AEBR GENERAL ASSEMBLY & ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018
SMART CBC FOR EUROPEAN GROWTH
(Education and Employment in CB Regions)

Oulu (FI)
19-22 September 2018

Host: Bothnian Arc (FI/SE)

Working languages: DE – EN - FR

Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence
Dear Friends from European Border Regions,

On behalf of the City of Oulu and Bothnian Arc we are pleased to welcome you to Oulu and to the Conference of European Border Regions held on September 19th to 22nd, 2018.

The Bothnian Arc is a dynamic and vital Cross-Border area on the border of Finland and Sweden, in the northernmost part of the Baltic Sea. The population of the northern areas of Finland and Sweden is concentrated in the Bothnian Arc region, which has around 700,000 inhabitants. The biggest cities are Oulu on the Finnish side and Luleå on the Swedish side. The Arc has an abundance of young people, know-how, universities and other higher education institutions, large international companies, top technology, large ports, and international airports.

This growing area has a remarkable potential to become part of the international area of operations and act as one market area. Obstacles such as harsh arctic conditions and long distances related to cross-border cooperation have been eliminated by commitment to regional policies and extensive partnerships in order to ensure development and reach the desired objective, top-level growth and development in European Border Regions.

The Oulu region, which is the most rapidly growing economic area in Arctic Europe, is home to nearly 250,000 people. Being the biggest commercial, logistics and cultural hub in the region, Oulu is also called the Capital of Northern Scandinavia. Founded more than 400 years ago, Oulu is a city of three rivers and the sea. Oulu is also home to two universities and about 25,000 students. At the moment, there are people of more than 120 nationalities living in the Oulu area.

In Oulu, nature is always close at hand, as are the latest technological innovations. Northern nature and distinct seasons, from icy seascapes and northern lights in the winter to midnight sun in the summer, are a constant source of inspiration for innovation.

The 2018 Conference of The European Border Regions in Oulu September, Finland, will be held under the title Smart CBC for the Growth of Europe. The cross-cutting themes of the conference will cover CB labor force mobility, digitalization and smart specialization as well as public services. Entrepreneurship education from basic education all the way to university level will be widely discussed at the CB School on September 19th, 2018.

The Post Conference program includes a study visit to the twin city of Haparanda and Tornio. Tornio/Haparanda is located right on the border between Finland and Sweden, at the northernmost end of the Bothnian Bay.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Bothnian Arc and to Oulu, the Capital of Northern Scandinavia.

With kind regards,

Kyösti Oikarinen
Chairman of the City Executive Board

Heikki Aalto
CEO, Bothnian Arc
**Concurrent Pre-Conference events**

**Cross-Border School**

Venue: Hotel Lasaretti, Kasarmintie 13b, Oulu

08.30–09.00 Registration

09.00–12.00 Opening words: Mr Mika Penttilä, Director of Educational and Cultural services, City of Oulu

Welcome: Ms Helka-Liisa Henttiä, Vice-rector University of Technology
Ms Cathrine Norberg, pro Vice-Chancellor, Luleå University of Technology

Keynote lecture 1: Border Studies at a Turning Point?, Mr Anssi Paasi, Dpt. of Geography, University of Oulu, Director of the Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence

Keynote lecture 2: Global Co-creation Alliance Between Universities and Businesses, Mr Pekka Silvén, head of Demola Oulu

10.20–10.50 Coffee Break

10.50–12.30 Presentation and discussion “Crazy North”

Facilitator: Prof. Martin van der Velde
- Ms Sabine Neuberger, “Education potential in cross-border regions: Still underutilized?”
- Mr Jussi Ylitalo, regional manager Me&My City: “Me&My City”
- Ms Emelie Hjelte, regional manager, and Ms Malin Åsen, project leader Ung Företagsamhet Norrbotten, “Entrepreneurship for real – Junior Achievement and possibilities within for cooperation across Swedish-Finnish border” border”
- Ms Pauliina Kanervo, advisory teacher, and Mr Heikki Keränen, project leader, “Entrepreneurship education in curriculum and practically”

12.30–13.45 Lunch

13.45–17.00 Cross-Border School Round Tables (RT) with active participation of the audience (split into two groups)

**RT 1 Youth Entrepreneurship and Cooperation in the Bothnian Arc area (SE-Fi). Venue: tbc**

- Moderator: tbc
- Working Life Competence and Entrepreneurship in the New National Curriculum of Finland, Ms Pauliina Kanervo, Advisory Teacher
- Youth Entrepreneurship in Oulu, Mr Heikki Keränen, Advisory Teacher
- The Concept of Me & MyCity, Mr Jussi Ylitalo, North Ostrobothnia’s Regional Coordinator

**RT 2 CBC of Universities and Research Centres. Venue: Hotel Lasaretti**

- Moderator: Mr Martin Guillermo Ramírez, AEBR Secretary General. Presentation: CBC in the European Research Area: from Malchus’s study (2003-2008) to Elfgen’s update (2011) and state-of-the-art
- LTU & UO collaboration, Fl-SE: Ms Alexandra Middleton, Assistant Professor, Oulu Business School, Business Index North project, and Lifelong learning training “Design and upscaling in mineral processing”, Mr Ilkka Hynynen and Ms Ninna Immonen, Oulu Mining School
- Iacobus Programme, Mr Xosé Lago García, Deputy Director General of External Relations and CBC, Xunta de Galicia, Coordinator of the EGTC Galicia-Norte (ES-PT)
- Sabine Neuberger, Project staff “Food Pro.tec.ts” and PhD student, University of Applied Sciences Rhine-Waal & Wageningen University
- Quadruple Helix: public authorities-private sector-academia civil society

19.00 Get together Dinner at Tietomaa

**ESPON CPS (cross-border public services)**

**project meeting & workshop**

Venue: Hotel Lasaretti, Kasarmintie 13b, Oulu

**Project Partners’ Internal Workshop**

9.30 Opening, and welcome
Presentation of deliverables of draft final report (different deliverables and their logic, challenges, overall key findings)

10.30 Feedback on DFR deliverables by ESPON and stakeholders
Overall understanding, quality of deliverables

11.00 Short Coffee Break

11.15 Presentation of selected thematic recommendations (3-4 topics tbc)

11.35 Discussion of thematic recommendations and actions taken in the regions
Division into thematic groups relevant for the regional stakeholders – table discussions, 1 table per selected policy field (cross-regional learning aspect)

12.30 Lunch

**Opening the workshop to other interested AEBR members**

13.30 Presentation of key findings: The practical guide

14.40 Applicability of practical guide for border regions
Table discussions testing the applicability

15.00 Short Coffee Break

15.20 Findings of the groups regarding the practical guide
Joint discussion with all participants

16.20 Bilateral discussions
Clarifications & in-depth discussions between project stakeholders & between ESPON, project stakeholders and study team

~17.00 End of the meeting

**Day 1 19/09 Wednesday**
Venue: Hotel Lasaretti, Kasarmintie 13b, FI-90130 Oulu

08.00–09.00  Registration

09.00–10.00  **AEBR Executive Committee meeting**

10.00-10.30  Coffee Break

10.30-12.00  **AEBR General Assembly**

12.00-13.30  Lunch at Lasaretti

13.30–14.15  **Opening of the Conference**

Master of Ceremonies: Mr Heikki Aalto, CEO, Bothnian Arc

- Chair: Ms Päivi Laajala, Mayor of the City of Oulu
- Mr Niklas Nordstrom, chairman of Bothnian Arc Board, Luleå (tbc)
- Nordic Council Of Ministers
- Mr Michiel Scheffer, Provincial Executive of Gelderland, NL, and Rapporteur on mobility and CB transport gaps, EU regulations and TIA for the European Committee of the Regions
- Mr Oliver Paasch, Minister-President of the German-speaking Community of Belgium and AEBR President (video)
- Ms Ann-Sofi Backgren, First Vice-president of AEBR

14.15–14.30  Group photo (Big Aurora Hall, tbc)

14.30–18.00  Conference: the Case of the Host

1st Session: **Smart Specialization in border areas**

Moderation and introduction: Ms Tua Huomo, Executive Vice-President, Technical Research Center of Finland

Speakers:
- Mr Pauli Harju, Region Mayor, Council of Oulu Region
- Mr Jerker Johnson, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, *Smart Specialization to Boost SMEs in Ostrobotnia*
- Mr Zoltán Bara, Director, Pons Danubii EGTC, *Smart solutions for cross-border transport*

Discussion & Closing remarks

15.30–16.00  Coffee Break

16.00–16.15  Presentation “Crazy North”

16.15–17.15  2nd Session: **Digitalization and other technology issues in Border and Cross-Border Regions**

Moderator: Mr Niklas Nordström, Mayor of Luleå, Sweden, and Chairman of Botnian Arc

Key Note: Mr Andrus Kaarelson, Director General of Estonian State Information System Authority (RIA).

*Full Digital Government in Estonia and Finland transnational digital (X-Roads) cooperation*

Presentations:
- Mr Michiel Scheffer, Province of Gelderland, (DE-NL border)
- Technology innovation in an EU external border, the case of Cyprus. Ms Chara Georgiadou, Union of Cyprus Municipalities

17.15–18.00  Discussion & Closing remarks

19.30  **Pro Agria Dinner at Laitasaari Traditional Lodge**

(local traditional food) Transportation (bus) to the venue

09.00–12.00  **Separate Avec program:** Guided Oulu Tour and Avec Lunch at Lasaretti
09.00–12.30 Conference “A new Territorial Cohesion for a Wider Europe (with a focus on labour and youth)
(Better territorial cohesion for younger generations, better education, more employment)

3rd Session: Overview: one year after Commission’s Border Regions Communication
09:00 Chair and statement: Ms Ann-Sofi Backgren, first vice-president of AEBR
Keynote: Ms Nathalie Verschelde, Border Focal Point, DG Regio
- Presentation of B-Solutions project Identifying legal and administrative obstacles to CBC and testing solutions
- Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY) (video)
- Presentation of ESPON Projects with AEBR participation
  - Cross-border Public Services (CPS), Mr Nicolas Rossignol, ESPON EGTC, project expert
  - Territorial Impact Assessment for Cross-border Cooperation (CB TIA), Mr Michiel Scheffer, Province of Gelderland
- Boosting territorial cohesion at the German-French border, Mr Frédéric Siebenhaar, EGTC Euro-district PAMINA
10:00 Discussion & Closing remarks

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

4th Session: Round Table on labour force mobility, with a focus on young people
Moderator: Mr Peter Hansen, Sønderjylland – Schleswig Region
Speakers:
- CB Labour Diagnosis in the Eurorégion New Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre, Ms Leyre Azcona, manager CBC Labour, EGTC Nouvelle-Aquitaine Euskadi Navarre
- Labour Force Mobility in the Bothnian Arc, Mr Heikki Aalto, CEO Bothnian Arc
- Labour Force Mobility at the Spanish-British border in Gibraltar, Mr Ángel-Luis Sánchez-Muñoz, Secretary General for External Affairs, Government of Andalucia
- Youth motivation to learn and work across the border, Mr Florian Schmid, President of GFGZ
- Presentations from “Young AEBRians”: participants in TFEB Youth Forums, Balkan Erasmus + projects
12.30–14.00 Lunch at Lasaretti

14.00–16.30 5th Session: Round Table on New Territorial Cohesion Programmes and Regulations
Moderator: Mr Martín Guillermo Ramírez, AEBR Secretary General
Keynote: Mr Dirk Peters, Senior Specialist for European territorial cooperation and EGTC, DG Regio,
Proposed Territorial Cohesion Programmes and Regulations
Speakers:
- Cohesion and CBC at the “old” EU: Mr Bert Bouwmeester, Ems Dollart Region
- A renewed Cohesion in Central Europe: Mr Pavel Branda, Euregio Neiße-Nisa-Nysa, member of the European Committee of the Regions and Chairman of the CBC Intergroup at the CoR
- EU-EEA CBC: the Swiss case, Mr Eric Jakob, Swiss Federal Government
- Successful people-to-people projects and difficulties for CBC at the External Borders of the EU: Mr Bogdan Suru, BRCT, Iasi Regional Office for CBC at the Romania-Moldova Border
- CBC of Russian regions with the EU: Mr Igor Kapyrin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation
A view from CBC networks (AEBR, CESCI, MOT)
15:45 Discussion & Closing remarks
16:30 Presentation of GAAC 2019 in Dresden (Euregio Elbe-Labe)
16.45-17.00 Coffee Break

17.00–18.30 Task Forces Meetings (TF Interreg, TF External Borders)

20.00 Gala Dinner hosted by City of Oulu
Welcoming words: Mr Kyösti Oikarinen, Chair of the Oulu City Executive Board
AEBR Award “Sail of Papenburg”
08.30  Departure for Study Visits
Haparanda / Sweden

10.30–16.00  Study Visits

- Museum of Torne Valley, City of Tornio, Finland
- Visit at the Border Line of Sweden and Finland
- Visit at the Kukkolaforsen, City of Haparanda, Sweden

Lunch in Sweden

Returning back to Oulu at 18.00 (all times local Finnish time)