

FINAL PROGRAMME (16/11/2025)

Cross-Border School 2025, Gorizia (Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy)

Università degli Studi di Trieste, [Sede di Gorizia](#)
Via Bartolomeo D'Alviano 18, Gorizia, Room 204 (2nd floor)

8.45 Welcome coffee

9.15 Opening

Representatives of the [21st Century Borders](#) project at the University of Victoria (Canada), the Radboud University in Nijmegen (NL), the AEGR and the host University of Trieste in Gorizia welcomed the participants and explained the context of the CBS and the 21st Century Borders project within the BIG Lab, as well as the sessions ahead.

9.30 1st session (Round table): Horizon Europe **B-Shapes** project ([Border Shaping Perceptions of European Societies](#)), coordinated by **Martin Klatt**, Southern Denmark University, Sønderborg

Hynek Böhm, University of Liberec

Johanna Mitterhofer, Eurac Research

Joanna Kurowska-Pysz, Kreatus consultancy, Bielsko-Biala and WSB University, Dabrowa Gornicza

Moderator: **Caitriona Mullan**, AEGR Senior Expert



B-SHAPES looks at how borders continue to shape our ideas of societies. It has conducted research in 10 European border regions to give voice to the unheard. *Borderlanders* in general, but specifically the younger generation (16-30) of national minorities in borderlands. Another work package focused on Euroscepticism in border regions, collecting information from Eurosceptic party candidates from border regions running for the 2024 EP Election, as well as young members of these parties living in border regions. Results were presented and participants discussed how they can be exploited for active policymaking in border regions and for better communication of the borderlands' heritage.

11.00 Break & poster sessions [Resilient Borders](#) **RB 1**.

The European Commission supports the implementation of 20 pilot actions to help border regions:

- collaboratively plan with competent authorities across the entire CB territory
- enhance CB governance for crisis management and spatial planning
- foster contacts and information sharing across the border
- capitalise on the experience and provide examples for others

The pilot actions were invited to submit posters with the main facts & figures, recommendations and other aspects of their action and to attend the CBS. This project organised its Final Event in Gorizia, with a parallel workshop in the morning, these poster presentations, a session in this CBS in the afternoon, and another one during the ECBP Annual Event the following day (13 November). Most pilot actions were represented on-site.

11.30 2nd session: the Case of the Host: **Youth cross-border perception and participation**

Moreno Zago, University of Trieste

Massimiliano Angelotti, Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia

Daniele Del Bianco, [Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia](#) (Isig)

Maja Mezgec, Slovenski Raziskovalni Inštitut / Slovene Institute of Research (Slori)

Interaction with the audience: **Syria Paoloni**, Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia

A participatory session designed to engage the audience, and especially the younger participants, in reflecting on how borders affect daily life (small group discussions and expert comments)

13.00 Lunch & poster session **RB 2**

14.00 3rd session: Project Management in Practice: [Resilient Borders](#) Final Event.

Presentation and discussion of the results of 19 pilot actions

Introduction and moderation: **Martín Guillermo Ramírez**, AEBR Secretary General

Presentation of the call, **Silvia Gobert-Keckeis**, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière

Presentations by representatives of various pilot actions:

- **Jasna Grgurić Malović**, Assistant Head of Department, City of Rijeka (PA CM7- SEPORA - Sectorisation Postojna Rijeka) (HR-SI)
- **Marcin Krzymuski**, Project manager at the City Administration in Frankfurt (Oder) - the Frankfurt-Słubice Cooperation Centre (PA CM4 Cross-AI Connect: Strengthening border resilience) (DE-PL)
- **Johan Desseyn**, researcher, Benelux Grouping for Territorial Cooperation North Sea Port District (PA SP1: Developing a cross-border housing monitor for sustainable urban planning policy) (BE-NL)
- **Anna Klunczynska**, Director, Polish-Lithuanian Cross-border Functional Area EGTC (SP10: CLLD-oriented facilitation of cross-border planning across: the Polish-Lithuanian Functional Area) (LT-PL)

Invited guests to react and discuss the preliminary results of these pilot actions:

Matteo Berzi, *CB Data Hub*, European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Ricardo Ferreira, European Commission's *Border Focal Point*, DG Regio

Dirk Peters, AEBR Advisory Committee (*Beirat*)



AEBR, MOT, CESC, TEIN, and other organisations of border and cross-border regions and universities have repeatedly insisted on the need to pay special attention to the cross-border resilience of borderlands, and the EU institutions have been very open and receptive. Pandemics, conflicts, climate change, and other crises affect most territories, but border regions also face specific conditions due to their location, including demographic and digital challenges, mobility gaps, and many governance, legal and administrative constraints when cooperating with their neighbours. RB has supported various cross-border territories in strengthening their preparedness for emergencies and in jointly planning their land. As part of the *Resilient Borders* project Final Conference, this session presented preliminary results of these pilot actions to the European Commission's Unit dealing with CBC and financing the action, and also to the Joint Centre established to research a variety of aspects which need scientific scrutiny before entering the legislative process.

To know more about every case, a *Posters' Hall* and three poster sessions were organised. You can also visit the [Resilient Borders' website](#) for more information.

15.30 Break & poster session **RB 3**

16.00 **CBS talks: the future of CBC: practice and research options**

Prof. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly (BIG Lab, University of Victoria) leads this highly interactive session, explicitly addressed to the youngest participants, though everyone will have the opportunity to participate in the discussions. We want to exchange with the youth what we usually discuss with our peers, whether we are scholars or practitioners. This exercise was initiated in Szeged (DKMT Euroregion, HU) in 2022 with a lively discussion continuing in Košice (SK) in 2023 (with plenty of Ukrainian scholars), and it has been very appreciated by the participants in the last years.

The recent BIG Review ([Vol. 6 No. 2](#)) includes a Special Section on **EU Borders with Ukraine**, featuring articles from the VII CB School in Košice, held in November 2023.

Aspects considered to elaborate this session: connecting current European border regions' project and policy priorities with **a more global vision; Border Obstacles in perspective; Youth**; and a **new generation of CB data**.

Prof. Brunet-Jailly asked the participants, distributed in a World Café format, to discuss specific CBC cases and classify them according to their stage, and discuss how to pass from one stage to the next:

- CB coordination: establishment of a formal cross-border context to work;
- CB cooperation: operational joint working groups on various topics;
- CB collaboration: design and implementation of complementary policies across the border;
- CB fiscal solidarity: the wealthier partner invests in the neighbouring, less wealthy, territory.

16.45 Closing

NB: sessions always contain a mixture of research and practice.

The Cross-Border School Partnership 2025



**UNIVERSITY
OF TRIESTE**

Department of
Political and Social Sciences

The University of Trieste – Department of Political and Social Sciences

For fifty years, the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Trieste has been engaged in teaching, research and dissemination activities on contemporary issues, with reference to social change, territorial dynamics, political transformations and cultural phenomena.

In 1989, the Department opened its doors to the world of diplomacy and international relations, inaugurating the Degree Course in International and Diplomatic Sciences, based in Gorizia, near the border with Yugoslavia, now the Republic of Slovenia. The themes of international relations and cross-border cooperation have been translated into projects with institutional and non-institutional partners in neighbouring countries on issues of local development, the protection of the rights of ethnic and linguistic communities, the social inclusion of vulnerable groups and the protection of the territory, involving civil society and implementing guidelines for political and institutional decision-makers.

Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia

The Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia is a cross-border area at the crossroads of Central Europe and the Balkans. With a triple border—Austria to the north, Slovenia to the east, and Croatia across the Adriatic Sea—it plays a key role in cross-border cooperation. As part of EU funding programs of European Territorial Cooperation, also known as Interreg, the Region hosts the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat of Interreg Italy–Slovenia, the Regional Coordination Unit of Interreg Italy–Austria, and co-chairs the National Committee of Interreg Italy–Croatia. It also participates in transnational and interregional Interreg programs and supports cultural initiatives linked to GO! 2025 Nova Gorica–Gorizia, European Capital of Culture, fostering cross-border collaboration through culture. Additionally, the Region engages in conferences and events promoting Interreg and cross-border cooperation.



**REGIONE AUTONOMA
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA**



AEBR – AGE – ARFE

AEBR Established in 1971, the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) represents the interests of European border and cross-border regions at the European, national, and regional levels. Today, AEBR has approximately 100 members from border and cross-border regions, representing around 75% of the EU's internal and external border areas. For further details, visit www.aebr.eu.

The AEBR Cross-Border School

The CBS is designed to foster a nurturing environment where academics and professionals are peers, sharing their experiences and learning from one another in a more horizontal, interactive manner. AEBR CB School aims to provide thought-provoking material for curious professionals, helping them systematically reflect on their practice in cross-border cooperation, offering feedback to scientists on their research

outcomes and professional experiences, and providing food for thought for policymakers. I AEBR CB School took place in Cáceres (Extremadura, ES) in 2017, II CBS in Oulu (Bothnian Arc, FI) in 2018, III CBS in Dresden (Elbe-Labe Euroregion, DE) in 2019, IV CBS (online) in 2020, V CBS in Arnhem (Euregio Rhine-Waal, Gelderland, NL) in 2021, VI CBS in Szeged (DKMT Euroregion, HU) in 2022, VII CBS in Košice (SK) in 2023 and VIII in Karlstad (Värmland, SE) in 2024. IX will take place in Gorizia (IT) in 2025, and X CB School is planned in Ireland in 2026.

Nijmegen School of Management (Radboud University)

For the past ten years, the Dutch University Guide has ranked Radboud University as one of the best general, traditional universities in the Netherlands.

Radboud University



The Nijmegen School of Management is guided by its motto, 'co-creating knowledge for society'. This motto inspires new bridges between disciplines and researchers. It underlines the importance of the interaction of academia with organisations and society, and by mobilising the disciplinary diversity presented by the breadth of the school and our work with our partners.



BIG_Lab

[The Borders in Globalization](#) (BiG) research program at the Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria (British Columbia, Canada), began in 2013 with seven years of generous funding from a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Partnership Grant. Over the years, BIG_Lab contributed to 109 research papers published with DOIs. It hosted two international conferences, ten summer institutes, multiple policy forums and roundtables.

These knowledge transfer activities have brought together scholars and students with non-academic stakeholders and policymakers to conceptually and pragmatically understand how technologies, self-determination and regionalization around the world are affecting borders and borderlands. Since then, the partnership was extended with a new grant until 2027 – SSHRC/21st Century Borders, Erasmus+ / Jean Monnet Network, and a Jean Monnet Chair.

BiG's research examines the well-established concept that borders are primarily understood as sovereign territorial boundaries that emerge out of international treaties. We have found that more than ever before, border policies straddle sovereign boundary lines, and networked policies overlap many different jurisdictional scales, including, but not exclusively, the sovereign territories of states. Furthermore, our research has shown that contemporary borders in globalization are processes that, in many instances, are fundamentally linked to movements and flows around the world, rather than to territoriality as conventional wisdom dictates. We have collected evidence showing that bordering policies and processes increasingly disregard the territorial limits of states, sometimes imposing borders thousands of kilometres beyond their international boundary line.



**University
of Victoria**

Centre for
Global Studies



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