

X AEBR CROSS-BORDER SCHOOL



Programme X Annual AEBR Cross-Border School

09.00 – 17.30

28th October 2026 at Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT)

DUNDALK, Co. Louth, Ireland

The Association of European Border Regions presents its X Annual Cross-Border School in association with the Radboud University of Nijmegen, Netherlands, & the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. The AEBR Cross-Border School takes place during the AEBR Annual Events 2026. The 2026 AEBR Annual Events, jointly hosted by AEBR and East Border Region Committee, will take place in the East Border Region of Ireland/Northern Ireland across various locations in Counties Monaghan, Armagh and Louth.

Moderator for the AEBR X Cross Border School 2026:

Caitríona Mullan, AEBR Advisor

09.00

Registration, Tea and Coffee

09.30

Welcome from Dundalk Institute of Technology President

Orientation by Moderator

09.35

Opening Remarks

Martin Guillermo-Ramírez, Secretary-General, Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

10.00 – 11:30

Session 1: Cross-border Cooperation Governance for 21st Century Issues: Sustainable development/WEFE and just transitions, competitiveness and innovation, placemaking and peace.

Moderated by Ciarán Ó Cuinn, Director, MEDRC

- **Prof. Emmanuel Brunet- Jailly**, Professor & Jean Monnet Chair, Director of Borders in Globalisation research Lab (BIG_Lab), School of Public Administration at University of Victoria, Canada: Keynote.
- **Dr. Søren Tinning**, University of Southern Denmark, Centre for Border Region Studies/Department of Political Science and Public Management: 'Drivers and barriers to cross-border cooperation around climate adaptation: a conceptual framework'.
- **Prof. Iryna Yaremak**, Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas, Department of Electrical Engineering: 'Advancing Energy Transition through cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and EU Countries'.

11.30

Coffee and Networking



X AEBR CROSS-BORDER SCHOOL

12.00 – 13:30	Parallel Session 2a: Border Regions as Enhanced Trust Environments: borders as places of peace-building, inclusive development cooperation, and intercultural competency. Moderated by Dirk Peters, AEBR Advisor ▪ Milena Pallotta and Bektha Djilidjel, AEBR's IVY Team members: <i>Building trust environments in border regions through youth engagement/youth participation – reflections and perspectives from the European Commission's and AEBR's Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY) volunteering programme.</i> ▪ Andrija Planić, Associate for International Cooperation and Cooperation with Industry, Faculty of Geography, University of Belgrade, and Sanda Šimić, Policy Expert, National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED), Serbia: <i>'Beyond Project Closure: Assessing the Long-Term Sustainability of Cross-Border Cooperation Projects in the Western Balkans.'</i> ▪ Dr. Francesco Cappellano, University of Kiel: <i>'The Perception-Preparedness Gap: Climate Adaptation as Territorial Transformation in the German-Danish Border Region'.</i> <i>Response and Comments: Dr. Shelley Deane, Research Fellow, North and South Programme, Conflict Institute, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University; Chair, Royal Irish Academy Standing Committee on International Affairs.</i>
12.00 – 13:30	Parallel Session 2b: Governance for Cross-border Relationships: Affinities beyond the map. Moderated by Dr. Martin van der Velde, Associate Professor, Radboud University ▪ Dr. Ahmed Bakry, University of Aalborg, Denmark: <i>'The paradox of integrating and dividing processes: A comparative dynamic mapping of cross-border cooperation governance through INTERREG projects across all EU cross-border regions'.</i> ▪ Tatsiana Shaban, WSB Academy, Poland: <i>'European Union cross-border policy with neighbouring countries: the case of Belarus'.</i> <i>Response and Comments: Tom Reid, Former Deputy Secretary of the Northern Ireland Civil Service; former NICS Lead Official on Brexit Negotiations: 'From neighbouring Member States to External border/third country relationships – the case of Northern Ireland'.</i>
13.30	Lunch and Networking
14.30 – 15:45	Session 3: Exploring Shared Heritage Across Borders: the case of Ireland – Stargazers, Saints, Scholars, and Welcomes.



X AEBR CROSS-BORDER SCHOOL

Moderated by Martin Guillermo-Ramírez, AEBR Secretary-General

A moderated fireside chat and audience Q&A on Ireland and Northern Ireland's historical cooperation in heritage and tourism – with expert practitioners from Ireland's cultural and economic institutions:

- **Michael MacDonagh**, Chief Archaeologist, National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland.
- **Mark Mohan**, Manager, Ireland's Ancient East, Failte Ireland (Ireland's National Tourism Agency).
- **Kate Burns**, Cross Border expert in cultural and natural heritage/development cooperation; Board Member, National Marine Institute of Ireland; Board Member, Northern Ireland Agricultural, Food and Biosciences Institute; former Member of AEBR Executive Committee.

15.45 – 17:15 Session 4: Indivisible Island – A film by Prof. Cathal McCall, Professor of European Politics, Queen's University of Belfast) **and Gavin Turnbull.**

Moderated by Caitríona Mullan, AEBR Advisor

Film Screening and Directors' Q&A

17.15 End of School Reflections

Prof. Katy Hayward, Professor of Political Sociology, Queen's University of Belfast.

17:25 Final Remarks and Close

Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly

Martin Guillermo-Ramírez

Information on the AEBR Cross-Border School:



AEBR Cross-Border School was created to provide a nurturing environment in which academics and professionals are each other's peers, where they can share theirs and learn from each other's experiences in a more horizontal, interactive way. The aim of AEBR CB School is to provide relevant thinking material for curious professionals, helping them systematically reflect on their practice in cross-border cooperation and to provide feedback to researchers on their research outcomes and professional experiences. AEBR Border Schools

have taken place in Cáceres (Extremadura, ES) in 2017, Oulu (Bothnian Arc, FI) in 2018, Dresden (Elbe-Labe Euroregion, DE) in 2019, online in 2020, Arnhem (Euregio Rhine-Waal, Gelderland, NL) in 2021, Szeged (DKMT Euroregion, HU) in 2022, Košice, Slovakia, in 2023, Karlstad (Värmland, SE) in 2024, and Gorizia (Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, Italy) in 2025. In 2026, the East Border Region Committee, one of the longest-standing local government cross-border cooperation structures in Europe and a very active AEBR member for decades, will host our Annual Events. We are also delighted to work in partnership with the Dundalk Institute of Technology as our venue hosts, in particular, acknowledging their recent strategic association with Queen's University of Belfast.

For more information, visit <https://www.aebr.eu/initiatives/cross-border-school-aebr>.



X AEBR CROSS-BORDER SCHOOL

Information on the partner organisations to the AEBR Cross-Border School:

Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)



Established in 1971, the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) is a lobby organisation representing the interests of the European border and cross-border regions at the European, national, and regional levels. AEBR is a key advocacy organisation that influences European policy through evidence, practice, and strategic partnerships to advance data-driven approaches. It is underpinned by its core principles of supporting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law for the betterment of citizens' lives in border regions, and by highlighting the role that border regions play in driving the European Project towards optimal benefits for all. Today, AEBR has about 100 border and cross-border regions as its members, representing about 75% of the border areas within and on the external borders of the European Union. It implements, among other projects, [b-solutions](#) and [Interreg Volunteer Youth](#). For further details, visit www.aebr.eu.

Nijmegen School of Management (Radboud University)

Radboud University



For the last ten years, the Dutch University Guide has ranked Radboud University as one of the best general, traditional universities in the Netherlands. The Nijmegen School of Management is guided by its motto, 'cocreating 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 DOI numbers. 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



X AEBR CROSS-BORDER SCHOOL

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, not to territoriality as conventional wisdom dictates. We have collected evidence documenting how bordering policies and processes increasingly disregard the territorial limits of states, sometimes implementing borders thousands of kilometers away from their international boundary line.

Dundalk Institute of Technology



Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) is the leading higher education and research institution at the heart of Ireland's North East, with a distinctive role in shaping the region's social, economic and cultural development. Situated at the centre of the Belfast–Dublin economic corridor and close to the border, DkIT is uniquely positioned to advance collaboration across the island of Ireland. Through excellence in education, research, innovation and

enterprise, DkIT builds impactful partnerships nationally and internationally. Its developing relationship with Queen's University Belfast represents an important new chapter in cross-border collaboration, creating opportunities for shared research, knowledge exchange, talent development and regional transformation.

East Border Region Committee



Established in 1976 East Border Region (EBR) is one of the longest established Local Authority cross border groups in Europe, celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. EBR represents six local authorities on the island of Ireland; three in Northern Ireland and three in the Republic of Ireland, and its core aim is to facilitate cross-border co-operation for the economic and social benefit of the citizens of the region. EBR has a strong track record of successfully managing and implementing EU funded projects, primarily the INTERREG Programme, and is currently managing over €16 million of PEACEPLUS funded projects.



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada