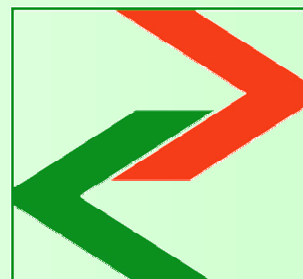


Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Grenzregionen (AGEG)
 Asociación de Regiones Fronterizas Europeas (ARFE)
 Association des régions frontalières européennes (ARFE)
 Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
 Comunità di lavoro delle regioni europee di confine (AGEG)
 Europæiske grænseregioners Arbejdsfællesskab (AGEG)
 Werkgemeenschap 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)



AEBR Newsflash - September 2010

AEBR GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

“Territorial Cohesion in a Post-Crisis Scenario. Contribution of Cross-Border Cooperation”.

The current debate on the future European cohesion policy will achieve its critical moment with the publication of the Fifth Cohesion Report, the revision of the Financial Perspectives and the debates on the EU2020 Strategy, while there is a need to keep a territorial approach towards the cohesion of all European territories.

There are profound global challenges affecting most of European regions too, as climate change, demographic change or energy supply. Moreover, a strong economic and financial crisis has challenged us even more leading to enormous difficulties regarding the continuation of infrastructure projects, affecting labour markets and having, in any case, a strong impact in the development perspectives for most of European regions. All of this is particularly worrying for those territories carrying specific handicaps, as it is the case of border areas, peripheral or mountainous, rural or urban.

The AEBR has already elaborated concrete proposals for the future European Cohesion and has discussed these proposals intensively with the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the European Parliament, and other European regional associations. We have also addressed many private and public partners affected and or interested in a set of challenges that somehow involve all European citizens. In this context, we would like to discuss this scenario during our Annual Conference in Ireland with representatives from all over Europe.

In this year's General Assembly, AEBR members will not only decide on technical and financial items, but also elect a new Executive Committee. Current AEBR President Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Minister President of the German-Speaking Community of Belgium, confirmed his will to run again for Presidency. He is convinced “that, also 40 years after the foundation of AEBR, further milestones can be reached for cross-border cooperation in Europe by joining our efforts.”

All in all, 46 nominations have been received so far, most of them for members of the current team, but also new candidates have been nominated from the Russian/Ukrainian border.

If you have not yet registered, you are kindly invited to do so as soon as possible (information and registration forms: www.aebr.eu)!

(Logo / Map
 provided by East
 Border Region)



The Annual Conference of AEBR will take place in Dundalk, East Border Region (Republic of Ireland) from 21st to 23rd October 2010.

European institutions and border regions have been invited to set stands with presentations and informative material.



LAUNCHING OF THE NEW AEBR WEBSITE!

On the occasion of the AEBR Executive Committee meeting in Udine, Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, the new AEBR website will be launched.

It offers more tools for AEBR members: spreading information about events, news, and projects in the member regions, fora for different groups (members, Executive Committee, Task Forces, Guests). By clicking on a Euroregion/border area in the Interactive map, a separate page opens with the contact details of the selected area, map, news and events.

For the first time, also the CVs of the AEBR Executive members are available, which means that there is some more transparency not only for our members, but also for the public.

Task Forces have separate areas for news and information about events and activities.

From 1 January 2010 - 15 September 2010, all in all 26.798 visitors accessed the old AEBR website (with a total of 531.271 hits). We hope to increase this number!

All our member regions are invited to apply for a password

and to fill and update their section regularly, thus helping us to keep the new AEBR website up-to-date!

As it has been the case in the past, the new website will also be trilingual: English, French, and German. It is planned to launch the German and French parts of the Website during the AEBR General Assembly and Annual Conference in Dundalk October 2010.

www.aebr.eu - a new website to be visited regularly for latest news on cross-border cooperation!

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CARPATHIANS AND OTHER MOUNTAIN REGIONS OF EUROPE", Uzhgorod, 8-10 September 2010

180 representatives from 18 countries attended this conference, which was organised under the patronage of the President of Ukraine and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

AEBR Secretary General Martín Guillermo Ramírez was invited to give two speeches in the meeting of the leaders of the Carpathian regions and in the opening session.

The English version of the press release is available on the AEBR website (www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=24). A photo gallery of this event is available on www.zak-rada.gov.ua/gallery.php?album=17.

XX Economic Forum in Krynica/Poland

The XX Economic Forum was held from 8 to 10 September 2010 in Krynica/Poland. AEBR Secretary General Martín Guillermo Ramírez took part in the discussion panes held on September 10.

Together with highranking politicians, he discussed about "Regional Policy and the Knowledge Economy", concentrating on the following main issues:

Knowledge-based economy (KBE) – European perspective: what's next with the Lisbon Strategy? Who is responsible for KBE policy? Is encouraging innovation in its present form sufficient to shape KBE?

KBE – Polish perspective: who is responsible for the development and implementation of KBE? Does the National Strategy of Regional Development NSRR create opportunities for shaping KBE?

KBE – regional perspective: the position of KBE in the strategy of regional development; forms of commercialisation of research results, their effectiveness in KBE building and proposed changes. Metropolises vs. KBE: the role of cities in KBE shaping and interactions between metropolises and regions.

All information about this forum is available on www.economic-forum.pl.



OPEN DAYS 2010



8th European Week of Regions and Cities

Brussels 4 - 7 October 2010

AEBR is actively involved in the Open Days 2010.

AEBR President Karl-Heinz Lambertz speaks in Workshop 06B37 "EGTC – Towards the revision of the legislative framework" (taking place on 6 October 2010). The aim of the workshop is to present the conclusions of the Joint Consultation on EGTC that was launched last 3 May in Cáceres, Spain, by the CoR,

the Trio of Presidencies, the European Commission and Interact. During the workshop, the EGTC network will be officially presented. This network will involve involving the existing EGTCs and the EGTCs under construction, and also members of the existing expert group and other stakeholders.

AEBR Secretary General Martín Guillermo Ramírez is one of the speakers in workshop 06B42 "**Cross-border cooperation and regional innovation systems in Latin America: contribution to the regional integration process**" (taking place on 6 October 2010 as well). The workshop will present the main results of two studies conducted by DG REGIO on cross-border cooperation and regional innovation systems in Latin America.

The studies provide key findings and good practices in some selected regions in Latin America, through the development of case studies underlying, on the one hand, the place-based dimension of innovation and, on the other hand, the main challenges faced by Latin American border regions to develop an effective cross-border cooperation. The presentations will focus on identifying lessons learned and obstacles identified as well as the relevance of international and European experiences to overcome those obstacles.

Another interesting workshop is organised by EURISY on '**Tackling socio-economic disparities using satellite information and services**' (05.10.2010, Code 05A32).

LAUNCHING OF PLATFORMA WEBSITE

The website of **PLATFORMA - The European voice of Local and Regional authorities for development** - is now launched and available following this link:

www.platforma-dev.eu.

This website presents the activities PLATFORMA has realised since its creation, particularly through its conferences and position papers.



AEBR is a founding member.

CoR News

EU budget review

CoR urges Belgian Presidency to defend regional and local interests and to protect front-line services (www.cor.europa.eu/pages/PressTemplate.aspx?view=detail&id=34eac7b8-e250-40db-b993-3d6cb299969c).

AEBR President Karl-Heinz Lambertz will participate in the **Round Table "The 5th Cohesion Report: First reactions from regional and local stakeholders"**, organised by the CoR COTER commission on 16 November 2010 in Brussels.

Regions and cities join forces to promote lifelong training

Information about the conference.

The Committee of the Regions is also currently preparing an opinion on the subject: **Robert Bright** (UK/PES), Member of Newport City Council, is drafting proposals on how to boost European cooperation in vocational education and training to support the Europe 2020 strategy (www.cor.europa.eu/pages/PressTemplate.aspx?view=detail&id=f24872ca-0528-4234-b5a6-1698badb70cc).

Atlas of Decentralised Cooperation for development online

The CoR opened the 'Atlas of Decentralised Cooperation for Development'. You can find it in www.cor.europa.eu/atlas. You are

invited to register in this website and to declare your cooperation projects and activities. Questions can be addressed to LRA4DEV@cor.europa.eu.

Mr. Alberto Núñez Feijóo is the CoR rapporteur on '**New Perspectives for the Revision of the EGTC Regulation**'. Several meetings and consultations have taken place to contribute to this. AEBR's statement on this report as well as our contribution to the consultation on EGTC can be found on www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=23.



EVENTS OF EU INSTITUTIONS

- 8 September 2010, Brussels: **ESPON Info Day on New Calls and Partner Café**. For more information and to register, please visit the [ESPON website](#). Deadline for registration: 26 August 2010 at 15.00h. Seats are limited, offered on a first come, first served basis.
- 9 September 2010, 15.30-17.00, Brussels: **Consultation** at the Committee of the Regions on “**A new impetus for European cooperation in Vocational Education and Training to support the Europe 2020 Strategy**”.
- 13 September 2010, 13.00-15.30, Brussels: Workshop “**TRANSPARENCY FOR REGIONAL POLICY**”. Venue: European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels. Hosted by MEP Michail Tremopoulos, Vice-Chair of the Committee of Regional Development ([contact for more infos](#)).
- 13 September 2010, Strasbourg: **Congress Working Group on Inter-regional Co-operation**
- 15 September 2010, 15.00-18.30, Brussels: EPP Public Hearing “**European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation: The first four years**”, more information: www.eppgroup.eu/press/peve10/eve031pro_en.asp
- 16 September 2010, Brussels: **eHealth Strategies in European countries – Validation Workshop**. More information: www.ehealth-strategies.eu
- 16-22 September 2010: **European Mobility Week**. More: <http://europa.eu/eucalendar/event/id/2959-european-mobility-week/mode/window>
- 21 September 2010, Brussels: **Meeting of the Secretaries General of the CoR, the Congress and the European Associations**
- 26 September 2010: **EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES**. More info: www.edl.ecml.at.
- 28 - 29 September 2010, Namur (BE): **Territorial Cohesion in Practice: The Contribution of the EU Transport Policy** - 1st Territorial Agenda Annual Conference. More info:
- 30 September - 1 October 2010, Brussels: VII High Level Meeting on Local Governance “Efficiency and good governance”, organised by the Belgian Presidency (www.eutrio.be)
- 30 September - 1 October 2010, Tournai (BE): Conference on European Territorial Cooperation, organised by the Belgian Presidency (www.eutrio.be)
- 4 - 7 October 2010, Brussels: **OPEN DAYS 2010**. [Register now!](#)
- 6 October 2010, 15.00-18.00, Brussels: **Euranet pan-European debate “Economic Recovery: A Challenge for Europe”**. Venue: European Parliament, Bât. ASP. More information: www.euranet.eu
- 6 October 2010, Brussels: special event during the Open Days titled “**Promoting Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth: a challenge for all Europe’s regions**”, www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2010/reg_frame.cfm?nmenu=500, code 06E03.
- 6-8 October 2010: **Wroclaw Global Forum** (www.wgf2010.eu)
- 28-29 October 2010, Kosice (SK): **European Border Dialogues conference** (info@isd-network.org)
- 16 November 2010, 15.00 Uhr, Committee of the Regions: **Round Table The 5th Cohesion Report: First reactions from regional and local stakeholders**
- 29 November – 4 December 2010, Marseille: **4th Mediterranean Economic Week „Building sustainable economic projects together”**. More information: www.mediterraneaneconomicweek.com
- 1-3 December 2010: **International Product Safety Week 2010**, www.ec.europa.eu/consumers/events/international_product_safety_week_en.htm



NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION

Council adopts its position on patient's rights in cross-border healthcare: www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/116482.pdf

Europe made easyHelp and advice on your life, work and travel in the EU

Site for European citizens to get to know your rights and to find practical tips to help you move around the EU. Find out all about rights and requirements for EU nationals and their families staying in another EU country, and about your travelling rights in the EU. The multilingual practical information and online government services for companies looking for business in another country are provided jointly by the European Commission and national authorities: www.ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/index_en.htm

Commission welcomes OECD report underlining high return on investment in education:

www.europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1093&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Read the 350 contributions to the Green Paper "Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries": www.ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news2802_en.htm

Europe's seas: Commission sets out criteria for good environmental status: www.europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1084&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

European Commission calls for saving time and money in cross-border legal disputes through mediation: www.europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1060&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

EU interim forecast: Recovery progressing in an uncertain global environment: www.europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1111&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Have your say on the future EU biodiversity strategy! Public Consultation open until 22 October 2010: www.ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/biodecline.htm

Public consultation on next-generation EU programmes – education, training and youth policy, deadline: 30 November 2010: www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/index_en.html

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

State of the (E)Union: The Europe of today and tomorrow debated in the EP: www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus_page/008-80686-195-07-29-901-20100714FCS78876-14-07-2010-2010/default_p001c006_en.htm

Newsletter - 6-9 September - Strasbourg plenary session: www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus_page/008-80686-195-07-29-901-20100714FCS78876-14-07-2010-2010/default_p001c001_en.htm

Moving forward with European Mobility Week: www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/062-81947-253-09-37-910-20100910STO81936-2010-10-09-2010/default_en.htm

MEPs support a "European public sphere" for communicating issues: www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/039-81059-245-09-36-906-20100902STO81053-2010-02-09-2010/default_en.htm



EVENTS, NEWS AND PRESENTATIONS OF AEBR MEMBER REGIONS

- 15 September 2010 – **Project Europa. EU investments in Catalonia.** For information please contact [delegacio ue activitats.presidencia@gencat.cat](mailto:delegacio_ue_activitats.presidencia@gencat.cat)
- 7- 8 October 2010, Lviv-Truskavets: **X International Economic Forum „Cross-Border Cooperation. Looking into the Future“.** The aim of the forum is to present new economic initiatives in the field of international cross-border cooperation and to discuss problems and prospects of regional development and cross-border cooperation. The main topics that will be discussed during the forum are: new economic policy, competitiveness and innovation, regional development and strategic infrastructure projects. More information and registration: www.lvivforum.com.ua
- 18 - 19 November 2010: **SCULTBORD kick off meeting**
- 24 - 26 November 2010, Vitoria-Gasteiz (Basque Country): **I European Congress on Proximity, Participation and Citizenship.** A Congress that will address the needs of policy makers and experts, social agents and academia, in the fields of public policies, sustainable territorial development, culture, social welfare and public participation. More information: www.coepcongress.com
- **Euregio Rhein-Waal** is collecting information, press articles, and photos for the publication of the bilingual (German/Dutch) magazine INTERREG IV A Deutschland-Nederland. More information: www.deutschland-nederland.eu



The EUREGIO EGRENSIS on the German-Czech border was founded in the year 1993.

It involves three legally independent working communities: EUREGIO EGRENSIS Working Community of Bavaria, EUREGIO EGRENSIS Working Community of Saxonia / Thuringia and EUREGIO EGRENSIS Working Community of Bohemia.

In 1995, EUREGIO EGRENSIS became a member of AEBR (Region no. 43 on the AEBR map "Cross-Border Cooperation Areas 2007").

Read more about this region in the presentation available for download in English and German: www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=30br.eu.

MAIN AEBR EVENTS 2010

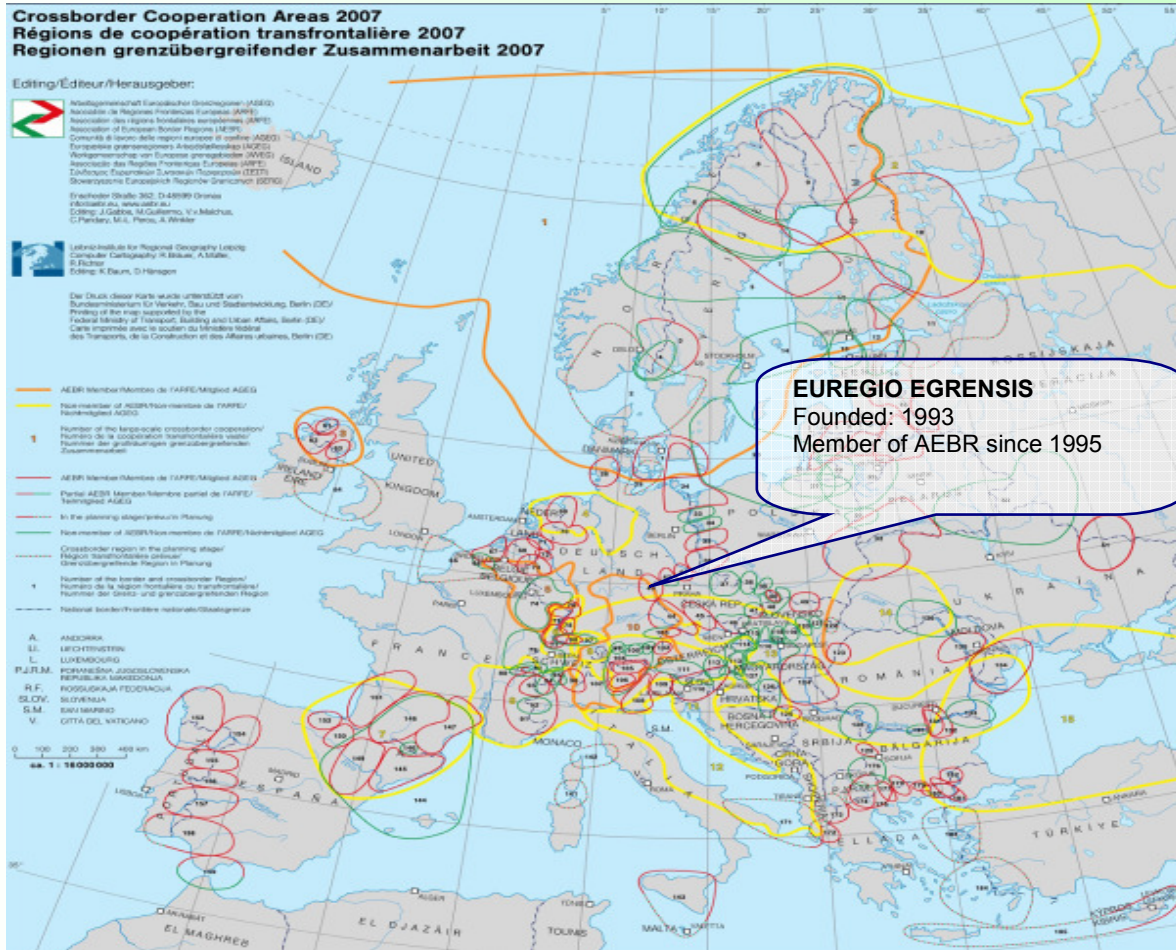
16 September 2010, AEBR Forum "Languages and European Integration - the Role of Border Regions" (Udine, Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, IT)

17-18 September 2010, AEBR Executive Committee in Udine (Friuli-Venezia Giulia, IT)

4-7 October, activities during the Open Days 2010

20 October 2010: Kick-Off Meeting ULYSSES

21-23 October 2010: AEBR Executive Committee, General Assembly and Annual Conference, Dundalk-Newry (Ireland-Northern Ireland).



Editor of the AEBR Newsflash:
 Martín Guillermo-Ramírez,
 AEBR Secretary General
 Coordination:
 Cordula Pandary, AEBR Office Coordinator
 AEBR – AGEG – ARFE
 Enscheder Str. 362
 D-48599 Gronau (Germany)
 Tel.: +49 (0)2562 70219
 Fax: +49 (0)2562 70259
info@aebr.eu
www.aebr.eu

- In the October edition:**
- Seminar „Languages and border’s - Report
 - AEBR Executive Committee meeting Udine - Main results
 - Latest News about the AEBR Annual Conference in Dundalk
 - Up-to-date news from our member regions

The “Association of European Border Regions” (AEBR) is the oldest independent association of regions in Europe, founded in 1971, and the only one dealing with Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC). AEBR has almost forty years of extensive theoretical and practical experience in all aspects related to CBC, but also in the fields of inter-regional and transnational co-operation.

With one hundred members (European border and cross-border regions), the AEBR is a forum for cross-border cooperation and makes the voice of the border and cross-border regions heard at European level.

The AEBR Newsflash is sent to everyone on the AEBR “members and friends” e-mail list. If you have friends or colleagues who would like to be added to the mailing list, please send their details to the [AEBR Head Office](mailto:AEBR@HeadOffice).

Please think twice before printing this Newsletter. Perhaps you can enjoy and share it by electronic means! A PDF version of this newsflash is available for download from our website (www.aebr.eu).

Euroregions, border and cross-border regions or organisations, which would like to receive information about the conditions of an AEBR membership, are invited to contact the [AEBR Head Office](mailto:AEBR@HeadOffice).