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# Cross-board Territorial Co-operation Challenges in Europe: some reflections from Galicia-Northern Portugal experience

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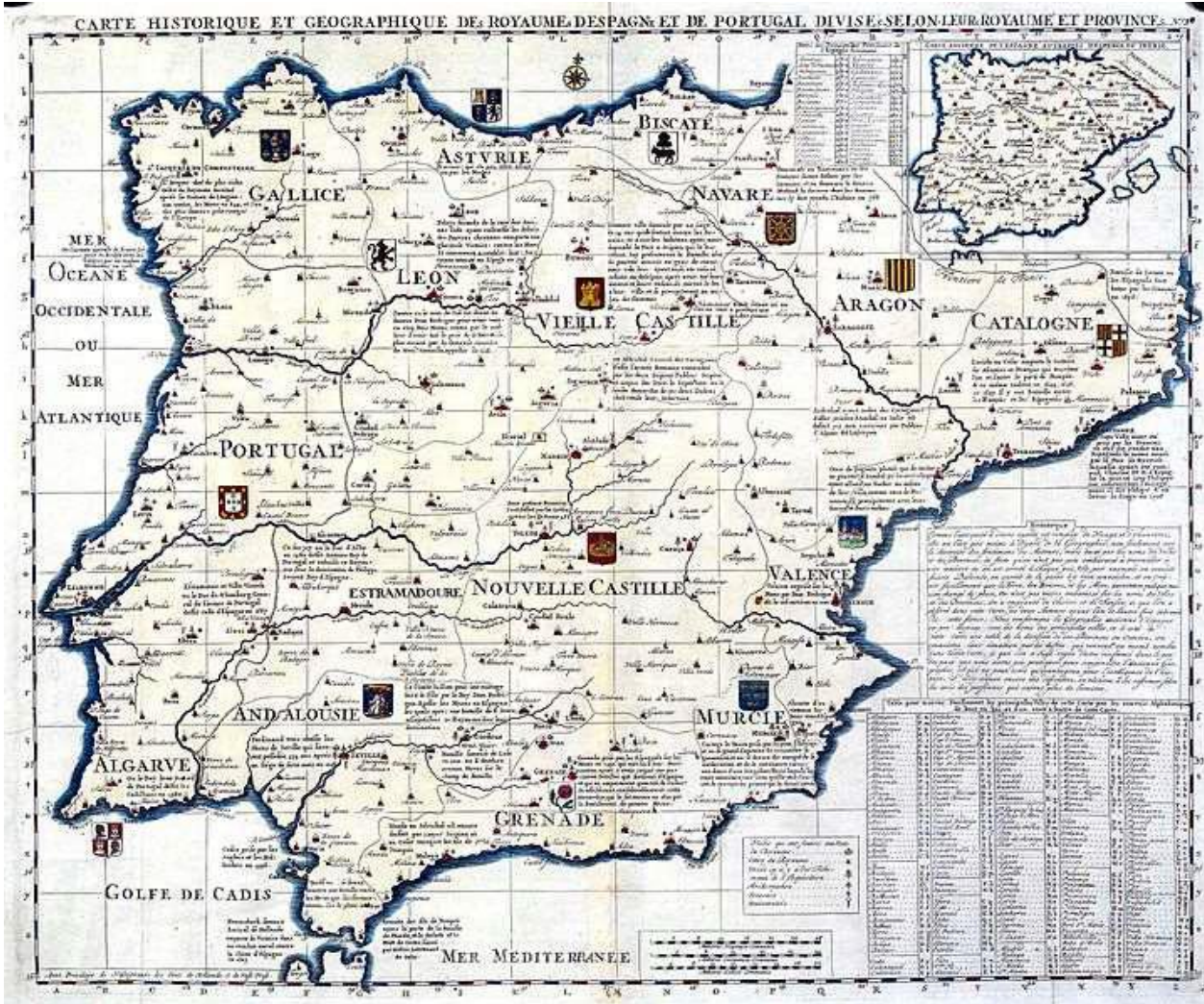
International Conference  
**CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPE**  
25 May 2018 | Dubrovnik, Croatia



# Spain and Portugal Border: one of the oldest in Europe.



# Portugal and Spain, nine centuries of rivalry and mistrust



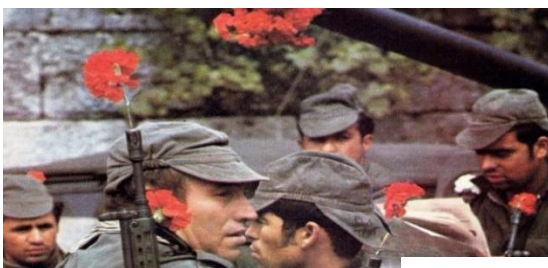
The relations between 2 countries have often been difficult.

They have been **rivals** at the sea conquest as early as in the XIV<sup>th</sup> century and they have been **enemies** in many wars.

Even when Spain and Portugal fought to keep their colonies around the globe, some co-operation existed between them.

For nine centuries **rivalry and mistrust** defined the relations between Spain and Portugal.

# ... but a common history and future



1974



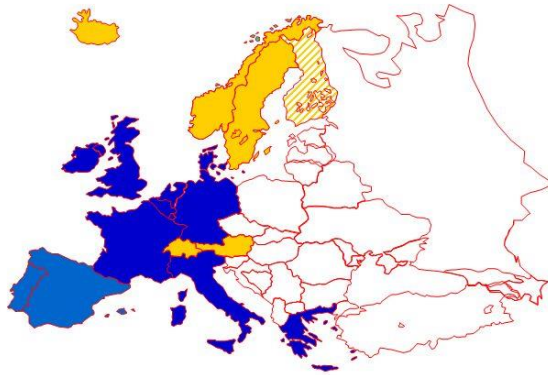
1976



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**1986: EEC-12**  
Spain and Portugal

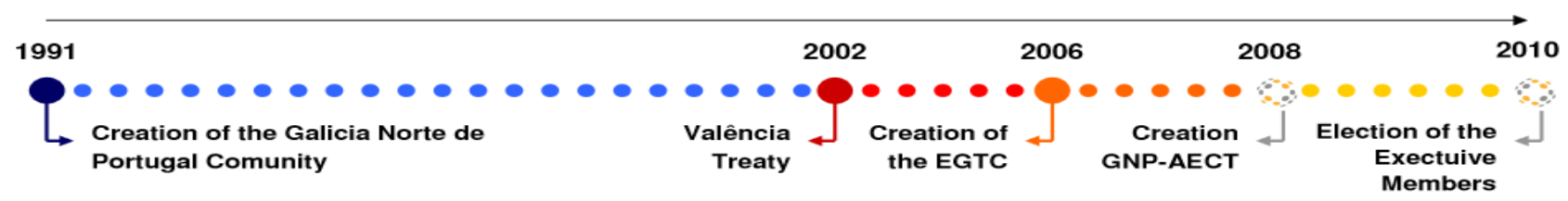


# Galicia and Northern Portugal CBC - legal framework

**Spain-Portugal Friendship and Co-operation Treaty - 27th November 1977**

**Council of Europe Madrid Outline Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities, Council of Europe (21st May 1980)**

**Portugal and Spain ratified the Council of Europe Madrid Outline Convention – 1989 | 1990.**



**Constitutive Agreement of the Galicia-Northern Portugal Working Community – 1991**

**Cross-Border Co-operation Treaty between Spain and Portugal – Treaty of Valencia, 2004.**

**Cross-border Co-operation Agreement Northern Portugal and Xunta de Galicia -2006**

**European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Galicia-Northern Portugal (EGTC GNP) - 2008**

**Creation of the Galicia–Northern Portugal Euroregion - 2008**

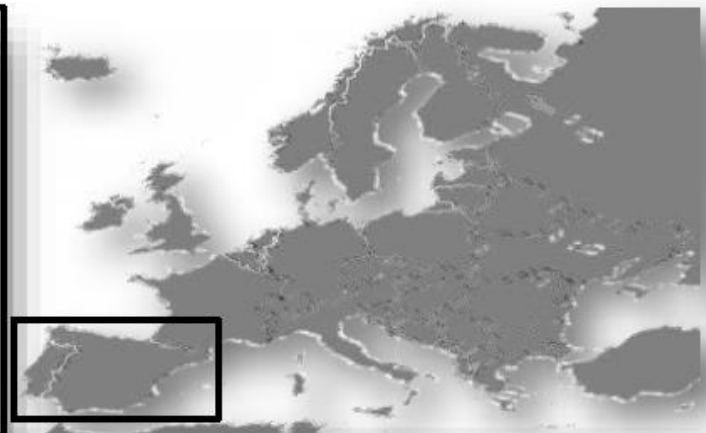
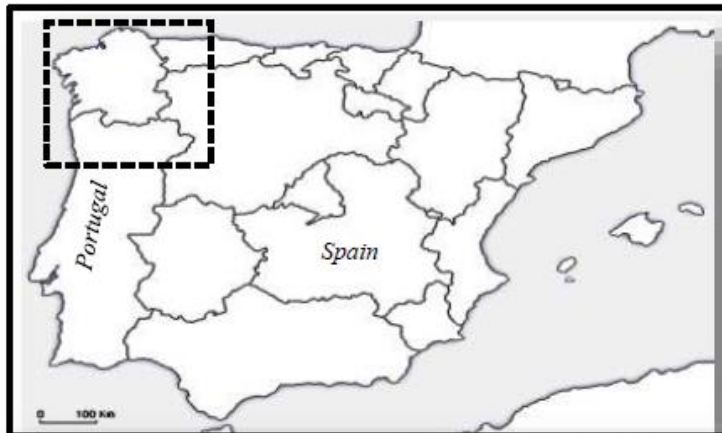
# Galicia-Northern Portugal Euroregion

**Galicia**



**Northern PT**

# Galicia-Northern Portugal Euroregion



<p><b>Galicia Spain**</b>                  Pontevedra                  A Coruña                  Ourense                  Lugo</p> <hr/> <p>① A Coruña                  ② Santiago de Compostela                  ③ Lugo                  ④ Vigo</p> <hr/> <p><b>Eurocities</b>                  ⑪ Chaves* - Verín**                  ⑫ Tui** - Valença*</p>		<p><b>Northern Portugal*</b>                  Alto Minho                  Cávado                  Ave                  AM Porto                  Alto Tâmega                  Tâmega e Sousa                  Douro                  Terras de Trás-os-Montes</p> <hr/> <p>⑤ Viana do Castelo                  ⑥ Bragança                  ⑦ Braga                  ⑧ Guimarães                  ⑨ Porto                  ⑩ Vila Real</p>
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## Galicia – northern Portugal



# Galicia–Northern Portugal Euroregion

## A Euroregião Galicia – Norte Portugal

### Cifras Chave

Ano: 2011	Galicia	Norte Portugal	EU27
População (hab.)	2.795.422	3.608.609	502.477.005
Esperança de Vida (anos) <sup>(1)</sup>	81,7	79,6	79,4
PIB <i>per capita</i> (euros) <sup>(2)</sup>	20.500	12.600	23.500
Taxa de Desemprego	18,3 %	13 %	9,6 %
Taxa de Atividade	55 %	61,9 %	71,4 %
Taxa de Cobertura das Importações	124 %	128 %	102 %



Fonte: IGE, INE Portugal, Eurostat

(1) Dados do período 2008-2010

(2) Dados de 2009





# Galicia–Northern Portugal Euroregion

Indicators	Spain	Galicia (Spain)	Portugal	Northern Portugal
<b>Population</b>				
<b>Resident population (N.)* (3rd Quarter 2014)</b>	<b>46,464,001</b>	<b>2,748,695 (6% of Spain)</b>	<b>10,427,301</b>	<b>3,694,152 (35% of Portugal)</b>
<b>Population density (No./ km<sup>2</sup>) (2011)**</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>115.4</b>	<b>175.8</b>
<b>Labour-Market</b>				
<b>Unemployment rate (%)* (30th September,2014)</b>	<b>23.72</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>17.1 (14.2 % in the 1st quarter of 2015)</b>
<b>Youth Unemployment (%)* (th Quarter 2013)</b>	<b>54.9 (16-29 years)</b>	<b>36.6 (16-29 years)</b>	<b>38.1 (15-24 years)</b>	<b>17.1 (14.2 % in the 1st quarter of 2015)</b>
<b>Economic-Indicators</b>				
<b>GDP (thousands of euros)** (2011)</b>	<b>1,063,355</b>	<b>58,001 (5.5% of Spain)</b>	<b>171,040</b>	<b>48,403 (28.3% of Portugal)</b>
<b>GDP per capita (thousands of euros)** (2011)</b>	<b>23,1</b>	<b>21,2</b>	<b>16,1</b>	<b>12,9</b>



## Main Objectives of Cross-Border Cooperation

Cohesion and structuring of the urban system, as well as contributing to the modernization of cities through network programs, information exchange and joint strategic planning.

Promotes exchanges of goods and persons (in particular daily cross-border workers), and fosters joint economic development projects at European level.

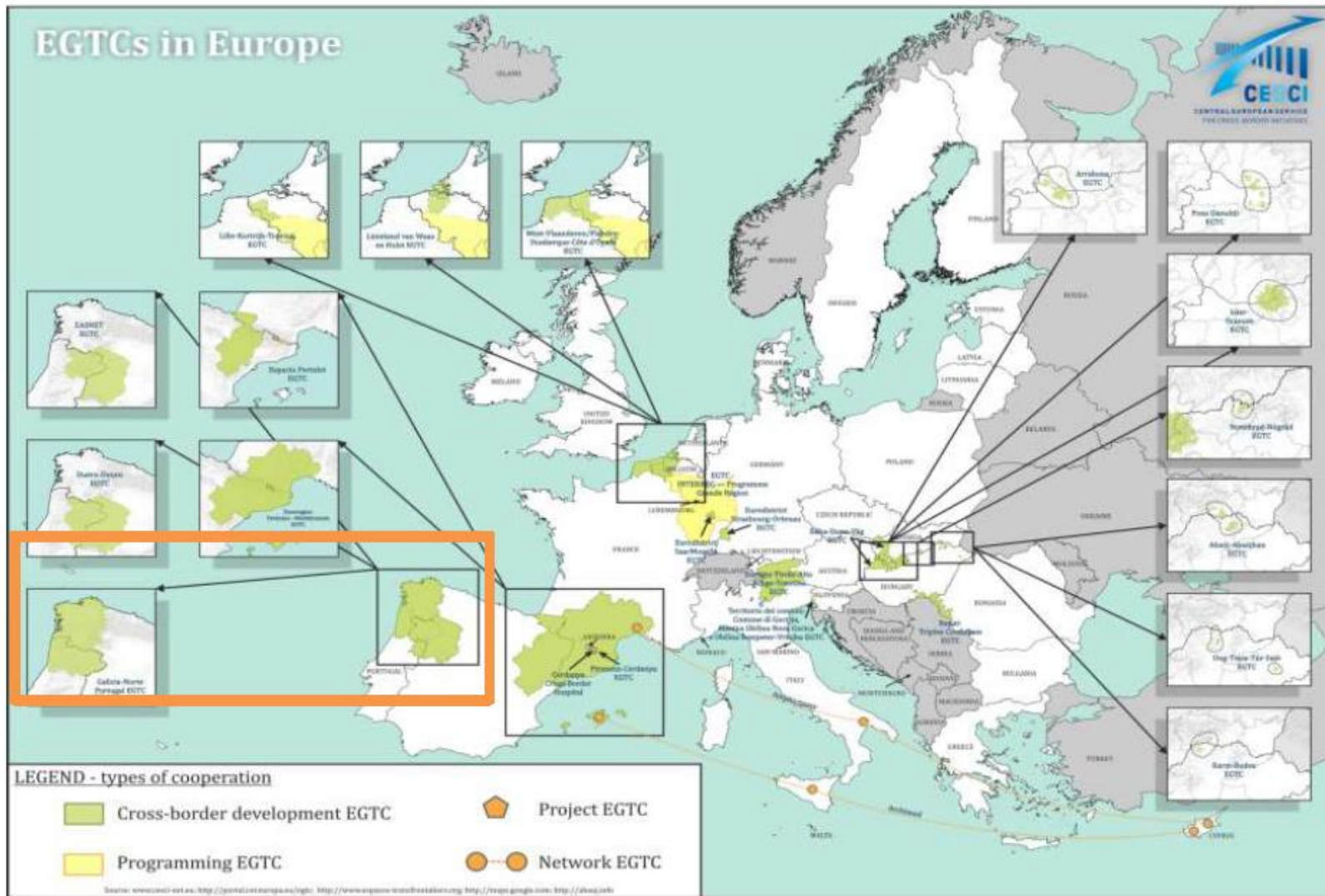
The cooperation covers many areas, including environment, labor market, mobility and logistics, tourism, culture and education.

## Priorities 2014-2020

Research and transfer, employment, environmental quality and heritage, as well as institutional capacity to serve citizens, ocean energies, industries and biomass, agrobio sector and food industries, manufacturing and tourism, wellness, active ageing.

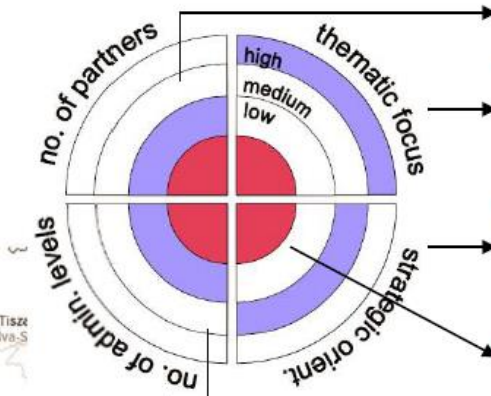
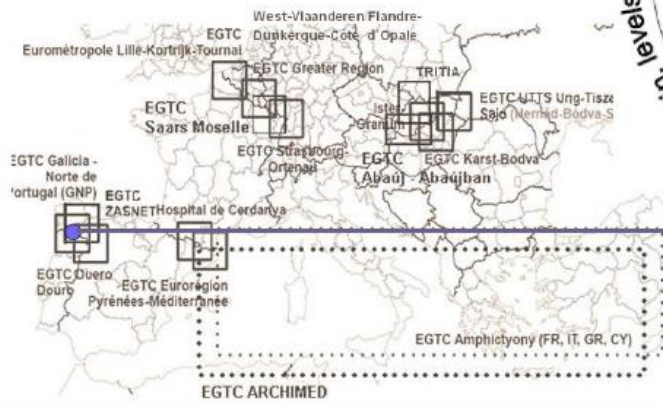
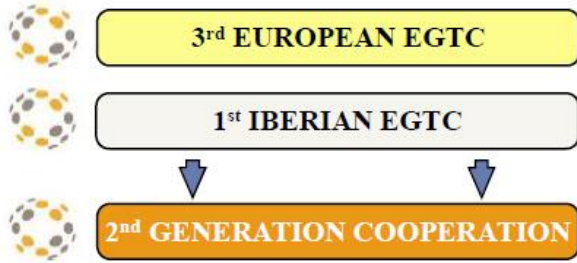
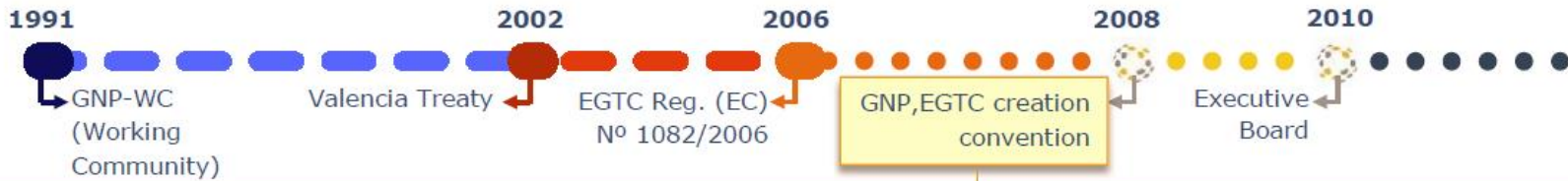


# European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation



# European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation

## GNP, EGTC



- Two Partners: Xunta de Galicia and CCDR-Norte
- Cross Border Cooperation highly focused on economic and social cohesion development
- Cooperation strategy definition and euro-regional interest initiatives coordination.
- GNP-EGTC concluded and in full performance
- Regional Administration (*single-tier governance*)



## The setting up of the EGTC allowed

to establish a legal personality for the Euroregion and to develop truly joint management, which covers – inter alia – contracts, staff, budget management, calls for tenders, and the acquisition and administration of movable and immovable property.

## As institution the EGTC is composed of three entities:

the **director**, the **assembly** and the **supreme council**.

The supreme council, composed of the coordinators of the Galicia-North Portugal Working Community, provides the EGTC's strategic orientations.

The Galicia-North Portugal Assembly consists of four elected representatives of the Xunta de Galicia and four representatives of the Northern Region.

The Assembly meets in ordinary session at least once every month.



# Factors helped successful cooperation

**Several factors helped develop successful cooperation.**

**Two regions have a number of common features:**

- ✓ **very similar languages (Portuguese and Galician),**
- ✓ **a high degree of interrelationships at the social, cultural and economic levels, and strong commercial and labour exchanges.**
- ✓ **their climate, culture, landscape and environment, etc. are all quite similar.**
- ✓ **they are peripheral in Europe and inside their own countries.**
- ✓ **both regions are turning from an agriculture specialization to services**
- ✓ **.... and both are a sea-related economies.**



# Obstacles for the development of cooperation

**Galicia and North Portugal also have important differences.**

**Portugal is a unitary, centralized state, where its Northern region has no competency of a regional self-government.**

**In Spain, the region of Galicia is a so called the “Autonomous Community”, with an autonomous government.**

**These differences in administrative structures still persist and are sometimes aggravated by the different spatial planning of the territories;**

**This has often created obstacles for cooperation, but by now we have developed substantial experience in addressing such difficulties in a pragmatic way.**



# The benefits of cross-border cooperation G-NP

## What are the benefits of cross-border cooperation for the two partners?

Today, the Galicia–North Portugal Euroregion is well known for its achievements in research, unique and well preserved ecosystem and attractive tourist destinations.

Furthermore, the Euroregion has enabled better quality of public services. It also helped fostering dialogue, building trust and mutual understanding.

So the impact of cross-border co-operation on the political, administrative, and social landscape of Galicia-North Portugal is undeniable.

The cross-border co-operation institutions have created a new strand of relations, interactions, and common interests that were previously nonexistent



## The European Cooperation Grouping (ECG),

(introduced by the Third Protocol to the Council of Europe Madrid Outline Convention in 2009)

This model goes even further and presents a number of advantages compared by the EGTC, such as membership of private law entities, participation of entities from third countries, and a scope that is not limited to economic and social matters.

While Portugal does not envisage the ratification of relevant instruments at this stage, as the existing tools are sufficient for the needs of the Euroregion,

... but I am convinced that the ECGs are of great interest for cooperation, in particular with entities in non-EU member states.

## The role of parliaments in cross-border cooperation

**They play a key role in the adoption of relevant national legislation, as well as in the adoption and monitoring of the European instruments.**

**They can contribute substantially to the visibility of cross-border cooperation, as well as its successful implementation.**

**They can help ensure that the responsibilities delegated to the cross-border regions are accompanied with sufficient resources.**



ALBANIA ALBANIE ARMENIA ARMÉNIE AUSTRALIA AUSTRIE AUSTRIE AUTRIE AZERBAIJAN AZÉRBÉIDJAN BELGIUM BELGIQUE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE BULGARIA BULGARIE CROATIA CROATIE CYPRUS CHYPRE CZECH REPUBLIC REPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE DENMARK DANEMARK ESTONIA ESTONIE FINLAND FINLANDE FRANCE FRANCE GEORGIA GÉORGIE GERMANY ALLEMAGNE GREECE GRÈCE HUNGARY HONGRIE ICELAND ISLANDE IRELAND IRLANDE ITALY ITALIE LATVIA LETONIE LIECHTENSTEIN LIÉCHTENSTEIN LITHUANIA LITUANIE LUXEMBOURG LUXEMBOURG MALTA MALTE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA MONACO MONACO MONTENEGRO MONTÉNÉGRO POLAND POLOGNE PORTUGAL PORTUGAL ROMANIA ROUMANIE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE SAN MARINO SAINT-MARIN SERBIA SERBIE SLOVAK REPUBLIC RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE SLOVENIA SLOVÉNIE SPAIN ESPAGNE SWEDEN SUÈDE SWITZERLAND SUISSE «THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA» «L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE DE MACÉDOINE» «THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA» «L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE DE MACÉDOINE» TURKEY TURQUIE UKRAINE UKRAÏNE UNITED KINGDOM ROYAUME-UNI ALBANIA ALBANIE ANDORRA ANDORRE ARMENIA ARMÉNIE AUSTRIA AUTRIE AZERBAIJAN AZÉRBÉIDJAN BELGIUM BELGIQUE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE BULGARIA BULGARIE CROATIA CROATIE CYPRUS CHYPRE CZECH REPUBLIC REPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE DENMARK DANEMARK ESTONIA ESTONIE FINLAND FINLANDE FRANCE FRANCE GEORGIA GÉORGIE GERMANY ALLEMAGNE GREECE GRÈCE HUNGARY HONGRIE ICELAND ISLANDE IRELAND IRLANDE ITALY ITALIE LATVIA LETONIE LIECHTENSTEIN LIÉCHTENSTEIN LITHUANIA LITUANIE LUXEMBOURG LUXEMBOURG MALTA MALTE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA MONACO MONACO MONTENEGRO MONTÉNÉGRO NETHERLANDS PAYS-BAS NORWAY NORVÈGE POLAND POLOGNE PORTUGAL PORTUGAL ROMANIA ROUMANIE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE SAN MARINO SAINT-MARIN SERBIA SERBIE SLOVAK REPUBLIC RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE SLOVENIA SLOVÉNIE SPAIN ESPAGNE SWEDEN SUÈDE SWITZERLAND SUISSE «THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA» «L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE DE MACÉDOINE» «THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA» «L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE DE MACÉDOINE» TURKEY TURQUIE UKRAINE UKRAÏNE UNITED KINGDOM ROYAUME-UNI ALBANIA ALBANIE ANDORRA ANDORRE ARMENIA ARMÉNIE AUSTRALIA AUSTRIE AUSTRIE AUTRIE AZERBAIJAN AZÉRBÉIDJAN BELGIUM BELGIQUE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE BULGARIA BULGARIE CROATIA CROATIE CYPRUS CHYPRE CZECH REPUBLIC REPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE DENMARK DANEMARK ESTONIA ESTONIE FINLAND FINLANDE FRANCE FRANCE GEORGIA GÉORGIE GERMANY ALLEMAGNE GREECE GRÈCE HUNGARY HONGRIE ICELAND ISLANDE IRELAND IRLANDE ITALY ITALIE LATVIA LETONIE LIECHTENSTEIN LIÉCHTENSTEIN LITHUANIA LITUANIE LUXEMBOURG LUXEMBOURG MALTA MALTE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA MONACO MONACO MONTENEGRO MONTÉNÉGRO NETHERLANDS PAYS-BAS NORWAY NORVÈGE POLAND POLOGNE PORTUGAL PORTUGAL ROMANIA ROUMANIE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE SAN MARINO SAINT-MARIN SERBIA SERBIE SLOVAK REPUBLIC RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE SLOVENIA SLOVÉNIE SPAIN ESPAGNE SWEDEN SUÈDE SWITZERLAND SUISSE «THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA» «L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE DE MACÉDOINE» «THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA» «L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE DE MACÉDOINE» TURKEY TURQUIE UKRAINE UKRAÏNE UNITED KINGDOM ROYAUME-UNI ALBANIA ALBANIE ANDORRA ANDORRE ARMENIA ARMÉNIE



Thank you for your attention

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