



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

09:30–10:00 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 Óri

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

10.00-11.30 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 – (tbc)

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

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

Expert Dialogue on *b-solution* Employment Cases

- HU *b-solution* Expert of Pannon Case
- CRO *b-solution* Expert of Pannon Case
- LUX *b-solution* Expert
- *b-solution* Expert from the Balkans

11:30–12:00 Coffee break

12:00–13:00 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

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

Robert Komaromi, EURES, European Labour Authority (tbc)

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 (tbc)

EUSAIR Framework for Deepening Integration in the Labour Economy

North Macedonia -Presidency EUSAIR (tbc)

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 (tbc)

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

Boosting Regional Growth in the BiH Border Regions

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, AEHR Balkans Director

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

Professor Peter Balogh

Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary, b-solutions expert, B-Shapes EU Horizon 2030 project

Sanda Šimić,

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

Niall Sheerin,

Deputy Head of the Centre of Expertise for Multilevel Governance at the Council of Europe/Congress of Local & Regional Authorities

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

Christian Gsodam

European External Action Service: Advisor for Strategic Communications and Foresight (tbc)

Q&A

16:00–16:15

Summary, Next Steps and Closing

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

16.15 -17.30

Reception