



Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Grenzregionen (AGEG)
Asociación de Regiones Fronterizas Europeas (ARFE)
Association des régions frontalières européennes (ARFE)
Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
Comunità di lavoro delle regioni europee di confine (AGEG)
Europæiske grænseregioners Arbejdsfællesskab (AGEG)
Werkgemeinschaft van Europese grensgebieden (WVEG)
Associação das Regiões Fronteiriças Europeias (ARFE)
Σύνδεσμος Ευρωπαϊκών Συνοριακών Περιφερειών (ΣΕΣΠ)
Stowarzyszenie Europejskich Regionów Granicznych (SERG)
Ассоциация Европейских Приграничных Регионов (АЕПР)



Main Office
Projects' Office
AEBR Antenna in the EU
AEBR Info Centre in the Balkans
AEBR Info Centre in Ukraine

AGEG c/o EUREGIO
AEBR c/o WeWork
Office of Extremadura in Brussels
Institute for International and CBC
Univ. Simon Kuznets (KhNUE)

Enschede Str. 362
Neue Schönhauserstraße 3-5
Av. De Cortenbergh 87-89
Terazije 14/14
pr. Lenina, 9a

D-48599 Gronau (Germany)
D-10178 Berlin (Germany)
B-1000 Brussels (Belgium)
11000 Belgrade (Serbia)
61001 Kharkiv (Ukraine)

(v03/11/2020)

AEBR Cross-Border School, Executive Committee, General Assembly and Annual Conference 2020

From [Kloster Heidelberg](#) (KH), Eupen-Belgium / ONLINE

4-6 November 2020

Wednesday 4 November 2020

IV CROSS-BORDER SCHOOL (CBS) (Day 0)

The 4th edition of AEBR Cross-Border School will work around four themes:

- Cross-border regions in COVID times
- Cross-border spatial planning
- Cross-border Labour Market
- Cross-border culture

Bringing together cross-border cooperation academics and practitioners with the double aim of enhancing dialogue and mutual learning whilst increasing knowledge. Many stakeholders will contribute: the Universities of Victoria (Canada), Liège (Belgium), Kaiserslautern (Germany), Luxembourg, and Liberec (Czech Republic), as well as ITEM (the Netherlands) and other organisations. Various AEBR members will also take part, and we expect wide online participation. [Here](#) you can find a detailed programme.

The CB School will be held in English.

Thursday, 5 November 2020 (Day 1)

Simultaneous interpretation: EN, FR, DE, PL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Proposed sequence of events (time is expressed in CET: Central European Time):

10.00 – 10.10 **Opening and Welcome**

Oliver Paasch (host)

Ann-Sofi Backgren (AEBR President)

10.10 – 10.25 **Express ExCom meeting to explain decisions to be taken at the GA**

10.25 – 10.30 (five minutes break)

AEBR General Assembly 2020

- 10.30 – 12.00 Reporting, *Regularia*, Election, speech of the elected President, round of interventions by AEBR members)
(break for lunch)

AEBR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Interactive Working Session 1:

The future of Europe (from the perspective of border regions)

- 13.30 – 13.50 **Official opening and Welcome speeches by AEBR President and Oliver Paasch**, Minister-President of the German-speaking Community of Belgium
- 13.50 - 14.05 **Gunn Marit Helgesen**, Councillor of Telemark County (NO), President of the Chamber of Regions, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Council of Europe)
- 14.05 – 14.20 **n.n.**, REGI Committee, European Parliament: Role of the Parliament, Trilogue, state-of-the-art (**tbc**)
- 14.20 – 14.35 **Pascal Boijmans**, Head of Unit for Interreg and CBC at DG Regio, European Commission
- 14.35 – 14.50 **Wolfgang Petzold**, Deputy Director at the European Committee of the Regions, Role of regions and border regions in European development
- 14.50 – 15.15 Exchange with participants, and proposal of a structured debate afterwards through the Border Focal Point's forum in Futurium:
<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/border-regions/forum>
- 15.15 – 15.30 Sum-up, conclusions, and proposals for action.

(online) Cross-Border Award Sail of Papenburg 2020

Interactive Working Session 2:

Crises like COVID-19 and their impact in cross-border citizens

This crisis has shown how weak the situation across the internal borders of the EU could be when national governments decide to close the border. Recovery is thus harder in border regions. Therefore, the role of the EU is crucial to coordinate a growing variety of issues, also public services, where provisions and procedures might collide at the border. A lot of knowledge is produced on the ground, and there is a growing awareness at national level (and in a growing number of departments at EU institutions). Then, do we need a new narrative for cross-border areas?

Moderator: **Nathalie Verschelde**, Border Focal Point, DG Regio, European Commission

- 16.30 - 16.45 *First lessons learned: a study on COVID and borders*. Introduction to the session and presentation of the study by the moderator.
- 16.45 - 17.00 **Michael Dejozé**, EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine
- 17.00 - 17.10 *Borders' closure and cross border cooperation*: **Arola Urdangarin Ferreira**, EGTC Eurorégion Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre
- 17.10 – 17.30 Summary of comments included in the chat, questions and comments from the audience, brief reaction from the speakers.

- 17:30 – 17:45 *The point of view of citizens and patients: **Nicolas Decker / Jo Maas**, European Patients Empowerment for Customized Solutions- EPECS*
- 17.45 – 17.55 *Covid's impact on cultural operators in the border regions: **Julie Hanique**, General Council for Culture, Federation of Wallonia-Brussels*
- 17.55 - 18.10 *New summary of comments in the chat, a few comments from the audience, brief reaction from the speakers, and final remarks (sum-up and conclusions) by the moderator*

Friday, 6 November 2020 (Day 2)

The Future of AEBR

**Interactive Working Session III: A project-based organisation?
(b-solutions, Interreg Volunteer Youth, InterVentures, EUROsociAL, ...)**

Moderator: Martín Guillermo Ramírez, AEBR Secretary General

- 09.00 - 09.15 **Cinzia Dellagiacoma**, AEBR Team
- 09.15 - 09.30 **Ricardo Ferreira**, Border Focal Point, DG Regio, European Commission
- 09.30 – 09.40 **Io Chatzivaryti**, Euroregion Nestos-Mesta (GR-BG), Chamber of Drama
- 09.40 – 09.50 **Pablo Rivera Búa**, EGTC Chaves-Verín (PT-ES)
- 09.50 – 09.55 *Briefing on AEBR Latin American projects, **José María Cruz**, AEBR Global Initiative, Brussels*
- 09.55 - 10.20 Exchange with participants
- 10.20 – 10.30 Sum-up and conclusions
(break)

**Interactive Working Session IV: Communication and Networking
AEBR cooperation with European institutions and other strategic partners**

Moderator: Ann-Sofi Backgren, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia (FI)

- 11.00 – 11.05 Introduction by the moderator
- 11.05 – 11.15 **Andreas Kiefer**, Acting Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Council of Europe)
- 11.15 – 11.25 **Christian Gsodam**, Head of the Cabinet of the Secretary General, European Committee of the Regions
- 11.25 – 11.35 *Territorial Cooperation Instruments to strengthen cohesion in border regions, **Dirk Peters**, Senior Expert for European territorial cooperation, EGTC and ECBM at DG Regio, European Commission*
- 11.35 – 11.45 **Jean Peyrony**, Director of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)
- 11.45 – 12.05 Exchange with participants
- 12.05 – 12.15 Sum-up and conclusions
- 12.15 – 12.20 A brief look into **AEBR 50th Anniversary** in 2021 and presentation of the host of next General Assembly and Annual Conference: the **Province of Gelderland** (video)
- 12.20 – 12.30 Closing words by AEBR President