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**Application form “AEBR-Cross Border Award” 2004**

*Please fill the grey gaps and send us the application form via post, fax or e-mail!*

**“Creating together the future – successful cross-border concepts”**

**1. General subjects**

1.1 Applicant border/cross-border region:

EUREGIO (DT/NL), Enscheder Str. 362, 48599 Gronau, Germany

1.2 Who has invented the concept?

EUREGIO

1.3 Partners:

Contact:

140 regional and local members

1.4 Title of the concept: Cross-border spatial development concept

1.5 Period

a) of preparation: 1972/1985 (afterwards ongoing actualisation)/ 1998

b) of implementation (final/ planned): continuously (since 1972)

1.6 EU target area: no target 1 or target 2 area

1.7 Total cost:

Period 1990 till 1999 EUREGIO

Total cost: 105,5 Mill. €

INTERREG I share: 26,1 Mill. €

INTERREG II share: 65,0 Mill. €

EURES share: 2,62 Mill. €

Socio-cultural activities: 1,88 Mill. €

Other cost for EUREGIO activities: 10,00 Mill. €

Period 2000 till 2004 EUREGIO

Total cost: 103,07 Mill. €

INTERREG III share: 94,00 Mill. €

EURES share: 1,87 Mill. €

Socio-cultural activities: 1,00 Mill. €

Other cost for EUREGIO activities: 6,20 Mill. €

1.8 Financing scheme:

Period 1990 till 1999:

Own funds of EUREGIO and its regional partners 23,0 %

Public funds (national)	28,7 %
EU funds	48,3 %
Period 2000 till 2004:	
<b>Own funds of EUREGIO and its regional partners</b>	23,0 %
<b>Socio-cultural activities:</b>	
Own funds of EUREGIO	20,0 %
Public funds (national)	80,0 %
<b>INTERREG:</b>	
EU funds	50,0 %
Public funds (national)	30,0 %
<b>EURES:</b>	
EU funds	90,0 %

## 1.9 Connection to another programs

Just from the beginning EUREGIO worked strategically and conceptually in accordance with long-term cross-border action programmes, concepts etc., from which mid-term activity concepts for implementation were derived. National and European funds as well as respective programmes are instruments for implementation of own long- and mid-term concepts/ strategies:

- 1972: Cross-border regional action programme (for the first time in Europe);
- 1987: Cross-border regional development concept (based on the showcase concept of AEBR “with a broad socio-economical analysis of strengths and weaknesses”). This concept was the basis for pilot projects of the EU in EUREGIO 1988/89 and the INTERREG I programme;
- 1991, 1995, 2001: Forward projection of development programmes (INTERREG II builds up on 1995);
- 1998: Cross-border development perspective, on which Operational Programme INTERREG III for EUREGIO builds up;
- Development of main focus areas by regional workshops (identifying of prior measure areas and projects);
- Ongoing preparation/ estimation of future economical cross-border development in the region.

EUREGIO has always stressed the close connection of the implemented necessary sectoral programmes, measure areas and projects to the overall strategy of EUREGIO (for details see the enclosed annex). Furthermore, the connection to national plans and programmes is warranted (reciprocity).

## 2. Content of the concept

### 2.1 Concept goals:

The sustainable strategic development goals are as follows:

- regional and cross-border improvement of the economic force in the region and of the citizens' quality of life;
- promotion of cross-border integration.

### 2.2 Implementation (final of planned): e.g.

Sector specific cross-border concepts and programmes based on the overall EUREGIO strategy have been developed for more than 30 years in co-operation with all social partners on both sides of the border and with national instances. From these concepts and programmes concrete implemented measures and projects were derived: for example recycling programme, transit concept, tourism concept, innovation and technology programme, network of culture and media, socio-cultural activity concept (Mozer Commission and EURES, consumer consultancy etc.).

EUREGIO constitutes in this case a platform and driving force for co-operation and implementation. Only in few cases EUREGIO itself acted as project manager. Cross-border measures and projects deriving from concepts / programmes

are implemented by responsible social partners (chambers, unions, socio-cultural partners, tourism associations, municipalities, communities etc.). Exemplary Business Report is enclosed.

### 2.3 Measurable results (e.g. Quantity of created or secured jobs):

Exemplary data with regard to the period 2000-2004:

- Amount of finalised projects: 249
- Amount of cross-border projects: 569 (INTERREG 259, Mozer Commission 320)
- Amount of partners on both sides of the border: 1.683
- Amount of created or secured jobs: 2.193
- Amount of co-financed cross-border meetings: constantly ca. 100.000 people/ participants
- Amount of effected consultancies: 15970

Exemplary the respective data can be learnt from the Business Report.

### 2.4 Cross-border effects:

Just from the beginning the EUREGIO concentrated on cross-border activities. 1972 this work was professionalized through full-time managing directors and own funds as well as through the opening of a joint office 1985. The elaboration and implementation of programmes, concepts, measures and project represents always a cross-border objective. EUREGIO acts in this case on the principle that only projects with content related, organisational, personal and financial contribution of partners on both sides of the border can be supported. Furthermore, by the submission / implementation of an application, measure or project the verification of cross-border effects and sustainability is always required.

Thanks to the generally cross-border alignment of co-operation the meaning of the border diminished as it is just an administration border now, social partners on both sides of the border were mobilized, sound networks in all sectors were created, national semicircles in the economic co-operation and on the labour market were broken up as well as the economic force, the labour market and the labour supply experienced sustainable improvement. The conduct of citizens, administration and instances towards one another changed and the awareness for advantages of joint actions enhanced.

These cross-border effects of EUREGIO activities are integrated into respective national activities of regional and local authorities, provinces, districts etc. and strengthen these activities. Regular mentioning of EUREGIO activities in reports, programmes and concepts of the Dutch province authorities, German district administration and in development programmes of the municipalities can be seen as a proof, that this opinion is shared also by others.

The concept "The cross-border spatial development" had an substantial impact on cross-border spatial planning and regional policy (countercurrent principle with national plans and programmes).

## 3. European context:

### 3.1 Securing of the project sustainability due to:

The strategic alignment of EUREGIO work and of its partners means that not short-term but sustainable effect should be achieved. Therefore, in the implementation process the mid-/long-term "survivability" of the measures / project is stressed: in the case of INTERREG, in the economic field for example a degressive funding is applied. This leads to the rise of own regional funds by the project manager and secures, as follows, the sustainability of the projects.

Social partners (interregional partnership) and province authorities, district administration and national instances (external partnership) integrated within the scope of EUREGIO activities through numerous working groups in respective sectors have created a sustainable interregional basis that provides for sustainability of measures and projects.

The sustainability of these co-operation networks is guaranteed due to the full-time office of EUREGIO characterized by a sound quality management with cross-border alignment that warrants an ongoing support (from development through management till implementation) and ensures the coordination of all areas.

The cross-border structure of EUREGIO initiated 30 years ago served in general as a showcase for other Euroregions with similar structures in Europe. The peculiarity of EUREGIO is that it could always work independently with own member fees. National and EU funds constituted always just a supplement and not a component for the functioning of the cross-border structure, which includes following areas:

- EUREGIO Council ( as a democratically legitimized cross-border parliament),
- EUREGIO Secretariat (own personal financed by own funds, ca. 30 employees)
- INTERREG Secretariat (integrated into EUREGIO secretariat)
- EURES (with own personal, integrated into EUREGIO secretariat)
- Border commuter and customer consultancy (integrated into EUREGIO Secretariat)
- Mozer Commission (with own employees, integrated into EUREGIO Secretariat)
- EUREGIO working groups (9).

3.2 European added value:

The strategic and generally cross-border working method of EUREGIO had a substantial impact on the developments on European level (for example INTERREG programmes) as well as on the initiation of other cross-border structures in the EU. EUREGIO isn't just a focal point, contact and consultancy office for all citizens and instances within and beyond the region in cross-border questions, but through its working method EUREGIO contributed substantially to the, in fact very advanced, European integration on the German-Dutch border and to the improvement of mutual understanding and trust perceived in the last decades: The added value of this co-operation is thus clear in the European, political, institutional, economical and socio-cultural context.

4. Other informations:

See the flyer.

5. For the description of the project please find attached further annexes (max. 5) :        yes

Which?

- a) Cross-border development perspective from 1998
- b) Tourism concept as example for a sectoral mid-term strategy integrated into the overall strategy (will be submitted later)
- c) Business Report 2002 (will be submitted later)
- d)
- e)

19.08.2004

Krebs (Executive Director)

Date

Signature

(by an E-Mail please write the name and the contact address!)