was founded in 1997. It covers border regions in Hungary, Romania and Serbia. The attached presentation provides you with more information about this Euroregion, which joined the AEBR as full member in the year 2005.

[http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_regions.php?lc=en&nid=285](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_regions.php?lc=en&nid=285)



**Euroregion Rodopi** covers border regions from Bulgaria and Greece. Find out more information about the activities of this Euroregion, which joined the AEBR in 2001.

[http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_regions.php?lc=en&nid=286](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_regions.php?lc=en&nid=286)



**Euregio Karelia** was the first Euregio on the land border between the EU and Russia, covering regions in Finland (Kainuu, Northern Ostrobothnia and North Karelia) and in Russia (Republic of Karelia). Detailed information about Euregio Karelia, which joined the AEBR as full member in the year 2001, can be found in the presentation of this euroregion on

[http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_regions.php?lc=en&nid=283](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_regions.php?lc=en&nid=283)

## MAIN AEBR EVENTS 2010

- 3 May 2010, Conference of the Spanish Presidency in Cáceres (Extremadura) "**European Territorial Cooperation: EGTCs and Cross-Border Cooperation**" (organised in cooperation with AEBR)  
[http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=280#280](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=280#280)
- 27 May 2010, Task Force External Borders meeting, Seville (Andalusia, ES), Focus: Mediterranean cooperation (especially Morocco)
- 28-29 May 2010, Executive Committee in Évora (Alentejo, PT) -  
[http://www.aebr.net/termine/termine\\_ageg.php?period=&onedate\\_day=&onedate\\_month=&onedate\\_year=&group=&lc=en&did=143#143](http://www.aebr.net/termine/termine_ageg.php?period=&onedate_day=&onedate_month=&onedate_year=&group=&lc=en&did=143#143)
- 16 September 2010, AEBR Forum (Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, IT / Croatia)
- 17-18 September 2010, AEBR Executive Committee in Udine (Friuli-Venezia Giulia, IT)
- 4-7 October, activities during the Open Days 2010
- 21-23 October 2010, AEBR Executive Committee, General Assembly and Annual Conference, Dundalk-Newry (Ireland-Northern Ireland).
- December, AEBR Forum in Prague (CZ)
- December 2010, Executive Committee meeting, Tabor, Silva Nortica (CZ)

## DIVERS



### Guide des projets transfrontaliers

The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) has published a 150-page-guide (in French) on cross-border projects involving French regions: [http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/document/GUIDE\\_DES\\_PROJETS\\_MOT\\_2010.pdf](http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/document/GUIDE_DES_PROJETS_MOT_2010.pdf). If you wish to receive a paper version, please contact [domitille.ayral@mot.asso.fr](mailto:domitille.ayral@mot.asso.fr).

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The AEBR Newsflash is sent to everyone on the AEBR "members and friends" e-mail list. If you have friends or colleagues who would like to be added to the mailing list, please send their details to: Cordula Pandary, [c.pandary@aebr.eu](mailto:c.pandary@aebr.eu), or call **+49 (0)2562 70219**.

*Please think twice before printing this Newsletter.  
Perhaps you can enjoy and share it by electronic means!*

**A PDF-Version of this Newsflash is available on:**  
[http://www.aebr.net/news/news\\_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=295#295](http://www.aebr.net/news/news_aebr.php?lc=en&nid=295#295)

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The "**Association of European Border Regions**" (AEBR) is the oldest independent association of regions in Europe, founded in 1971, and the only one dealing with Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC). AEBR has almost forty years of extensive theoretical and practical experience in all aspects related to CBC, but also in the fields of inter-regional and transnational co-operation. With one hundred members (European border and cross-border regions), the AEBR is a forum for cross-border cooperation and makes the voice of the border and cross-border regions heard at European level.

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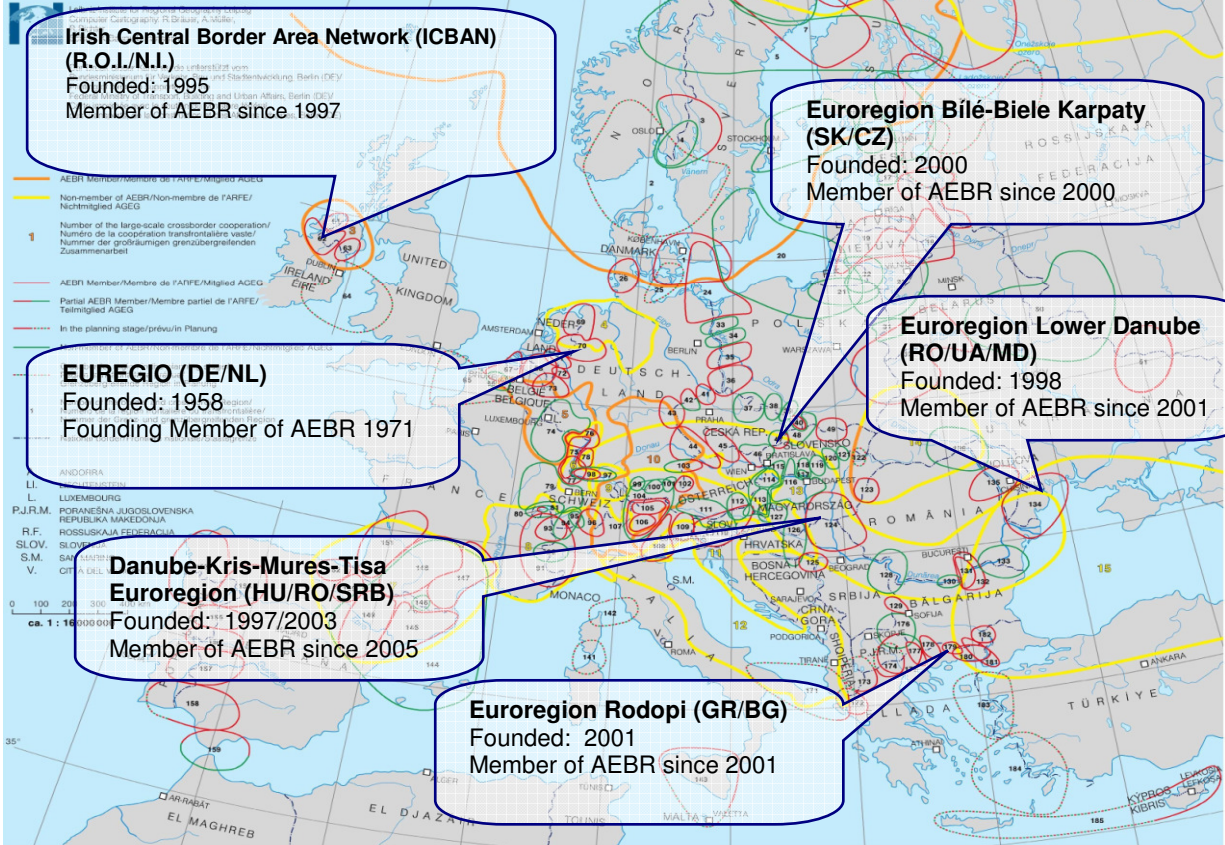
**Crossborder Cooperation Areas 2007**  
**Régions de coopération transfrontalière 2007**  
**Regionen grenzübergreifender Zusammenarbeit 2007**

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 Wörgemeinschaft von Europäische grensgebieden (WIEG)  
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