



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)



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Thursday, 25th February 2016

Forum of border and cross-border regions, Austria-Germany-Liechtenstein-Switzerland

Venue: Konstanz, Bodensee

A meeting between cross-border cooperation structures and authorities from border regions in the area between Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein and Switzerland to deal with:

- Challenges and opportunities for cross-border cooperation (CBC) in the Alpine Area (with a focus to AT/CH/DE/LI).
- Other obstacles for CBC from the legal and administrative point of view.
- Overview of current challenges for CBC in Europe: implementation of new programs 2014-2020 in a new time for border regions: refugees, new vision on Schengen, Swiss-EU relationship.
- Possible solutions and future perspectives through lobbying and networking. The role of the AEBR.

Programme

12.00-13.00 Reception

13.00-15.00 Session 1: *Opening and Overview of CBC in the Alpine area with a focus on the Swiss-German-Austrian-Liechtenstein area*

Ann-Sofi Backgren, 1st Vice-President of the AEBR, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia (FI)

Klaus-Dieter Schnell, Secretary General, Internationale Bodensee Konferenz

Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General, AEBR

Florian Schmid, Director, Society for the Promotion of Cross-Border Cooperation (GFGZ)

Manuel Friesecke, Director, Regio Basiliensis

Participants coming from the Land Baden-Württemberg, German districts, the Swiss Government, several Swiss border cantons, regional governments in Austria, cross-border structures in the region, including Liechtenstein, etc. are invited to react to the presentations, show their views about current challenges, and any other issue they consider relevant to the discussion.

15.00 - 15.30 Coffee break and Networking

15.30 - 17.15 Session 2: *Current Challenges for CBC in Europe and the Role of the AEBR.*

Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General AEBR, General presentation AEBR

Peter Hansen, Euregio Sonderjylland-Schleswig, AEBR Task Force CB Labour Market

Rudolf Godesar, AEBR Task Force Cross-Border Culture (T4CBC)

Johannes Moisis, Task Force External Borders (TFEB)

Peter Hansen, Euregio Sonderjylland-Schleswig, German Grouping in the AEBR

Kaspar Sammer, Euregio Bayerischer Wald-Bohmerwald, Unterer Inn

Hans-Martin Tschudi, jurist and politician, former member of the Government of the Canton Basel-Stadt and representative in various international organizations, Member of the AEBR Advisory Committee

AEBR members and all participants are invited to open a discussion about main issues arouse.

17.15 - 17.30 Summary and closing: **Jens Gabbe**, Chairman of the AEBR Advisory Committee