

YOUTH CHARTER *FOR* CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

Association of
European
Border Regions

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Youth Charter for Cross Border Cooperation

Association of European Border Regions

PREAMBLE

We, determined AEBR Young Leaders for Cross-border Cooperation, hereby commit ourselves to achieve a common vision that youth must take full involvement in regional and cross-border society development through participation and information exchange

because we care about the effective implementation of policies and want to foster its development;

because we care about the welfare of our exceptionally diverse world and that of every individual and thus, foster its improvement;

because we care about the youth participating and acting in all aspects of society, including environmental protection, economic and social development;

because we care about a beneficial and effective charter which shall foster culture, media, reconciliation, promotion and information exchanges, as they are crucial for a better tomorrow;

And for these ends, inspiration for this Charter has come as a result from the hard-working youth involved in the AEBR events all over Europe, taking into account

The European Charter for Border and Cross-Border Regions of the Association of European Border Regions;

The Madrid Outline Convention on “Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities” (Council of Europe, ETS No. 106 - Madrid, 21 May 1980) and its Additional Protocols (Additional Protocol - ETS No. 159, Protocol No. 2 - ETS No. 169, and Protocol No. 3 - CETS No. 206.) that gives a general framework of regulation for the establishment and operation of Euroregional Co-operation Groupings (ECG);

The EU Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of the 17th of December 2013 (No 1302/2013) amending Regulation (EC) No. 1082/2006 on a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) that made possible the establishment of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC);

The INTERREG - cross-border (Interreg A), transnational (Interreg B) and interregional (Interreg C) - European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), that is one of the two goals of cohesion policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors in order to promote a harmonious economic, social and territorial development of the Union as a whole;

The European Solidarity Corps - the new European Union initiative which creates opportunities for the youth to volunteer or work in projects in their home country or abroad that benefit communities and people throughout Europe;

The Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY) initiative aimed at involving young European volunteers to support, promote and report the concrete achievements of INTERREG programs and projects, as well as generally promote cooperation across borders and related values such as but not limited to solidarity;

The Erasmus + EU Program which supports education, training, youth and sport in Europe and the European strategy 2010-2018 which is formulated for the purpose of providing equal opportunities for the youth and encouraging the youth to actively participate in society;

The Council of Europe's policies regarding youth participation and involvement in community on the issues of but not limited to: Youth policy, Human right education, Intercultural learning, Youth information, Youth participation and Non-formal education;

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs; especially SDG N. 17: Partnership for the Goals;

The UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future and other policies and strategies that are providing ground base for youth development in the field of international and cross-border activism, policy development, strategic planning and project implementation;

Considering and reconsidering the problems that youth face today in the field of cross-border and regional cooperation such as but not limited

To a lack of knowledge on cross-border and regional cooperation issue and absence of awareness of possibilities for youth, even when youth participates in projects of transnational and cross-border character (eg. Erasmus Youth Exchange or Council of Europe youth programs);

To problems within youth enrollment and lack of possibilities and chances for youth action, lack of information and mechanisms for youth participation in policy development and strategic regional and cross-border planning and implementation;

To a lack of youth activity and motivation to get involved in cross-border and regional cooperation, which represents the biggest problems to our youth;

Having our activities guided by

Encouraging networking amongst the youth across the European continent with the purpose of regional and cross-border cooperation;

Supporting youth-driven regional and cross-border ideas and activities, initiating an innovative platform for exchanging ideas and opening a dialogue between youth and experts, whilst also empowering youth for initiating and implementing cross-border, regional and transnational cooperation;

Shaping the new generations in spreading the awareness of joint regional and cross-border messages;

Raising awareness on how the attitudes and behaviors of youth can bring a change in communities from both sides of the border;

Changing attitudes to encourage open regional and cross-border mindedness and promoting cross-border values among the youth by using social media as an effective communication tool;

Promoting active citizenship of youth in border regions and encouraging young people for stepping up and taking actions for solving regional and cross-border problems;

Fostering youth participation in the process of regional and cross-border policy development and strategic planning, whilst also educating communities on how to work together with young people across the borders;

Advocating for the involvement of regional and cross-border cooperation as one of the top priorities in programs such as EU Erasmus plus, EU citizens, CoE and UN youth policies, and others;

And having resolved we do care, we ordain and establish this renewed Youth Charter for Cross Border Cooperation.

The hereby Youth Charter devises a three-pronged approach consisting of the following: what can youth do for society?; what can society do for youth?; and what can youth do for youth?

YOUTH FOR SOCIETY

This perspective highlights the idea that society can and will benefit from youth actions and their extended knowledge. YOUTH FOR SOCIETY can benefit if youth actions consist of the following suggested activities:

Creating a strategic framework for efficient communication with society as a whole;

Conducting joint advocacy campaign in order to address key cross-border problems to the relevant actors, emphasizing implications on socio-economic development and environmental protection;

Lobbying for the involvement of youth in the decision making process in order to change existing youth policies;

Conducting a study on the needs of society for cross border cooperation and advocating for a change in specific policies concerning cross-border regions;

Volunteering in border regions and launching youth initiatives for a better cross-border society;

Connecting the Young Leaders with society via CBC HUBs.

SOCIETY FOR YOUTH

This perspective refers to the notion that the society plays a crucial role in shaping the new upcoming generations and

often the youth indulges themselves in activities dictated by the society. **SOCIETY FOR YOUTH** can benefit if the youth action consists of the following suggested activities listed:

Conducting joint advocacy campaigns in order to address key youth cross-border problems;

Lobbying for financial support for youth cross-border initiatives and making youth cross-border cooperation one of priorities in the Erasmus + and other EU programs;

Conducting a study on mapping good models for further inclusion of the youth in cross-border cooperation and enabling the possibility of youth actors being included in cross-border and international policy making process;

Educating the youth on cross-border cooperation whilst bringing experts and the youth together via an online platform, in face to face meetings, trainings and other events;

Providing internships in the regional and local institutions involved in cross-border and international cooperation.

YOUTH FOR YOUTH

This perspective emphasizes the idea that the youth can always find support in each other and focuses on their ability to always find a way through their passion, knowledge and skills to reach their potential. YOUTH FOR YOUTH can benefit if the youth action consists of the following suggested activities listed:

Planning and strategizing an action plan for the cross-border future;

Advocating for the creation of a legal framework for better youth involvement in regional and cross-border participation;

Creating an online knowledge-sharing platform for the creation of a network of young leaders for cross-border cooperation;

Raising awareness on cross-border cooperation, opening minds of individuals, and spreading information through social media and other means;

Organization of educational trainings and creative workshops in communities;

Organization of CBC camps and CBC bus tours gathering the youth to take joint actions in the fields of creating a political framework, economic development, environmental protection, social development, media and culture, peace and reconciliation and project development.

Added value of implementation of the AEBR Youth Charter for Cross Border Cooperation will be:

Added value from the perspective: *What can Society do for Youth?* is a framework that provides support, opportunity and liberty for the youth to

achieve their goals, and grow in a positive way. They need to become active members of society;

Added values from the perspective: *What can Youth do for Society?* is the idea that youth as change makers takes responsibilities to change the society;

Added value from the perspective: *What can Youth do for Youth?* is engaging in all spheres of society (encouraging other youngsters, colleagues, friends, classmates, children);

Overall Added value: building friendship and mutual understanding between youngsters across Europe for better communication, exchange and cooperation between Youth and Society in border regions.

This Charter is created by young people from all over Europe. List of all participants that contributed to the creation and finalizations of the document can be found in Annex I.

What is the Youth Charter for Cross Border Cooperation?

The challenges we all face tomorrow



The Charter

The framework by which youth will create solutions and project them into society

The AEBR Youth Charter for Cross-border Cooperation was created by young adults from all over Europe at the AEBR TFEB youth events during 2016 and 2017. The Charter aims to formulate a framework for the creation of solutions for improving youth action. It also aims to increase youth possibilities: to get involved, to initiate and to implement regional and cross-border activities and to consequently project such actions into society. The framework consists of **three stances**: *What can Youth do for Society?*; *What can Society do for Youth?*; and *What can Youth do for Youth?*

1

Y FOR S

Society benefits from the youth

2

S FOR Y

Youth benefits from society

3

Y FOR Y

Youth benefits from its own actions and ambition



What can Youth do for Society?

Youth can give society knowledge and contributions



What can Society do for Youth?

Society plays a crucial role in shaping new generations



What can Youth do for Youth?

We can help each other through concrete actions and knowledge

What does the Charter say?

This Charter was developed all over Europe by young adults, passionate on how to reconcile differences across borders

With this Charter AEBR Young Leaders for Cross-border Cooperation created the framework for achieving common vision that youth must take full involvement in regional and cross-border society development through participation and information exchange. Young people must motivate other youngsters in their environments to act and participate in all aspects of society, including environment protection, economic and social development. And as far as culture, media and reconciliation concerned, promotion and positive information exchanges are crucial for better tomorrow.

It is the mission and duty of AEBR Young Leaders to look for, and gather all relevant problems in order to find solutions to improve youth action and increase youth possibilities to get involved, and to initiate and implement regional and cross-border project. Our common mission is imbedded in the creation of this Charter and promotion of youth regional and cross-border activity and action.



“Young people must motivate other youngsters to act and participate in all aspects of society...”

They include developing social skills, improving youth possibilities, conquering difficulties and solving common regional and cross-border problems. They are connected to each and every young person, and contribute to the improving of that person's ability to participate in social activities and decision making. We must create a network of positive energy for youth cross-border, regional and transnational actions.



HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

We are kindly inviting you to give your contribution to the implementation of the AEBR Youth Charter for CBC by joining our Network of Young Leader for Cross-Border Cooperation and take an active role in its Working Groups. After all, it is us who shape the future we want, and the world we want to live in!

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