

***AEBR Annual Conference***

*27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> November 2003 in Karlovy Vary, Euregio Egrensis,*

*Czech Republic*

***CROSSBORDER LABOUR MARKET AND QUALIFICATIONS***

***Closing Statement***

## **1. Experience has shown that:**

- Only with the removal of economic, social and legal barriers at the borders, with the integration of Europe as a unity and multiplicity can the hitherto existing peripheral national situation of many border regions be transformed into a favourable inner-European situation, with an enhanced locational value, a border-transcending labour market, jointly recognised qualifications etc.
- Border regions frequently lack alternative jobs of quality.
- Crossborder networks create preconditions for better locational conditions, a crossborder labour market and joint training in as many branches as possible.
- Border regions within and without the EU are often cut off from a part of their natural hinterland on the other side of the border, whereby possible catchment areas cannot be developed in the same way as within the state. This also applies for a crossborder labour market and joint institutions for qualifications.
- Conditions for a crossborder labour market and qualifications are especially difficult on the outer borders of the EU.
- At the eastern and southern outer borders of the EU there is great immigration pressure on the labour markets in the EU. Illegal activities and labour procurement, even across borders, are often the consequences.
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## **2. Preconditions for a crossborder labour market and qualifications**

- The differing regulations, structures, labour market and training grants which come into conflict at the borders need to be implemented flexibly to create a genuinely crossborder labour market, crossborder qualifications and mobility.
- Crossborder coordination in questions relating to the labour market, qualifications and economic sectors needs to be improved.
- Crossborder networks with participation of employers, trade unions, manpower administrations, Euroregions, etc need to be developed.
- Crossborder education and training institutions need to be created.
- The recognition of occupational qualifications needs to be ensured at the crossborder level and, if possible, also for the whole of Europe.
- Barriers for crossborder commuters in the social sphere, in the training sphere and in tax-related matters need to be removed.

- There is need for directed creation of crossborder catchment areas, e.g. for crossborder industrial estates and zones, nature reserves, tourism projects etc, in order thereby to create additional jobs through crossborder activities.

### 3. Action plan:

	<b><i>Responsibilities</i></b>	<b>Proposals for possible solutions</b>
The wider-ranging catchment and integration areas separated by national borders need to be vitalised for industry, trade, services and the labour market, whereby new jobs will also be created.	Space planning, economic associations, CCI, trade unions, Euregios, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ cross-border territorial development concepts with cross-border integration areas</li> <li>○ Euregios as service provider</li> </ul>
Transparent/ cross-border labour markets need to be created. Disadvantages arising from taking up a job in the neighbouring country (e.g. from tax and social security regulations) need to be removed.	Labour administration, EURES, legislator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ cross-border job offer / demand systems</li> <li>○ bilingual information, choice of one tax and social system</li> <li>○ legal improvements</li> </ul>
Knowledge of market opportunities, export possibilities and marketing resources on the other side of the border needs to be improved, so as to expand collaboration and increase opportunities on the labour market.	Municipalities, economic associations, Euregios etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ liaison office for producer and supplier, enterprise clubs,</li> <li>○ trade meetings specific to each region</li> <li>○ cross-border innovation trade fairs</li> </ul>
Access to public tenders as well as	Regional/local territorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ cross-border transfer centre within a</li> </ul>

research and development programmes on the other side of the border needs to be facilitated and promoted.	administrations, universities, research centres	<p>network of universities and research institutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ promotion of bilingualism in public administrations and companies</li> </ul>
Crossborder cooperation between small and medium-sized firms needs to be further intensified.	CCI, chambers of handicrafts, trade unions, associations, Euregios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ permanent counselling centre as to cross-border questions for SMEs</li> <li>○ cross-border networking of the economic promotion societies / regional agencies</li> <li>○ up-to-date information on research and innovation on either side of the border</li> </ul>
Crossborder producer and supplier relationships need to be developed with opportunities for creating additional jobs.	CCI and chambers of handicrafts, associations, Euregios etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ cross-border producer and supplier lists</li> <li>○ innovation trade fairs</li> <li>○ permanent counselling service to SMEs</li> <li>○ joint qualification of employees</li> </ul>
Promotion of crossborder vocational training and qualification in the neighbouring country.	Labour administration, employer, trade unions, Euregios, legislator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ cross-border vocational training targeted to the needs of the economy</li> <li>○ cooperation in a regional steering group set up by all institutions concerned</li> <li>○ promotion of bilingualism</li> <li>○ elaboration of cross-border recognised vocational qualification models</li> </ul>
The creation of alternative	European Commission, national	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ targeted EU aid programmes</li> </ul>

<p>employment for those jobs and activities related to the border (e.g. customs and excise, haulage) which will cease to exist as a result of the growing integration of Central and Eastern Europe.</p>	<p>governments, carriers, customs administrations, frontier guard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ cross-border logistic centres</li><li>○ taking over of customs and frontier guard staff into police services</li></ul>
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