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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)
Europäische grænseregioners Arbejdsfællesskab (AGEG)
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Ассоциация Европейских Приграничных Регионов (АЕПР)



Anexo 10

FICHA EJE DEL PARANÁ

Versión 2.0



(Factsheet in construction, using the Final Report of the project CBC in the Parana Axis, in collaboration with the COMIP)

Antecedentes

Actualidad

Legislación (incl. figuras jurídicas)

Estructuras

Gronau, November 2012 - November 2013
(Updated 27th November 2013)

Estrategia/Programas/Proyectos

Twin Cities

City twinning could be the base of a strong cross-border cooperation process at local and regional level. Existing processes with great potential are indicated in **bold** in the following table. Low population, lack of diversification, absence of bridges (both physical and psychological), criminality impact and strong military presence are hindering factors.

ARGENTINE-PARAGUAY				
City AR	Inhabitants	Connection	City PY	Inhabitants
Puerto Iguazú	32.038	Foz do Iguazu (BR), 2 International Bridges across Foz	Ciudad del Este	350.000
Posadas	252.891	San Roque González de Santa Cruz Bridge	Encarnación	98.134
Eldorado	47.556		Carlos A. López	n.d.
Montecarlo	16.300		Puerto San José	n.d.
Puerto Rico	14.520		Puerto Triunfo	n.d.
Clorinda (Formosa)	47.000	San Ignacio de Loyola Bridge	Puerto Falcón	3.808

Latin American Cross-border Route of Jesuit Missions

At the first seminar in Posadas (AR) on border and productive integration (2010), the AEBR presented the political goals of the EU Baltic Strategy as an excellent European example of cross-border and transnational cooperation in the framework of the ERDF regarding cultural heritage in a wide geographical area.

After its general presentation, the AEBR discussed the possibilities to realize a comparable cross-border and transnational cultural tourism project in an area covering the Brazilian Federal States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, the Argentinean provinces of Misiones and Corrientes, and Southern Paraguay. The *Latin American Cross-border Route of Jesuit Reductions* (Missions), settlements for indigenous people created by the Jesuit Order during the 17th and 18th centuries to Christianize, tax and govern them more efficiently. However, indigenous people were converted to Christianity in these reductions, but not necessarily to European culture.

This circumstance, its controversy and intense history are particularly interesting for academicians but also for visitors. Cities and landscapes in this cross-border and even transnational area offer the great culture heritage potential of Jesuit missions and a unique historical development. A potential not efficiently exploited yet.



Guaraní Jesuit Reductions
Image by Leandro (Wikipedia), 2005
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The ruins of 15 missions in Argentine:

3 in the Province of Corrientes:

1. Yapeyú
2. La Cruz
3. Santo Tomé

11 in the Province of Misiones:

11. Apóstoles
12. Concepción
13. Santa María la Mayor UNESCO World Heritage Site
14. San Javier
15. Mártires
16. San José
17. San Carlos
18. Candelarias
19. Santa Ana (1637) UNESCO World Heritage Site
20. Nuestra Señora de Loreto UNESCO World Heritage Site
21. San Ignacio Mini (1632) UNESCO World Heritage Site
22. Corpus

The ruins of 7 missions in Brazil:

8. São Miguel Arcanjo (das Missoes) (1687),
the chief mission of the seven in Brazil UNESCO World Heritage Site

Close there were the missions of:

4. São Francisco de Borja (1682)
5. São Nicolau
6. São Luiz Gonzaga
7. São Lourenço Martir (1690)
9. São João Batista (1697)
10. Santo Angelo (1706)

The ruins of 8 missions in Paraguay:

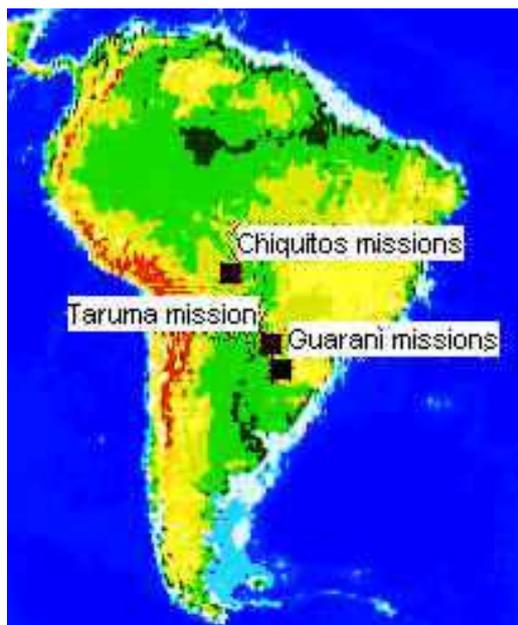
23. Jesus de Tavarangué (1685) UNESCO World Heritage Site
24. Santísima Trinidad de Paraná (1706) UNESCO World Heritage Site
25. Itapúa (today Encarnacion)
26. San Cosme y San Damián (1652) (it has also an astronomic observatory)
27. Santiago (1651)
28. Santa Rosa de Lima (1698)
29. Santa Maria da Fé (1647)
30. San Ignacio Guazú (1609)

Apart from the *Guaraní* main group of missions, another one was established in Paraguay, in the Tarumá, where the mountain *Guaranies* were “reduced” in new settlements.

Taruma missions:

Sao Joaquin (1747),
San Estanislao (1747)
(PY)
Belen (1760).

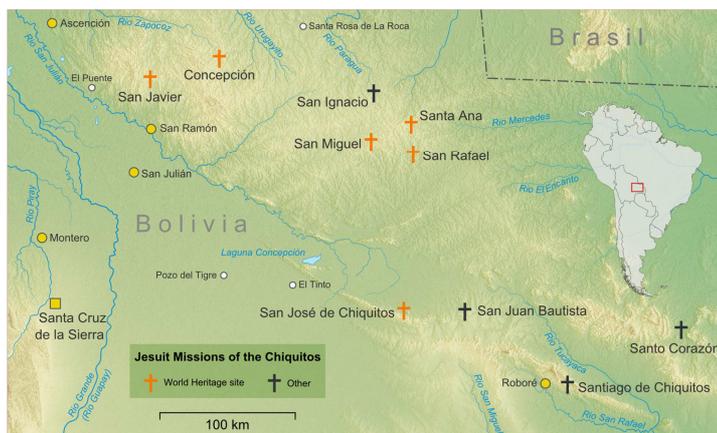
The missions in the Bolivian *Chiquitanía* are another particular group, being six of them declared World Heritage Sites. Unlike in Argentinean, Paraguayan and Brazilian reductions, works have been kept until today in most Chiquitos' missions. It is worth mentioning that evangelization was also done using renaissance and baroque music, which is very popular in the region even today.



Geographical Location of main groupings of Jesuit missions in South America

Chiquitos missions (Bolivia) declared UNESCO World Heritage Site:

- San Francisco Javier
- Concepción
- Santa Ana
- San Miguel
- San Rafael
- San José



Jesuit Missions of the Chiquitos in Bolivia
Image by Bamse (Wikipedia), 2008
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The Latin-American Cross-border Route of Jesuit Missions is not a „Holiday Route“ such as the Romantic Road in Germany or a “Pilgrim Route” such as the “Camino de Santiago” in Spain; but a multi-destination network to use and to offer this cultural heritage for cross-border local and regional development. The cross-border route of Jesuit missions could become a brand of an association of cities (and even villages), regional authorities and private tourist agencies.

A huge cross-border and transnational cultural tourism project opens many possibilities for these territories. Argentinean, Paraguayan and Brazilian cross-border cooperation in tourism, environment, infrastructures, etc., could strengthen this potential. Further research could be done to extend the project area towards Bolivia.

"Comisión Mixta Administradora del Río Paraná (COMIP)

The Bi-national Joint Commission of River Paraná promotes the integration of rural communities along the river in both sides of the wet border silhouetted by the River Paraná (Argentinean provinces of Misiones and Corrientes, and six departments in Paraguay). This will provide the basis for a better coordination of all private and public actors dealing with cross-border problems and potentials of the river, its exploitation for social and economic development, and for a better preservation of the environmental conditions.

Personas de contacto

Perspectivas

Recomendaciones

Cross border route of Jesuit missions

Based on existing national promotion of a route of Jesuit missions by organisations in Paraguay and Argentine, the objective of the project is to transform it into a cross-border and later into a transnational route (corresponding to its historical background). Due to lack of human, technical and financial resources in the characteristic small cities around Jesuit missions, this attractive touristic idea cannot be further developed and realised by them alone. Moreover, it is unrealistic that they have the capacity to position themselves in an increasingly competing and global touristic market. The seminar organized in Posadas in March 2010 showed that there is a clear need of international assistance. It was agreed by all participants to present this project proposal in the Final Report.

As a first step, the cross-border cultural-historical route of Jesuit missions has to be developed only for a project with touristic purposes. At the same time it should serve as a motor for CBC in the field of tourism in general. As a second step, the route of Jesuit missions has to be transformed into a transnational route that should be established throughout other countries.

The historical and cultural heritage of the Jesuit missions should be used for cross-border and transnational touristic objectives by creating an own brand of associations involved (regional/local authorities, private tourist agencies). As a good example for such a transnational network could serve the INTERREG IIC/IIIB project "European Route of Brick Gothic" (one of the most successful tourism and heritage related projects around the Baltic Sea).

Based on the cultural-historical background of the Jesuit missions (architecture, music, heritage of medieval times, landscape, history of colonial processes, immigration), the project has to achieve the following aims:

- to balance different standards in quantitative and qualitative terms in touristic development related to the project;
- to achieve a minimum standard of common presentation and marketing promotion;
- to create an own brand and touristic strategy for the cross-border and later a transnational route;
- to develop a mid-term touristic strategy with a view to international marketing.

Target Groups will be:

- culture-oriented tourists;
- people from the cross-border area (AR/PR/BR);
- people from South America;
- people from North and Central America and overseas coming for different purposes to this area.

Mid-term/long-term objectives should be:

- to strengthen cross-border tourism in this route as a first step for further cross-border touristic development;
- to serve as an example for other initiatives;
- to prolong the regular tourism season to cultural and heritage sites, allowing to visit the region outside the regular season;
- to establish the cross-border region as a long-term destination.

Outputs and results that could be achieved are:

- a cross-border map of Jesuit missions (later transnational);
- a project guide describing key destinations, locations for overnight stay, recommendations to visit the Jesuit missions and other interesting points along this route;
- a route manual based on the experience with this project, describing the key points and methodology for touristic development as well as how to implement touristic routes as an element for cross-border and transnational development (multi-level governance);
- touristic tours like “culture and cities”, “nature and old architecture”, “historical sites”;
- cooperation with already existing sportive tours such as riding, hiking, walking and cycling.

Initial partners of the project could be the Paraguayan Chamber of Tourism of Jesuit Missions, the Foreign Chamber of Commerce of Misiones (AR), the Junior International Chamber of Encarnación (PY) and others. Strong cooperation is recommended with the non-profit association European Route of the Brick Gothic, with 28 member cities around the Baltic Sea.

Bi-national Joint Management Commission of River Parana – COMIP (AR/PR)

The main objective of the Commission is to extend the up to now existing more technical cooperation to control the river into a more political and strategic cooperation for the development of these territories, involving public and private stakeholders along the river Parana in practical CBC.

In order to achieve the objective as soon as possible and in the most successful way, the COMIP asked for support (advice and small financial resources) in order to develop CBC and to enhance social, cultural, economic, and environmental sustainable development along the river Parana under active participation of regional and local actors, as well as NGOs, that can contribute to future developments. In the last decade numerous public and private actors from both sides of the border undertook wide-spread activities to capitalise the potentials of the river that have to be coordinated in the future.

To this end, the COMIP proposed a first stage study made by two experts (one Latin American and one European) in close coordination with the COMIP to:

- Identify actors in the area, their competences, structure, and activities.
- Verify obstacles for CBC that can be better solved through a bi-national action.
- Determine future initiatives and potential benefits of coordinated bi-national action.
- Produce a preliminary report with the activities performed, including action proposals and general recommendations.
- Discuss the report with Argentinean and Paraguayan delegations in the COMIP.
- Produce a final report for this first stage.
- Propose working lines for a potential second stage.

Therefore, it was recommended to use the framework of the binational administration commission of the river Parana as a bilateral commission for integrated and sustainable development (Parana axis development).

(Conclusiones)

See also: sobre las ciudades gemelas:

<http://luciernagainformativa.blogspot.de/2011/10/ciudades-gemelas-del-paraguay.html>

<http://luciernagainformativa.blogspot.de/2011/10/las-ciudades-gemelas-del-paraguay-ii.html>