

XIII International Round Table

XIX Strategic Forum

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Association of European Border Regions

AGEG-AEBR-ARFE





AEBR – AGEG – ARFE



International experience of cross-border relations in times of pandemic

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Grenzregionen (AGEG)
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)
Werkgemeinschaft van Europese grensgebieden (WVEG)
Associação das Regiões Fronteiriças Europeias (ARFE)
Σύνδεσμος Ευρωπαϊκών Συνοριακών Περιφερειών (ΣΕΣΠ)
Stowarzyszenie Europejskich Regionów Granicznych (SERG)
Ассоциация Европейских Приграничных Регионов (АЕПР)
Európai Határ Menti Régiók Szövetsége (EHMRS)
Associació de les Regions Frontereres Europees (ARFE)

Warning!

*When we thought we had
all the answers, suddenly
they changed the questions*

*Cuando creíamos tener
todas las respuestas, de
pronto nos cambiaron las
preguntas*

Mario Benedetti (1920-
2009)

- Cooperation and cohesion agendas might still shift considerably, as a reaction to the crisis
- Focus on common understanding of intentions
- Mechanics not 100% stable

1. Border closing to control the spread of the pandemic:

- Nationally-oriented control measures

2. Opening to essential services (and essential CBC):

- Many CB services, production, etc., depend on workforce, providers at the other side of the border
- Awareness of CBC at all levels

3. CB coordination

Growth,
competitiveness,
connectivity



- Common interest in **Smart specialisation strategies (RIS3)**; innovation
- Support to **internationalisation of SMEs**
- **e-government**: Joint e-government services across borders
- **Connectivity**: Missing links and improved cross border public transport services

Greener, low carbon economy

Climate change and risk management: Cross border preventive measures and joint emergency services

Biodiversity and joint management of nature protection

Energy transition: Potential for renewable energy

Circular economy: Shift towards recycling and preventive measures





Employment,
education ,
health

Very important-Direct impact on citizens in border regions

Obstacles have big impact: Potential remains unused

Cross-border public services

Explore potential of e-Health and e-Education

Multi-lingualism



Better cooperation governance

New policy objective

- Reduce cross-border obstacles
- Trust-building measures, especially for citizens
- Institutional capacity building

Focus on identify obstacles/find solutions

Activities: Studies, cross-border data, pilot projects, expertise, experience and staff exchange, training, P2P, etc.



Conclusions

For the 2021-2025 period, the Commission has proposed re-focusing its narrative and actions along four main clusters – all of which would take account of the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lessons learned from it -> **Border regions need to become more resilient in their governance**:

- **Public services in border regions:** Cross-border health care, public transport, joint digital services, rescue and emergency services
- **Green Deal implementation**
- **Labour market and education:** Labour mobility in all its dimensions (access to jobs, fight against brain drain, etc)
- **Institutional cooperation:** Governance of cross-border regions and their key services to citizens + integrated and comprehensive approach to security.



b-solutions

<https://www.b-solutionsproject.com/>

3 Calls; the 4th will open in January 2021!!!

Objectives: identify and promote sustainable methods of resolving border obstacles of a legal and/or administrative nature along EU internal land borders

Working fields: employment, health, transport, multi-lingualism and institutional cooperation





IVY

- Part of the ESC
- Started March 2017
- Co-funded DG Regio
- Managed by AEBR



- Target: EU citizens 18-30 years old
- Hosts: Interreg Programmes and Projects + IPA-CBC + ENI-CBC
- Duration: 2 – 6 months
- All volunteers are supported (also financially), insured and mentored

Thank you very much for your attention!



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