



Association of European Border Regions:

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Application form "AEBR-Cross Border Award" 2008

Deadline: 15 July 2008

Please, fill in the grey gaps and return this form by e-mail!

**"Cooperation in Research and Teaching across Borders –
the Chance of Regional Development for European Neighbours"**

1. General information

1.1 Applicant border / cross-border region:

Euro región Galicia (ES)-Norte de Portugal (PT)

1.2 Title of the cross-border cooperation measure* [project(s), programme(s)]:

Service od Studies of Eixo Atlântico

1.3 Period:

2007 onwards

1.4 Project initiator:

General Secretary of Eixo Atlântico

Contact:

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1.5 Partners:

Municipalities of Barcelos, Braga, Bragança, Chaves, Famalicao, Guimarães, Lamego, Macedo dos Cavaleiros, Matosinhos, Mirandela, Penafiel, Peso da Régua, Porto, Viana do Castelo, Vila do Conde, Vilanova de Gaia, Vila Real

Contact:

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Municipalities of A Coruña, Barco de Valdeorras, Carballiño, Carballo, Ferrol, Lalín, Lugo, Monforte de Lemos, Ourense, Pontevedra, Ribeira, Santiago de Compostela, Sarria, Verín, Vigo, Vilagarcía de Arousa, Viveiro

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1.6 Financing of the cross-border cooperation measure (e.g. INTERREG):

INTERREG IIIA

1.7 Links to other projects, measures and/or programmes (only if applicable):

The Service of Studies constitutes itself as a transversal instrument of all the programs developed by Eixo Atlântico as much as a Think Tank of Eixo. In a very close and particular way has been direct relation with the programs: II Strategic Studies; Map of Infrastructures and intermodality of the Euro region; *Sistema de Información Urbana Territorial del Eixo Atlântico* (SIUTEA) – Urban Territorial Information Systems; Governability and modernisation of local administration; Strategic Agenda of the Euro City Chaves-Verín. In the programme of the next biennium it can draw attention to: Urban Ecology Agency of Eixo Atlântico; Strategies of mobility and transport of Eixo Atlântico; Endogenous Development and new governability in territories of low density.

2. Contents

2.1 Objectives of the cross-border cooperation measure:

1. To do the bi-annual planning of the studies to develop;
2. To form the research teams of experts of the regions for the development of the studies;
3. To diagnosis the SWOT analysis of the different sectors of interest of the cross-border urban system of the Euro Region;

4. To propose strategies and concrete actions to local actors, being public or private, in order to optimise the strengths, take advantage of the opportunities, to surpass the weaknesses and to reduce the threats identified;
5. To advise local authorities in relevant cross-border issues.

2.2 Organisational structure and activities to implement the objectives (e.g. joint secretariat, contract etc.):

The organisational structure of the Service of Studies is:

- **Direction** : Prof. Luis Domínguez Castro (Jean Monnet Chair, Universidad de Vigo, UVIGO)
- **Working Groups**:
 - **Environment** - Prof. Luís Ramos (University of Trás-Os-Montes e o Alto Douro, UTAD) and Prof. Gonzalo Méndez (University of Vigo, UVIGO).
 - **Energy**.- Prof. Xavier Labandeira (University of Vigo), Prof. Eduardo Oliveira Fernandes (University of Porto, UPORTO) and Prof. Gonzalo Molina (University of País Vasco).
 - **Transports**.- Prof. Miguel Bugarín (University of A Coruña, UDC), Prof. António Pérez Babo (UPORTO) and Prof. João Marrana (University Portucalense).
 - **Territorial Management** - Prof. Xosé Manuel Souto (Universidty of Valencia, UV) and Prof. Raúl Marqués (University of Lisbon, UL).
 - **Tourism** - Prof. Xulio Pardellas (UVIGO), Prof. Cláudia Simões (University of Minho, UMINHO) and José Antonio Campesino (University of Extremadura).
 - **Urban Planing** - Prof. Martín Fernández Prado (UDC) and Prof. António Figueiredo (UPORTO).
 - **Endogenous Development** - Prof. Alberto Baptista (UTAD) and Prof. Melchor Fernández (Universty of Santiago, USC).
 - **ID+ and Territory** - Prof. José Manuel García Vázquez (UVIGO) and Prof. José Cadima (UMINHO).
 - **Innovation and SME's** - Prof. Pedro Figueroa (UVIGO) and Prof. Artur Costa (UPORTO).
 - **Culture, Youth and Creative Industries** - Prof. Xan Bouzada (UVIGO) and Prof. João Teixeira Lopes (UPORTO).
 - **Modernisation of the Administration** - Prof. Joaquim Filipe Araújo (UMINHO) and Prof. Enrique Varela (UVIGO).
 - **Education and training** - Prof. Ana Paula Marques (UMINHO) and Prof. José Antonio Caride (USC)
 - **Structural Funds** - Prof. Manuel Castro Cotón (USC) and Prof. Artur Cristovão (UTAD)

Advisory Council:

- Luis Valente de Oliveira (former Secretary of State of Portuguese Government, former President of the Northern Regional Administration of Portugal and of CRPM).
- Fernando González Laxe (former President of the Regional Government of Galicia, former Senator of the Kingdom of Spain and member of the Parliament of the Council of Europe).
- Luís Braga da Cruz (former Secretary of State of Portuguese Government and former President of the Northern Regional Administration of Portugal)
- Manuel Pérez Pérez (former Secretary of State of the Regional Government of Galicia and former Deputy of European Parliament).
- Arlindo Cunha (former Secretary of State of Portuguese Government, former President of the Northern Regional Administration of Portugal and former Deputy of European Parliament)

2.3 How far has the cooperation measure been implemented?

The Services of Studies is completely operational and some of its main works can be seen on the website of Eixo Atlântico: www.eixoatlantico.com in its own section - Service of Publications - http://www.eixoatlantico.com/servicio_estudios.php, that depends organically from the Service of Studies. Special interest have the works of the Library of Strategic Studies.



Annexe to the application form

The Service of Studies of Eixo Atlântico

The genesis of the current Service of Studies of the Eixo the Atlantic Ocean is almost as old as the organization itself. In effect, one of the first programs started on the following year of the foundation of Eixo and consisted on making a well documented strategic study, entrusted to teachers of the universities of Porto and Santiago de Compostela who, presented in 1996, that emphasized the enormous importance that infrastructures of terrestrial communication, mainly highways, and of energy, centred on the distribution networks of the African gas, had on the future of the Euro region Galicia-north of Portugal. Since then, a team of informal collaborators has been working together producing very positive results. Two of them, in particular, ought to be highlighted. First of all, the Map of Infrastructures of the Euro region, centred on the highways, that served as a model accepted by the national governments of Lisbon and Madrid and by the regional one of Santiago de Compostela, and that has been endorsed by the, at the time, vice-president and commissioner of transports of the European Union, Loyola of Palace (2000). Secondly, an ambitious second edition of the strategic studies, that incorporated investigators of six public universities of the Euro region and out-standing experts of other Spanish and Portuguese academic centres, was articulated concerning the territorial management, the economic enhancement and the potentialities of the socio-cultural capital (2005). This experience has been extended for the development of the “Strategic Agenda: Seven Ideas for Seven Decisive Years”, that can be seen, in his version in English, on the web page of the Eixo: www.eixoatlantico.com.

The experience of these II Strategic Studies led Eixo to be the driving and principal force of the Centre of Euro regional’s Studies Galicia-North of Portugal, in collaboration with six public universities and the governments and regional administrations of the territory. Nevertheless, this structure soon became extremely bureaucratized, having lost the dynamism Eixo needed. Conscious that the future of Europe passes by the capitalization of the enormous potential of education, creativity and innovation of its academic centres into its canalization towards the productive and institutional sectors, the Executive Commission of the Eixo decides to articulate efforts with the different teams of social researchers, who had worked for the organization, for the creation of the Service of Studies (2007). The philosophy is clear:

- 1) The best connoisseurs of the territory’s reality, its needs and its potential are in its universities. It is advisable to give them opportunities to work to improve the attraction of their urban system in order to increase its growth and employment.
- 2) The cross-border cooperation is only prolific when it settles in the principle of partnership. Therefore, all the research teams sponsored by the Service of Studies are formed by persons of two sides of the territory: Galicia and North of Portugal.

- 3) The university experts are at the heart of the Service of Studies, but according to Eixo's philosophy it is essential to make use of the capital of experience and knowledge accumulated by those professionals who have managed the public thing with brilliance, belonging or not to the academic world. The members of the Advisory Council are not only a committee of experts but they also integrate the teams of research.
- 4) The direction of the Service prepares semi-annual programming, together with the chiefs of the 13 working groups (also respecting the territorial cross-border parity) for its approval by the Executive Commission. For the two-year period 2008-2009 are planned three main axes of performance: coastal / interior territorial balance with special attention to the territories of low density; strategy of mobility and transports of the Euro region; potentialities of the creative industries.

The results of the works of the Service of Studies, that can be seen in their original version in Portuguese, Spanish and Galician on the web page of the Eixo Atlântico, begin to have a projection beyond the organization. This way, the Group of Work of the Euro-city Chaves-Verin, formed by representatives of the Portuguese and Galician governments, together with the local implied administrations, entrusted his Strategic Study to Eixo. The Grouping of Municipalities of Galicia Central, an interesting affiliation of municipalities that claims to foster the interior of the territory, has just requested a study on its future possibilities to the Service of Studies. Finally, the Institute of Finance for the Regional Development of the Portuguese government has entrusted us the coordination of a study on the "Cross-border cooperation Portugal – Spain, from 1990 until 2006", analyzing the capillary configuration of the cooperation structures that has been created and their social and economic impact. Currently, there are seven research teams working at the Service of Studies that encompass subjects such education, tourism, strategic planning, modernization of public administration, transports, territorial competitiveness and cross-border cooperation.