



Call for conference papers and travel grants to take part in the X Annual AEBR Cross-Border School 28th October 2026 at Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland

The Association of European Border Regions, the Radboud University of Nijmegen, Netherlands & the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada present the

X AEBR Cross Border School

Led with Borders in Globalization_Lab (BIG_Lab) at the University of Victoria (British Columbia, Canada), the AEBR Annual Cross Border School is an international one-day research and policy/praxis conference that takes place as part of the AEBR Annual Events.

WHEN: 9.00 – 17.30, Wednesday, 28th October 2026

WHERE: Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) Campus, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland

The 2026 AEBR Annual Events, jointly hosted by AEBR and East Border Region Committee, will take place in the East Border Region of Ireland/Northern Ireland across various locations in Counties Monaghan, Armagh and Louth.

Call for Submissions and Information for Prospective Participants

1. Call for Conference Papers and Information on Themes:

Participants from all global regions are invited to submit proposals for original research or policy papers that are aligned with any or all of the themes of this year's X AEBR Cross-Border School, which are set out below. We welcome proposals for papers from *decision-* and *policy-makers* (i.e. senior public officials and elected decision-makers worldwide), managers of cross-border structures and cross-border development practitioners, and researchers/academics, including postgraduate research students, postdoctoral and early-career academics.

The AEBR Cross Border School in 2026 will focus on the following themes:

- **The role of border regions in fostering sustainability, well-being and human security**, with a particular focus on the **Water, Energy, and Food Ecosystems (WEFE)** connected to a cross-border context;

- **Border regions as enhanced trust environments**, with a particular focus on **deliberative democracy** and citizen engagement, **peace-building**, **post-conflict development cooperation**, and **intercultural competency**;
- **Cross-border cooperation governance in the context of sustainable development/transitions, optimised competitiveness, placemaking in transboundary functional areas, and multilateralism** – taking account of the continuum which characterises modes of cross-border cooperation as reaching from coordination, through cooperation, collaboration and towards cross-border forms of fiscal solidarity.

Within these themes, we also particularly welcome submissions which include a focus on the roles of women, minorities, and young people; climate action; and European (EU) Enlargement.

Certificates of participation can be provided to all speakers and attendees to document CPD.

Format of the X AEBR Cross Border School:

The format for the Cross-Border School will be:

- A series of moderated panel presentations and interactive discussions between academics and practitioners;
- Presentation and co-presentation plus poster sessions;
- Participant networking opportunities.

2. Travel Grants: Information and Eligibility

- The Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), together with the University of Victoria (Canada), offers a small number of discretionary travel grants for original research or policy papers to be presented at the AEBR Cross-Border School (CBS) on 28th October 2026 in Dundalk, Ireland.
- The purpose of the travel grant is to remove obstacles to participation where an applicant does not have access to other budgets to support their travel.
- Travel grants can help to cover the costs of travelling, accommodation for three nights, meals, and participation at the AEBR Cross-Border School and the AEBR Annual Conference.
- Participants wishing to be considered for a travel grant should clearly indicate this in the covering email for their submission to the call for proposals and indicate where they would be travelling from.

Eligibility:

- Places at the conference and travel grants are open to (1) *decision/policy makers* (i.e. senior officials and elected decision-makers worldwide) and managers of cross-border structures/cross-border practitioners, as well as to (2) researchers/academics (including postgraduate research students, postdoctoral and early career academics).

How to apply:

- **The basis for selection is an email application with 3 required attachments, including an extended abstract of your proposed paper or presentation (between 1000 and 2000 words) covering methodology, preliminary results and conclusion.**
- **All submissions must follow the format clearly set out in the submission checklist (below).**

- **SUBMISSION CHECKLIST: The application should include the following (mandatory components):**

1. In order for your proposal to be considered you are asked to submit a covering email and 3 attachments.

Covering email (required):

2. Your covering email should have the title of 'Abstract Submission- CB School 2026';
3. The body of your covering email should contain your Name, Surname, place of employment, title of your proposed paper/presentation, and a maximum 100-word summary of your proposal.
4. If you wish to be considered for a travel grant, you should also please also indicate this in the covering email.

3 Attachments to submit with your covering email (required):

5. Extended abstract of the paper you are proposing (no more than 1000-2000 words) covering methodology, preliminary results and conclusion.
6. Curriculum vitae
7. Maximum one-page letter of motivation explaining how you will benefit from this opportunity

Please send your application containing all elements of the checklist above info@aebr.eu with a covering email no later than 26th June, 2026.

Further details:

Grant recipients will be personally responsible for all travel and accommodation arrangements and expenditure, including visas, travel, insurance, home and personal commitments.

Contact: If you have any queries regarding eligibility or submission, please contact info@aebr.eu with the reference 'X Border School 2026' in the title of your email.

Information on the partner organisations to the AEBR X Border School:

About AEBR



Established in 1971, the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) is a lobby organisation representing the interests of the European border and cross-border regions at the European, national, and regional levels. AEBR is a key advocacy organisation that influences European policy through evidence, practice, and strategic partnerships to advance data-driven approaches. It is underpinned by its core principles of supporting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law for the betterment of citizens' lives in border regions, and by highlighting the role that

border regions play in driving the European Project towards optimal benefits for all. Today, AEBR has about 100 border and cross-border regions as its members, representing about 75% of the border areas within and on the external borders of the European Union. It implements, among other projects, [b-solutions](#) and [Interreg Volunteer Youth](#). For further details, visit www.aebr.eu.

About AEBR Cross-Border School

AEBR CB School was created to provide a nurturing environment in which academics and professionals are each other's peers, where they can share theirs and learn from each other's experiences in a more horizontal, interactive way. The aim of AEBR CB School is to provide relevant thinking material for curious professionals, helping them systematically reflect on their practice in cross-border cooperation and to provide feedback to researchers on their research outcomes and professional experiences. AEBR Border Schools have taken place in Cáceres (Extremadura, ES) in 2017, Oulu (Bothnian Arc, FI) in 2018, Dresden (Elbe-Labe Euroregion, DE) in 2019, online in 2020, Arnhem (Euregio Rhine-Waal, Gelderland, NL) in 2021, Szeged (DKMT Euroregion, HU) in 2022, Košice, Slovakia in 2023, Karlstad (Värmland, SE) in 2024, and Gorizia (Friuli-Venezia-Giulia) in 2025. In 2026, the East Border Region Committee, one of the longest-standing local government cross-border cooperation structures in Europe and a very active AEBR member for decades, will host our Annual Events. We are also delighted to work in partnership with the Dundalk Institute of Technology as our venue hosts, in particular, acknowledging their recent strategic association with Queen's University of Belfast.

Nijmegen School of Management (Radboud University)

Radboud University



For the last ten years, the Dutch University Guide has ranked Radboud University as one of the best general, traditional universities in the Netherlands. The Nijmegen School of Management is guided by its motto, 'co-creating knowledge for society'. This motto inspires new bridges between disciplines and researchers. It underlines the importance of the interaction of academia with organisations and society and by mobilising the disciplinary diversity presented by the breadth of the school and our work with our partners.

About BIG_Lab



[The Borders in Globalization](#) (BiG) research program at the Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, began in 2013 with seven years of generous funding from a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Partnership Grant. Over the years BIG_Lab contributed to 109 research papers published with DOI numbers. It hosted two international conferences, ten summer institutes, multiple policy forums

and roundtables. These knowledge transfer activities have brought together scholars and students with non-academic stakeholders and policymakers to conceptually and pragmatically understand how technologies, self-determination and regionalization around the world are affecting borders and borderlands. Since then, the partnership was extended with a new grant until 2027 – SSHRC/21st Century Borders, Erasmus+ / Jean Monnet Network, and a Jean Monnet Chair.

BiG's research examines the well-established concept that borders are primarily understood as sovereign territorial boundaries that emerge out of international treaties. We have found that more than ever before, border policies straddle sovereign boundary lines, and networked policies overlap many different jurisdictional scales, including, but not exclusively, the sovereign territories of states. Furthermore, our research has shown that contemporary borders in globalization are processes that, in many instances, are fundamentally linked to movements and flows around the world, not to territoriality as conventional wisdom dictates. We have collected evidence documenting how bordering policies and processes increasingly disregard the territorial limits of states, sometimes implementing borders thousands of kilometers away from their international boundary line.

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