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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)  
 Europæiske grænseregioners Arbejdsfællesskab (AGEG)  
 Werkgeemschap van Europese grensgebieden (WVEG)  
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**Draft content of AEBR Cross-Border School  
 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019, Dresden  
 Venue: room Festaal, Dresden City Hall**

**Aims:**

- to provide relevant thinking material for curious professionals helping them to systematically reflect on their practice in cross-border cooperation;
- to provide feedback to researchers about their research outcomes and professional experiences

**Topic:** The Culture of CBC

**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019, Dresden (Location: Technical University of Dresden)**

- 08.30—08.50 Registration
- 08.50—09.00 Kahoot game
- 09.00—09.15 Welcome by AEBR Secretary General Martin Guillermo-Ramirez
- 09.15—09.30 Welcome by the host
- 09.30—09.55 CBC as a success story to face Euroscepticism, Hynek Böhm, University of Liberec, CZ
- 09.55—10.20 Strategy, Structure and Society – why CBC always fails, Marcel Boogers, University of Twente, NL
- 10.20—10.45 Cohesion-based strategic planning of CBC, Melinda Benczi, Strategic planner and project manager at Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI)
- 10.45—11.10 Coffee break
- 11.10—11.35 Ex-Ante Territorial Impact Assessment for INTERREG-A, Eduardo Medeiros, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal
- 11.35—12.00 Cross-Border Data – what is it and for what do we really need it? By Martin van het Velde, Radboud University and Doede Sijtsma, representative Province Gelderland (NL) in Germany
- 12.00—12.25 Cross-Border University Cooperation – the example of the UniGR-Center for Border Studies, Maria Hegner, Coordinator of Cross-Border Projects, University of the Greater Region – UniGR (L/D)
- 12.25—12.50 Provision of services cross-border , Annika Jaansoo, University of Twente (NL) and Pauliina Kanervo, City of Oulu (FI)
- 12.50—13.00 Conclusions by Moderators

Moderators: Annika Jaansoo, AEBR (first part) and Ana Nikolov, AEBR (second part)

13.00—14.00 Lunch break

14.00—15.00 WG 1 and 2 in parallel

15.10 – 16.10 WG 3 and 4 in parallel

16.10—16.30 Coffee break

16.30—16.45 Conclusions from the Working Groups by Ana Nikolov, AEBR

16.45—17.00 Concluding remarks: what next / to enhance your knowledge (= books to read; Blogs and web-pages to follow) Annika Jaansoo, AEBR

### **Short descriptions of the working groups**

#### **Working Group 1 “Overcoming Obstacles to Cross-Border Cooperation – A Smuggler’s Perspective”**

**Background:** Smugglers have been a very smart and innovative group of people who have never had any problems with borders and have always made the market work for them. In this working group we will concentrate how to use the very productive professional acts of the smugglers for the benefit of administrators in border adjacent and/or cross-border regions to overcome the cross-border cooperation related obstacles.

**Outcome of the Working Group:** In the working group the participants will be provided with ‘the other way of looking at things’ by breaking down the cross-border cooperation related obstacles and providing some possible solutions<sup>1</sup> how to deal with those obstacles.

**Homework for the Working Group:** To get the most out of this 60 minutes long working group, we ask the participants to come prepared. So, as a homework we ask the participants to prepare on a half of a page the following: (1) main cross-border cooperation related obstacle you are currently facing; (2) description about why it is perceived as an obstacle: and (3) with a few sentence provide their own ‘smugglers perspective’ for finding practical bypasses for institutional, legal, cultural, and other barriers. To enable the organizers to be well prepared, please submit your homework no later than 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Working Group 1 will be carried through by prof. dr. Marcel Boogers and dr. Annika Jaansoo from University of Twente, the Netherlands

#### **Working Group 2 “Minorities as Cross-Border Cooperation Actors”**

Working Group 2 will be carried through by dr. Hynek Böhm, University of Liberec, Czech Republic

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<sup>1</sup> These solutions are gathered from the best practices, reports and academic studies done so far.

**Background:** National minorities can have an important role in cross-border cooperation. In this working group we discuss the relations between national minorities, cross-border cooperation and minorities as a very “European” and Europe-building phenomenon.

**Outcome of the Working Group:** In the working group the participants will be provided with the overview of a possible role of national minorities in the CBC and European integration as the whole.

**Homework for the Working Group:** To get the most out of this 60 minutes long working group, we ask the participants to come prepared. So, as a homework we ask the participants to prepare several bullet points – up to a half of a page - the following: (1) how can minorities boost CBC; (2) could minorities have a negative role in CBC; if yes, please provide some examples; and 3) do the national minorities have a special role in the European integration process? To enable the organizers to be well prepared, please submit your homework no later than 14<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Working Group 3 “Borders as a Creative Resource and Source of Creativity”**

**Background:** Where some have suggested in the previous century that our future would be in a borderless world, this is certainly not (yet) the case. On the contrary, borders are still relevant markers of difference between states, both on the regional as well as supranational and global levels of scale. And in some cases they are even gaining importance. These markers and their difference do play out in quite different ways. Sometimes they are put in a perspective of barriers, to be levelled in the case of exchange or to be maintained and sometime even be reinforced in the case of security. In another perspective of stressing the differences much more, they can also be regarded as resources that can be exploited (in creative ways). It is this latter perspective that we would like to scrutinize in this working group.

**Outcome of the Working Group:** The participants will discuss and share their experiences with and views upon the extent to which borders and borderlands (still or increasingly) can be regarded as useful and what would these borders and borderlands than look like. And secondly it will be addressed what creative ways can be and are considered to deal with borders both in case of useful as well as less desired effects.

**Homework for the Working Group:** To get the most out of this 60 minutes long working group, we ask the participants to come prepared. So as homework we ask the participants to prepare on half a page the following: (1) Describe briefly the context of your border-region (or any other border-region you would like to focus on) in regard to the current state of CBC and how it got there; (2) What are the positive aspects (if any) of this region being a border-region?; (3) What are (positive and/or negative) examples of creative usage of possible differences on both sides of the border? To enable the organizers to be well prepared, please submit your homework no later than 14<sup>th</sup> October via [a.jaansoo@aebr.eu](mailto:a.jaansoo@aebr.eu)

Working Group 3 will be carried through by dr. Martin van der Velde, Associate Professor, Radboud University Nijmegen (Nijmegen Centre for Border Research), the Netherlands

#### **Working Group 4 “Individual local heroes of the borderlands”**

**Background:** Both in the academics’ and practitioners’ eyes cross-border areas are often regarded only as territories to be described and developed. However, it should not be forgotten that these areas primarily constitute the homeland of people actually living there. These people have their own set of dreams and goals towards which they work according to their own potential – which is often limited due to their peripheral situation. It is important to explore how can these individuals turn their geographical positions into an asset and have a sometimes underlying, sometimes very tangible impact on the border itself or on the life in the given (cross-)border area.

**Outcome of the Working Group:** The participants will discover the opportunities, challenges and limitations which individuals might encounter when influencing the economic, social, environmental or cultural status of a borderland. Furthermore, participants will have a chance to explore some of the best strategies through which the individuals using their assets wisely can become local heroes of their borderland.

**Homework for the Working Group:** To get the most out of this 60 minutes long working group, we ask the participants to come prepared. So as homework we ask the participants to prepare on half a page the following: (1) Present briefly 2 individuals (real or imagined) you consider as local heroes of a borderland region; (2) Who are these people and what are their main achievements?; (3) What are their skills and methods for realizing their goals (name at least 5)?; (4) Are there any negative side effects of these activities? To enable the organizers to be well prepared, please submit your homework no later than 14<sup>th</sup> October via [melinda.benczi@cesci-net.eu](mailto:melinda.benczi@cesci-net.eu)

Working Group 4 will be carried through by Melinda Benczi, Strategic Planner and Project Manager of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI)