



## EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER PLATFORM ANNUAL MEETING

10-11 June 2026, Brussels

**Interpretation** – You can speak and listen in French, German, English, Spanish

This annual meeting of the European Cross-Border Platform (ECBP) will provide an opportunity to present and discuss the needs and potential of border regions, their citizens, and cross-border entities. We will look at recent political developments impacting cross-border cooperation and practical experiences, new approaches, and policy solutions for cross-border regions.

As part of European Territorial Cooperation, cross-border cooperation is one of the cornerstones of European integration and strengthening the single market. While progress has been made in facilitating cross-border interactions in recent years, many obstacles remain. Citizens, businesses and administrations in border regions continue to encounter difficulties in their daily lives, whether it be finding a job, accessing healthcare, everyday commuting or overcoming administrative problems.

The European Cross-Border Platform (ECBP), established in 2024 as the successor of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) Platform, aims to gather all actors in cross-border cooperation from border cities and regions to EGTCs and Euroregions. The event will include the annual meeting of the platform's EGTC working group and the ceremony for the 2026 edition of the EGTC award "Building Europe across Borders".

### **Wednesday 10 June – Side events**

#### **1) Closing Conference of the BorderLabs CE project ([full programme](#))**

9.30 to 12.45

European Committee of the Regions, JDE 51

*Including round tables on*

- *A new spatial vision for central Europe through strategic cross-border planning*
- *Reconciliation in Central Europe through cross-border participatory governance*
- *Enhanced integration through the elimination of cross-border legal and administrative obstacles.*

*Launch of the Charter and a network for a more integrated Central Europe*

#### **2) Closing event of the Cross-Border Data Collection project ([full programme](#))**

9.30 to 13.00

Centre Borschette, rue Froissart (hybrid event)

*Including panel discussions on*

- *From feasibility to sustainability: embedding cross-border collection of administrative data in the ESS*
- *Why cross-border data matters: policy, planning and territorial governance*

**Wednesday 10 June – The EGTC tool at 20 years: Future perspectives, needs and challenges  
(EGTC working group meeting)**

European Committee of the Regions, JDE 51

- 14:00 Registration
- 14:30 Welcome address  
Pavel Branda, Chair of the European Cross-Border Platform
- 14.45 – 15.10 Presentation of the results of the EGTC survey and the working methods of the Working Group on a new Cross-Border Workers' Status
- Katalin Fekete, CESCO
  - Xavier Conill, Director of the Cerdanya cross-border hospital
  - Pavel Branda, CoR
- 15.15 – 16.15 Panel 1 – Eligibility of the EGTCs at European and national calls  
Speakers:
- Nathalie Vershelde, Head of Unit, DG REGIO
  - Jelena Stojovic, Interact (tbc)
  - Marie-Eve Reinert, Director of EGTC Interregional Alliance for the Rhine Alpine Corridor
  - Michael Dejozé, Director of EGTC Meuse-Rhine (tbc)
- 16.15 – 17.15 Panel 2 – Visibility and recognition of the EGTCs at national and European levels  
Speakers:
- Xavier Bernard-Sans, Secretary General of the EGTC Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean
  - Romina Cocina, Director of EGTC GO
  - Bernd Finger, EGTC EUCOR – The European Campus
  - Annika Jaansoo, Cross-border cooperation expert, University of Twente
  - Sabine Zillmer, Head of the Berlin Office of Spatial Foresight
- 17.15 – 17.35 EGTC Overviews
- Raffaella Coletti (ISSIRFA): The study on Italian EGTCs (tbc)
  - Raffaele Viaggi (MOT): The Flash Study on French EGTCs
  - Kitti Dubniczki (CESCI): The Hungarian EGTC Monitor
- 17:35 Concluding remarks by the chair

**Wednesday 10 June – EGTC Award ceremony and light networking dinner**

European Committee of the Regions, Atrium 5

- 18:00 EGTC Award ceremony
- 18:30 Light networking dinner

## Thursday 11 June – European Cross-Border Platform

European Committee of the Regions, JDE 52 (listening room JDE 53)

- 09:00 Registration
- 09:30 Welcome addresses
- Kata Tüttö, CoR president (tbc)
  - Pavel Branda, ECBP chair
  - Zsuzsanna Fejes, President of CESCO
- 10:00 Keynote address
- Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission (tbc)
- 10:15 Panel debate "Interreg beyond 2027"
- Moderator: Martin Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General, AEBR
- Speakers:
- Pascal Arimont, MEP, co-rapporteur (online)
  - Marcos Ros Sempere, MEP, co-rapporteur (tbc)
  - Hugo Sobral, Deputy Director-General, DG REGIO (tbc)
  - Nikolett Horváth, Head of the Managing Authority of Interreg Programmes, Hungary
- 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:50 Panel debate "Networks for cross-border cooperation"
- Moderator: Gyula Ocskay, Secretary General, CESCO
- Speakers:
- Michele Calabro Director (EUREGHA Secretariat) and Adriana Peres Fortis (CBI Groningen): The EUREGHA Network
  - Anne Thevenet (Euro-Institut, Kehl): The Transfrontier Euro-Institute Network (TEIN)
  - Matteo Berzi (JRC): The Joint Research Centre and the ACROSS platform
  - Claire Duvernet (BBSR): The Cross-Border Monitoring Network
  - Máté Farkas (EUROSTAT): The Cross-Border Cities and FUAs Subgroup
  - Sabrina Mansutti (ÖIR): Cross-Border Data Collection
- 13:00 Lunch break (in JDE Foyer 5)
- 14:30 Panel debate "Future of cross-border regions in the Schengen Area"
- Moderator: Jean Peyrony, Director General, MOT
- Speakers:
- Matteo Bianchi, Member of the European Committee of the Regions, rapporteur on "Enhancing the territorial dimension of the EU - Switzerland relationship"
  - Jorrit Rijpma, DG HOME
  - Martin Unfried, Legal Researcher at ITEM (tbc)
  - Valentin Furnari, Ministry of Interior of France

- Liesa Scholzen, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (BE/EA)  
(tbc)

16:00 Official kick-off of the Working Group on Cross-Border Workers' Status and  
announcement of the ECBP annual event 2027

16:30 End of the annual meeting

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