



STRATEGIC *b-solutions* CONFERENCE

CROSS-BORDER LABOUR MOBILITY AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

07 October 2025

Venue: University of Osijek Campus, Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences Osijek,
Address: Vladimira Preloga 1, **Osijek, Croatia**

DRAFT AGENDA

09:00–09:30 Registration

09:30–10:20 **OPENING AND INTRODUCTION**

Event Moderator: **Caitriona Mullan**, AEBR *b-solutions* Adviser, EU Cross Border Policy & Governance Specialist

Welcome:

Nataša Tramišak, President, Osijek-Baranja County (tbc)

Prof. Dr. Drago Šubarić, Rector of Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek

Dr. László Őri, President, Pannon EGTC and Baranya County, member of the National Delegation of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union

Overview of AEBR, the Case of Border Regions, and *b-solutions*

Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General, Association of European Border Regions – AEBR

10.20-11.15 **EUROPE'S BORDERLANDS: FROM PROBLEMS TO SOLUTIONS – LESSONS FROM *b-solutions***

Moderator: **Caitriona Mullan**, AEBR *b-solutions* Adviser, EU Cross Border Policy & Governance Specialist

The Border Effect: Cross-Border Territorial Cooperation for Releasing EU Potential and Inclusive Competitiveness

Ricardo Ferreira, Border Focal Point Coordinator, European Commission's DG REGIO

Introducing *b-solutions*: Practical Answers to Border Challenges
Mariane Bloudeau, Leonie Wunsch, AEHR b-solutions Project Team

Bridging Borders: The Pannon EGTC's Croatian–Hungarian Cross-Border Employment Case and Solution
Dr. Péter Merza, Director, Pannon EGTC

Working Beyond Border Obstacles- Markets, Skills and Strategic Cooperation- The Case of the Benelux Union
Jan Molema, Director of Strategy, Benelux Union.

Q&A

11:15–11:45 Coffee break

11:45–13:00 FACILITATING CROSS-BORDER EMPLOYMENT WITH EU FRAMEWORKS

Moderator: Dr. Péter Merza, Director, Pannon EGTC.

Overview of the European Labour Mobility and Social Protection Agenda

Prof. Dr. Mario Vinković, Full Professor of the Faculty of Law, J.J.Strossmayer University of Osijek, Associate Professor Anton Petričević, PhD, J.J.Strossmayer University of Osijek

European Labour Authority in Action: The EURES Model, its Impact and Potential for the Western Balkans

Robert Komaromi, EURES, European Labour Authority

Bridge for EU and Its Potential Importance for Cross-Border Labour Markets

Nikoletta Horváth, Head of Department, Department of Cross-Border Interreg Programs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Legal Harmonisation Challenges in the Western Balkans

Naida Nišić, Minister, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Dialogue of Montenegro

ESAP: Employment and Social Affairs Platform

Ratka Babić, Team Leader, Regional Cooperation Council

Q&A

13:00–14:00 Buffet Lunch

14:00-15:00 CROSS-BORDER LABOUR MOBILITY IN ACTION

Moderator: Ricardo Ferreira, Border Focal Point Coordinator, European Commission's DG REGIO

From Movement to Management: Labour Migration Between Bosnia and Croatia – the Need for Cross-Border Labour Markets

Prof. Dr. Adnan Efendić, Professor, Head of the Department of

*Economic Theory and Policy, School of Economics and Business,
University of Sarajevo*

**Cross-Border Labour Mobility in Western Romania/Hungary/Serbia-
Visioning a Three-State Region of Growth**

Adrian Luput, Public Manager, Timis County Council

**Developing Healthcare Access for Cross-Border Labour Markets- the
Case of DKMT Health Insurance Card (*b-solutions* case)**

Eszter Csókási, Director, DKMT Euroregion

**Importance of Transport Infrastructure for the Development of the
Herzegovina Region**

*Ivica Sivrić, Executive Director of the Regional Development Agency for
Herzegovina*

Q&A

15:00–16:00

**STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GOVERNANCE FOR
INTEGRATION AND GROWTH IN THE WESTERN BALKANS**

Moderator: Ana Nikolov, AEBR Balkans Director

Plenary discussion: *Western Balkan Borderlands: building cross-
border capacities for territorial growth and development – opportunities,
experiences, perspectives, and journeys in European Integration*

Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General, Association of European
Border Regions – AEBR

Nikoletta Horváth, Head of Department, Department of Cross-Border
Interreg Programs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Dubravka Lacković Smole, *b-solutions* Expert, Partner, CROWE

Katalin Fekete, *b-solutions* Expert, Senior Legal Advisor, CESCO

Milena Pallotta, AEBR Interreg Volunteer Youth Project Team

Sanda Šimić, Regional Cooperation Advisor, National Alliance for Local
Economic Development - NALED

Q&A

16:00–16:15

Summary, Next Steps and Closing

*Moderator: Caitriona Mullan, AEBR b-solutions Adviser,
EU Cross Border Policy & Governance Specialist*

16.15 -17.30

Reception