



**Report of the IV AEBR Summer Seminar for Border Youth  
Trieste, Italy  
(23 – 27.07.2012)**

*"The first day or so we all pointed to our countries.  
The third or fourth day we were pointing to our continents.  
By the fifth day, we were aware of only one Earth."  
Sultan bin Salman Al-Saud, Astronaut.*

...and this Earth was IV AEBR Summer Seminar for Border Youth, which took place in Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trieste, Italy. 20 participants from Croatia, Latvia, Spain, Ukraine, Belarus, Hungary, Greece, Serbia, Italy, Finland, FYROM and Russia, four tutors from Italy and Ukraine, organizers and co-organizers of the Seminar Johannes Moisio (Chairman of AEBR Task Force External Borders), Martín Guillermo Ramírez (Secretary General of the AEBR), Gabriella Rigoni (hosting region Friuli Venezia Giulia), Ricardo Santana Ogando (AEBR PR and Communications Expert), Sara Tesi (Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia) together with experts and guests Minna Piipponen (University of Eastern Finland), Vladimir Reznikov (Advisor to the Governor of St. Petersburg), Ekaterina Shibalova (Expert International Affairs Committee for Physical Culture and Sports, St. Petersburg), Kyriakos Charakidis (AEBR Vice-President and Mayor of Drama Municipality) and Alkis Papademetriou (AEBR Task Force External Borders, International Programme Director, Euroregion Nestos-Mesta, Drama, Greece), created an atmosphere, in which every person representing his/her border region, was feeling part of this big international family.

From 23<sup>rd</sup> July till 27<sup>th</sup> July the whole AEBR Summer Seminar Team was discussing peculiarities, advantages and difficulties of cross-border cooperation between the represented border regions during workshops and different study visits, not only within the EU, but also including EU-Neighbourhood and the Russian Federation, learnt about CBC between the Universities of Trieste (Italy), University of Udine (Italy), University Pole of Gorizia (University of Trieste), visited border regions with Slovenia and Croatia where regional governments were representing their border regions and answered all our questions with great pleasure.

Opening and Closing procedures were held in the Municipality of Trieste followed by the welcoming speeches and best wishes for the successful future realization of our projects in CBC. The Mayor of Trieste Mr. Roberto Cosolini, Regional Minister Mr. Elio De Anna, Central director of the Regional Directorate for Culture, Sport, International and EU Relations Mr. Augusto Viola and organizers of the IV AEBR Summer Seminar for Border Youth thanked all participants for being active and interested in the Summer Seminar.

As a conclusion it is necessary to say that this Summer Seminar created another big family of young generation ready for new ideas and challenges in Cross-Border Cooperation of their own regions. Below some comments of our participants, willing to express themselves, are represented. For each person Trieste became a city full of best memories, great experience and good networking. Next point of meeting in 2013 with new participants will be in Euroregion Nestos-Mesta, Drama, Greece.

*"I would appeal with gratitude to the organizers of 4th AEBR Summer Seminar for Border Youth in Trieste (23-27 of July,2012) for my invitation, and participation in this event.*

*It should be noted the excellent and professional work as organizers from AEBR and representatives of the region Friuli Venezia Giulia. The Seminar Program has allowed to fully explore the specificity of cross-border co-operation in these regions, to learn the basic curriculum of different universities and even have a practice in CBC project management.*

*The combination of events allowed to making the program very interactive, with a perfect balance of lecture and practice. The entire program was laid out very accurately and on time, during the week everything went exactly as scheduled.*

*It should be noted, that a greater involvement of the participants allowed us to fully participate in lectures and seminars, rather than being just spectators. Very pleasant was a high political level of administration and regional participants who spoke to us with presentations.*

*With some difficulty I could say something about the bad sides of the Seminar, in my opinion there are not any of them.*

*This workshop provided a broader look at issues of cross-border cooperation in various European Regions, find new friends and gain an unforgettable experience.*

*I wish you every success and further fruitful work.*

*With best regards,*

*Ivan Kesoretskikh, Russia"*

*"Personally I liked all the programme and that balance that we had- enough sightseeing, workshops, and presentations. I liked one lecture in the beginning, stating and giving basic info about what cross border cooperation does mean, projects, like giving a theoretical framework before we start, and also it is useful for us to know it. So, my only suggestion would be for future, to add theoretical lecture about CBC. However, all in all, my biggest and warmest thanks to everyone, it was good, and I had a perfect time. And anyway- we have to take into account that in one week you cannot cover everything and do everything. So I stick to that, the programme was optimal, and we as a group and participants did a good job.*

*Edgars Dzirkalis, Latvia"*

*"I would say that a theoretical framework about territorial cooperation and where cross border cooperation stands in the EU Cohesion Policy would have been useful because most of the participants were not familiar with it. In this sense, I liked a lot the speech that Martín Guillermo Ramírez and the representative of the Euroregion in Pula (Croatia) gave us in that city. Regarding the rest, I can't say anything bad! All the programme was perfect: the visits, the residence, the food, the wine ... I'm from Spain so this is really important! The best of all was the company, I really had a good time with everyone!*

*Tamara Rodríguez Fernández, Spain"*

#### **Articles and news about the Seminar in WebPages and newspapers:**

*The link to the website of the Trieste Municipality:*

[http://www.retecivica.trieste.it/new/Default.asp?tabella\\_padre=sezioni&ids=12&tipo=-&pagina=cstampa\\_leggi.asp&comunicato=7280](http://www.retecivica.trieste.it/new/Default.asp?tabella_padre=sezioni&ids=12&tipo=-&pagina=cstampa_leggi.asp&comunicato=7280)

*News in the Istrian websites:*

<http://regionalexpress.hr/site/more/susret-i-predavanje-u-sklopu-4.-aebr-u-hrvatskoj-gospodarskoj-komori/>

*Article in the Istrian main newspaper "Glas Istre".*

*Other two Istrian news websites:*

<http://www.labin.com/web/vijest.asp?id=17911>

<http://www.barkun.hr/2012/07/25/susret-i-predavanje-u-sklopu-4-aebr-ljetnog-seminara-mladih-iz-europskih-pogranicnih-regija/>