

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)
 Werkgeenschap 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 No. 21 OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2011

In this edition:

Page 1: OPEN DAYS 2011 - Next Cohesion Policy - The Crisis

Page 2: Regions and Cities Summit in St. Pölten- News from the AEBR President - ScultBord - European Charter for Border and Cross Border Regions - Follow us in Twitter - Facebook - LinkedIn

Page 3: AEBR Missions - CB Health - Eastern Partnership - CORLEAP

Page 4: More news

Page 5: Events in the EU

Page 6: News from European Institutions

Page 7: Events of AEBR Member Regions and Main AEBR events 2011/2012

Durban and Brussels look at future

Closing this edition of the Newsflash (28th November 2012) opens the Climate Summit in Durban to negotiate once again how to keep the Protocol of Kyoto alive until 2020. On 8th and 9th December, the European Council is called to take very important decisions for the future of the EU.

DRAFT NEW REGULATIONS FOR EUROPEAN COHESION 2014-2020

After having submitted its budget proposal for Cohesion Policy during the period 2014-2020 on 29th June (see AEBR article on

http://www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=101)

the European Commission has adopted a draft legislative package which will frame cohesion policy for 2014-2020. The new proposals are designed to reinforce the strategic dimension of the policy and to ensure that EU investment is targeted on Europe's long-term goals for growth and jobs ("Europe 2020").

A main issue are the Partnership Contracts to be agreed between the Commission and Member States in order to commit to focussing on fewer investment priorities in line with the EU2020 objectives. The package also harmonises the rules related to different funds, including rural development and maritime and fisheries, to increase the coherence of EU action.

Shortly before the Open Days, the Commission made public these draft proposals and they occupied the centre of the discussions. Please find some updates and first reactions of the AEBR in:

OPEN DAYS 2011

From 10 to 13 October 2011, the 9th European Week of Regions and Cities took place in Brussels. This year, the Open Days were held in the middle of an intensive political debate with the European Commission's proposals cohesion policy 2014-2020, which was just published some days earlier.

Around 5700 participants welcomed and debated the proposed cohesion policy regulations and the three themes „Europe 2020“, „Better delivery“ and „Geography matters“.

For more detailed information as well as visual material about the Open Days 2011, you are invited to visit

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2011/index.cfm .

The Association of European Border Regions was actively involved in the Open Days 2011. AEBR President Karl-Heinz Lambertz, AEBR Secretary General Martín Guillermo Ramirez and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee Jens Gabbe represented our organisation in several workshops.



Where is this crisis leading Europe?

The intensification of the debt crisis is challenging the EU as never before, particularly the Eurozone. In order to take ride of this, there is a strong call for a common "governance" in the EU, strengthening the economic chapter of the Economic and Monetary Union. In this framework, the budget of the EU for 2012 and the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 are being discussed under a strong pressure by the markets and the division between some Member States asking for a similar level of financing as in the current financial period. Read more in:

http://www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=122



Summit of European Regions and Cities 21 October 2011, St. Pölten/Austria - Joint event of the European regional Associations on Cohesion 2014+

AEBR Vice-President Gabriele Lackner-Strauss represented the AEBR on the occasion of this summit and stated i.a.:

"We send a clear message to the EU and Member States: we want to take part in all debates affecting future Cohesion. Multi-level and transparent governance is the best framework to discuss some thorny issues, such as conditionality. We are closer to the citizens, so we should be listened and taken into account when discussing main decisions affecting us in the coming years."

The full text of the „Manifesto for better Cohesion Policy“ and the joint press release of the associations can be found here:

Press release:

http://www.aer.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/PressComm/CommuniquésPresse/2011/GB-StPöalten-DEF.pdf

Manifesto:

http://www.aer.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/PressComm/CommuniquésPresse/2011/Common_declaration-EN-171011_01.pdf

SCULTBORD PROJECT MEETINGS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2011

This year the partners of the SCULTBORD-project met twice. The second workshop took place in Kavala (GR) last September dealing with the theme "Best practices and experience of the agencies of the Municipality of Kavala in adult cultural education", while the third one in Mérida (ES) was outlining the "encourage of people to know their border neighbours".



More information about the contents of these workshops will follow in the next SCULTBORD-Newsflash. The blog of the SCULTBORD project is available via

<http://scultbord.blogspot.com/>

Revision of the European Charter for Border and Cross-Border Regions

The European Charter of Border and Cross-Border Regions, which was first published by AEBR in the year 1981 and subsequently updated in 1995 and 2004, is again being reviewed, taking into account the latest developments in Europe.

The revision phase will last until 2nd December 2011, and all AEBR members are again invited to submit further proposals for modification, if not yet done.

The draft working paper of the charter is available following this link:

http://www.aebr.eu/files/publications/110915_Charta_EN_clean.pdf.

News of the AEBR President, Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz

12 October 2011: Committee of the Regions behind PES Group President LAMBERTZ on raising de minimis, rejecting population criterion and questioning European Commission role in efficiency measuring: Adopted by overwhelming majority by the plenary session of the Committee of the Regions, the opinion drafted by PES Group President Karl-Heinz Lambertz sends a clear message to the European Commission. Read full press release on

http://www.pes.cor.europa.eu/e-press_111011_en.html

The **21st Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, held on 18-20 October in Strasbourg/ France**, focussed on societal inclusion, involvement of citizens and awareness raising for human rights at local level. AEBR President Lambertz is General reporter of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE) on cross-border cooperation and Chair of the Working Group on Inter-regional cooperation at the CLRAE. Full information about this session can be found [here](#).

(<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1847497&Site=Congress&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=CACC9A&BackColorLogged=EFEA9C>)

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1847497&Site=Congress&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=CACC9A&BackColorLogged=EFEA9C>)

CoR rapporteur Lambertz welcomes EP vote on public services:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=COR/11/58&type=HTML>

Follow AEBR news via Twitter!

During the AEBR General Assembly 2011, the association's twitter accounts were launched (<http://twitter.com/>):

English: @SocialnetAEBR

German: @ageg_socialnet

French: @ArfeAebr

Also in Facebook, AEBR is active within the "Cross-Border Cooperation Expert Group". If you have a FB account and would like to take part in this Group, you could contact Martín Guillermo (available in FB) or send us an e-mail (info@aebr.eu).

And, **in LinkedIn**, you will find many AEBR members who have already opened their professional accounts.



Missions of AEBR Secretary General Martín Guillermo Ramirez in October/November 2011

- **20-22 October 2011, Jindřichův Hradec (South Bohemia): The Czech Republic after Schengen Presentation:**
http://www.aebr.eu/files/profile_files/fa2d541165cb4cfc911282c60eab6fc1.pdf
- **17-18 October 2011, St. Petersburg/ Russia: All Russia Forum for Regional Development**
<http://www.forumstrategov.ru/eng/news.html>
- **26-27 October 2011, Toulouse/France: 5th Conference on Pyrenean Connections and Assembly of the Working Community of the Pyrenees,** www.ctp.org
- **27-28 October 2011, Cavan (Ireland): Conference on Cross-Border Training and Impact Assessment in Ireland and Europe**
<http://www.crossborder.ie/events/inicco-conference/>
- **24 November, Serbian Cross-Border Forum, Pirot (Euroregion Nisava)**

Neighbourhood and Eastern Partnership

Regional and local authorities have called for more funding of projects on democracy and human rights during the inauguration of the CORLEAP (see next box). The future ENP approach seems to have a more decentralized approach, as it has been demanded by many stakeholders, but will also contain more (democratic) conditionality and diversification. A main target is to establish a free trade area between the EU and the countries in the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine). A more complicated case is Belarus. In the Newsflash December 2011 we will go deeper into the Eastern Partnership and the Neighbourhood Policy, and we will also review the situation in the different accession countries, particularly in the Balkans.

CROSS-BORDER HEALTH

8th November 2011, Brussels: EUREGHA Working Group meeting

16 November 2011, Maastricht, Final Conference of the EUREGIO II Project

Passage of the 'Cross-Border Patient Directive' is **history**. What now? What is the **future** of cross-border care in Europe? And how does the growth of cross-border care in Europe's border regions intersect with the evolution of the European Union in coming decades? At a conference supported by the European Commission (DG Sanco)-funded project Euregio II, we are previewing the NEXT GENERATION in cross-border care in Europe. Speakers focused on three themes (Inequalities, Law, and Technology) at two levels (Regional Development and European Vision). <http://www.euregio2-conference.eu/en/page/1-Home>. The outputs of EUREGIO II will be very soon available online, including the Handbook for CB Health Projects and related factsheets.



The conference was followed by a retirement reception for Prof. **Dr. Jacques Scheres**, one of our enthusiastic readers. Conference participants were invited to attend this reception and experts from all over Europe came to greet one of the pioneers of CBC in healthcare in Europe.

17th November 2011, Maastricht: Meeting for regional and local health care experts regarding cross-border activities

7-9 December 2011, Groningen (NL): EurSafety Health-Net Symposium 2011 (www.eursafety.eu)

Public consultation on measures for improving the recognition of prescriptions issued in another Member State, deadline 8 January 2012: http://ec.europa.eu/health/cross_border_care/consultations/cons_prescriptions_en.htm

CORLEAP

The 'Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership' (CORLEAP) was inaugurated in the Polish city of Poznan on 8 September 2011.

It was set up by the Committee of the Regions, and brings together 36 mayors and regional politicians from the EU and from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and the Ukraine. CORLEAP will provide representation for local and regional authorities within the Eastern Partnership. For the full text of the CORLEAP recommendations to the Heads of State and Government, which met in Warsaw on 29-30 September 2011 for the 2nd EaP Summit (EaP = Eastern Partnership), please consult:

<http://web.cor.europa.eu/epp/AtWork/Commissions/Pages/CORLEAP.aspx>



First grants of the Estonia - Latvia – Russia ENPI CBC Programme are signed and ready for the kick-off

(Source: Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation):

During the Estonia - Latvia – Russia ENPI CBC Programme Conference on November 16 in Saint-Petersburg very first Grant Contracts for joint cross border cooperation projects were signed.

In total 25 projects initiated by the local and regional institutions of the involved 3 countries have been approved with estimated allocation of funding of 24 Million Euro under the 1st Call for Proposals of the Programme. These projects were selected from the total of 226 applications, which were submitted during the 1st Call.

The three priority topics of the programme are: 1) “Socio-economic development” - dedicated to development of border region’s competitiveness through support to business and labour market development, improvements in communication, tourism as well as maintaining efficient and safe borders; 2) “Common challenges” - addressing common interests in protection of environment and natural resources; preservation and promotion of cultural and historical heritage and improvement of energy efficiency ; 3) “Promotion of people to people cooperation” - focusing on small scale activities performed by regional and local municipalities and civil society actors.

Read more on Estonia-Latvia-Russia CBC Programme <http://estlatrus.eu/eng/home/>

HIDRANATURA CAMPUS OF EXCELLENCE

Hidranatura, a Cross-Border initiative promoted by the University of Extremadura (ES), the University of Evora (PT) and the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria (PT) together with the firm support of national and international prestigious expert organisations and businesses, has been awarded on 21st October the qualification of Campus of International Excellence for the Efficient Management of Natural Hydrological Resources.

HIDRANATURA presents a priority plan focused on a strategic area worldwide in order to provide answers to the current problems regarding water resources and dependent natural ecosystems in the short term. Its main goal is to become a reference point of international excellence in research, development, management and exploitation of natural hydrological resources, constituting a reliable motivated aggregation of assets involving all relevant stakeholders in the field. The aim is to develop an academic, scientific, entrepreneurial and innovative environment with a high potential of cross-border campus and international repute that will benefit employability and innovative entrepreneurship in order to be present and stronger and find its place in the specialized world.

The AEBR signed an agreement with the University of Extremadura during the process to support this initiative to be qualified.

Single Market

The Polish Presidency, the European Parliament and the Commission are addressing national parliaments in order to relaunch and complete the Single Market. Key areas are mobility (overcoming linguistic and cultural obstacles, as well as those related to social services), professional qualifications (development of a professional card), improved governance, development of the digital market (a Commission’s communication on e-commerce is expected in December) and public procurement (more simplification and clarity). A revision of the 2004 public procurement directives has also been announced for December, as part of a package to modernize and optimize public contracts. A simpler framework will make easier for SMEs to access to service concessions. On the other hand, Commissioner Barnier has stressed the intention to give local authorities more autonomy and flexibility and to facilitate access to the internal market for all operations. A communication on electronic public procurement will be presented by the Commission in 2012.

Roaming and the Digital Agenda

The Digital Agenda is aimed to the convergence of domestic and roaming tariffs, but this will not happen with the current regulations. In the meantime, the Commission proposes to separate domestic from roaming services. Another priority is Internet security (children access, e-commerce). Read more in: http://www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=125

Transport

The future Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) will consider as priority infrastructures 82 seaports, 37 airports, 46 border crossings with non-EU countries and 82 urban areas. The list is contained in the draft regulation presented by the EU Commission last 19th October, together with the proposal to establish the future infrastructure fund announced in the MFF 2014-2020, the “instrument for interconnection in Europe”. The whole network should be in place by 31st December 2050, but there is a priority network which is to be implemented by 31st December 2030. More: http://www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=126



EVENTS IN THE EU

DATE/PLACE	TOPIC	INFOS
3-4 November 2011 Warsaw/Poland	Meeting of Directors General in charge of Regional and Urban policies	
9 November 2011 Brussels	High level conference "Local and Regional Dimension of the Eastern Partnership", organised by the CoR and the Polish Presidency of the Council of European Union	
9 November 2011 Brussels	5th Brussels International Economic Forum "Europe's Future: Saving the Old World's Economy and the Whole World's Climate"	http://www.cesifo-group.de/portal/page/portal/ifoHome/c-event/c2conf/05BriEF
10 November 2011 Belgium	LET'S KEEP MOVING - Smart, sustainable and fair transport policy solutions for Europe Third lunchtime debate, organised by the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions	www.pes.cor.europa.eu
16 November 2011 Brussels/Belgium	European Commission, DG REGIO: Structured Dialogue with Civil Society	
16-17 November 2011 Gdynia/Poland	CBSS Baltic 21 EcoRegion conference "The Baltic Sea Region - on the way towards the world's first EcoRegion? Success stories, future challenges"	
17-18 November 2011 Lublin/Poland	International Conference "Cohesion Policy and Catching-up Regions"	http://www.mrr.gov.pl/konferencje/Lublin/conference/Strony/home.aspx
17-18 November 2011 Elblag/Poland	2nd European Border Dialogues Conference under the patronage of the Polish Presidency	
23 November 2011 Warsaw/Poland	Growth and competitiveness using satellite applications - practical approaches for non-space SMEs	
24 November 2011 Poznan/Poland	Integrated Approach to Development	
24-25 November 2011 Ponta Delgada (Azores)	AER General Assembly	
25 November 2011 Poznan	Informal Ministerial Meeting on Cohesion	
24-26 November 2011 L'Aquila, Italy	CALRE Plenary Assembly 2011	
25 November 2011 Lisbon/Portugal	4th General Assembly of the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI)	http://tetis.emuni.si/
29-30 November 2011 Brussels	REGLEG Annual Conference	
29-30 November 2011 Antwerp	TEN-T Days	
29 November 2011	Innovation Policy-The 8th Research Framework programme of the EU: Which consequences for the Upper Rhine?	
5 December 2011 Brussels	Structured Dialogue with Commissioner Hahn	
5 December 2011 Geneva/Switzerland	FOGAR General Assembly	www.regionsunited-fogar.org
8 December 2011 Brussels	GEOSPECS conference "Europe's special areas"	http://www.geospecs.eu/Consultation-Info.pdf
12-13 December 2011 Brussels	CoR Forum "EU research and innovation: What role for regions and cities after 2013?"	www.cor.europa.eu/europcom (online by 28 September)
15 December 2011 Brussels	Structured Dialogue on the Commission's Working Programme 2012	
15-16 December 2011 Warsaw	European Development Days Topic "Development and Democracy"	http://www.eudevdays.eu/
16 December 2011 Brussels	Formal Ministerial Meeting of Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy, General Affairs Council	



EVENTS OF AEBR MEMBER REGIONS

- 16 November 2011, Ainning/Germany: 30th Public Session of the Council of EuRegio Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein (www.euregio-salzburg.eu)
- 16 November 2011, Porto de Sines/Portugal: *A Euroregião EUROAAA – Alentejo-Algarve-Andaluzia e o seu papel na Europa do Mar*, event of Euroregion EUROAAA in the framework of the Local Open Days events
- 25-27 November 2011, Odessa, Euroregion Lower Danube/Ukraine: Danube Investment Days
- 1 - 2 December 2011, Jelenia Gora/Poland: 20th Anniversary of Euroregion Neisse-Nysa-Nisa
- 9-10 December 2011, Taormina (Sicily): II EGTC Forum (for more information, please contact: dgrelex@regione.sicilia.it)

MAIN AEBR EVENTS 2011/2012

7-8 November 2011:	AEBR Workshop on Cross-Border Cooperation in Africa, Casa África (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria) (http://www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=121)
21 November 2011:	2nd Joint Workshop ULYSSES, Barcelona (Spain)
28 November 2011:	1st Workshop of potential partners for the Prometheus project Brussels (Belgium)
1st December 2011:	Meeting of the AEBR Task Force “External Borders”, and AEBR Forum “CB Transport and Communications”, Vaasa (Finland)
2-3 December 2011:	AEBR Executive Committee meeting in Vaasa (Finland)
14 December 2011:	CoR, Brussels: Presentation of the AEBR Awards 2011
14 December 2011:	Delegation of Extremadura in Brussels, presentation of the project “Better information for CB workers in European Border Regions”
7-9 November 2012:	AEBR Executive Committee meeting, General Assembly and Annual Conference 2012 in Berlin (Germany)

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

If you wish to announce events or publish news from your region in the AEBR newsflash, please get in touch with the AEBR Head Office by contacting c.pandary@aebr.eu.

Deadline for the next edition: 20.12.2011.

Thank you!

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 its 100 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.

Euroregions, border and cross-border regions or organisations interested in receiving information about the conditions of an AEBR membership are invited to contact the AEBR Head Office.

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 info@aebr.eu. 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:

<http://www.aebr.eu/en/publications/publications.php>