



## EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER PLATFORM ANNUAL MEETING

13 -14 November 2025, Gorizia, Italy

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

As part of European Territorial Cooperation, cross-border cooperation is one of the cornerstones of European integration and of 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 bordercities and regions to EGTCs and Euroregions. This meeting of the ECBP will provide an opportunity to present and discuss the needs and potential of border regions, their citizens, and cross-border entities. The meeting will look at recent political developments as well as practical experiences, new approaches and policy solutions for cross-border regions. The event will also include the annual meeting of the platform's EGTC working group.

### Wednesday 12 November

For participants who arrive on 12 November, the local hosts offer a walking tour of the Transalpina square/Trg Evrope Cross-border Area, starting at 19:00. The tour will be in English only.

### Thursday 13 November – ECBP annual meeting

[Palazzo della Regione - Auditorium della Cultura Friulana](#)

*[For AEBR members: 7:30 to 10:00 AEBR general assembly]*

09:00	Registration & welcome coffee
10:30	Welcome by Massimiliano Fedriga, President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region
10:40	Welcome by Sarah Filisetti, Councillor for European Policies and Projects, Municipal Council of Gorizia and Samo Turel, Mayor of the City Municipality of Nova Gorica
10:50	Opening by ECBP President Pavel Branda
10:55	Keynote address by Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reform, European Commission (video message)

- 11:00 The future of cross-border cooperation: an academic perspective - Hynek Böhm, Associate Professor at Technical University of Liberec and University of Opole
- 11:15 Roundtable debate – The future of cross-border cooperation in a changing world  
Moderator: Ana Nikolov, AEBR Balkans  
Speakers:
- Sandro Gozi, MEP (video message)
  - Olivier Baudelet, Senior expert, DG REGIO, European Commission
  - Danish Presidency of the Council (tbc)
  - Pavel Branda, Member of the European Committee of the Regions
  - David Sventek, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee
  - Andrew Boff, Vice President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- The debate will be enriched with evidence from border regions and cross-border entities incl. EGTC*
- 13:00 Family picture and Lunch
- 14:30 Thematic session “Resilient borders”  
Moderator: Jean Peyrony, MOT  
Speakers:
- Ricardo Ferreira, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
  - Martin Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General, Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
  - Roberto Ciambetti, Member of the European Committee of the Regions
  - Representative of a “Spatial Planning” pilot action
  - Representative of a “Crisis Management” pilot action
- 15:45 Break
- 16:00 Thematic session “Cross-border regions and EU enlargement”  
Moderator: Caitriona Mullan, AEBR
- Opening message from the Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Antonio Tajani
- Speakers:
- Massimiliano Fedriga, President of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Member of the Committee of the Regions
  - Tomislav Žigmanov, Vice-President of the Provincial government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
  - Kerim Medjedovic, Local Democracy Agency (LDA), Nikšić, Montenegro
- 17:15 Conclusions
- 18:00 Light networking dinner
- 19:00-20:30 Study Visit: Gorizia’s Urban Transformation – From the Iron Curtain to a Cross-Border City at the Centre of the European Union (only in English)

## Friday 14 November – EGTC Working Group annual meeting

Palazzo della Regione - Auditorium della Cultura Friulana

- 09:00 Registration
- 09:30 Added value of the EGTC tool  
Moderator: Anne Thevenet, Euro-Institut Kehl  
Speakers:
- Mathias Lindström (Kvarken Council EGTC): What does the EGTC tool bring to a cross-border association?
  - Pablo Rivera (EGTC Euro City Chaves Verín): What does the EGTC tool bring to a twin city?
  - Leyre Azcona (EGTC Euroregion Nouvelle-Aquitaine Euskadi Navarra): What does the EGTC tool bring to a Euroregion?
  - Judit Füzér (Pannon EGTC): The EGTC as a tool of EU enlargement
  - Romina Kocina (EGTC GO): The EGTC as management body of a cross-border ITI
  - Stefan Sunzenauer (EGTC European Campus of Studies and Research): The EGTC as engine of international tertiary educational cooperation and innovation
  - Christine Steck (EGTC Eurodistrict SaarMoselle): The EGTC as a tool for bilingual child-care
- 11:15 Break
- 11:30 Round-table discussion: Future perspectives for the EGTC tool  
Moderator: Gyula Ocskay, CESCO  
Participants:
- Ricardo Ferreira (DG REGIO)
  - Pavel Branda (European Committee of the Regions)
  - Xavier Bernard Sans (Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean EGTC)
  - Julianna Máté (Via Carpatia EGTC)
  - Sandra Sodini (EGTC Senza Confini)
  - Elisa Bertò (Tyrol South-Tyrol Trentino EGTC)
  - Frédéric Siebenhaar (EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA)
- 13:30-15:00 Light networking lunch
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