



**HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEMOCRACY
AND THE RULE OF LAW**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**DROITS DE L'HOMME,
DÉMOCRATIE
ET ÉTAT DE DROIT**

Panel 2: CBC in Practice: how to enhance capacity and strengthen leadership in the management of CBC initiatives

The experience of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR-AGEG-ARFE)

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

AEBR capacity building approach and initiatives



- CBC capacity building can be a nightmare, unless it is considered a cross-cutting issue for border and cross-border regions, and not so much dependant on specific programmes
- It is a multi-sectoral and inter-departmental issue both at knowledge (academic) and operational (programme/ project) levels
- Keeping and extending CBC knowledge need a systematic and standing approach: CBC Handbook, IVY, CB School, CB Academia, online CBC Platform
- ...and coordination, as shown at the Open Days 2017 seminar “Enhancing capacities of regions and cities for better CBC”, together with CESCO, MOT, TEIN and DG Regio

(editions in 1995, 1997, 2000 and 2012-2018; plus workshops, seminars, conferences (1971-2017))



- A. *Framework*:** reasons, European experience, legal instruments, EU programmes and initiatives, European non-EU CBC, estrategias, contents and evaluation
- B. *Structuring CBC*:** phases, strategic and project-related CBC structures, EGTC, ECGs, ...
- C. *Cooperation fields and examples*:** spatial planning; economic development; transport, infrastructure and telecom; tourism and sport; environment; training, education, youth and labour market; healthcare and social services; culture and media; agriculture and rural development; energy, mining and climate change; R+D+I, university and research cooperation.
- D. CBC in America, Africa, Asia, Mediterranean, Arctic**

Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

Volunteer Youth



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS



- Part of the ESC
- Started March 2017
- 1-year pilot action
- Co-funded DG Regio
- Managed by AEBR
- Target: EU citizens 10-30 years old
- Hosts: Interreg Programmes and Projects
- Duration: 2 – 6 months
- All volunteers are supported (also financially), insured and mentored

- Dynamic dialogues between CBC **Researchers and Practitioners** on “Knowledge and Practice on the Border”
- Supported by **Interreg V A Germany-The Netherlands**
- **1st pilot action:** 24 October 2017 in Mérida (Extremadura)
- **Initiators and partners:** Radboud University Nijmegen (Nijmegen Centre for Border Research) (NL), AEBR, Province of Gelderland (NL), Euregio Rhine-Waal (DE-NL), University of Extremadura (ES)
- **2nd Cross-Border School:** 19 September 2018, Oulu (Bothnian Arc, Finland), University of Oulu, Karelian Institute, Radboud University, AEBR





On-going and coming soon

- ***B-Solutions***: various CB legal and administrative obstacles are under identification and solutions are to be tested on the ground until the end of 2019. One of the measures included in the Commission's Communication on *Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions* (September 2017), together with a *Border Focal Point* and an *online experts network*. These are very relevant for capacity building. EU external and maritime borders are excluded.
- ***Cross Border Academia***: an AEBR Foundation focused on the promotion of systematic training on CBC and the implementation of CBC projects
- ***Online CBC Platform***: as part of the ***AEBR Global Project***, it currently focuses on webinar for practitioners in Latin America, in collaboration with the Andean Community and several national, regional and local authorities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay
- ***7 June***: Day of African Borders – International Day of Integration across National Boundaries

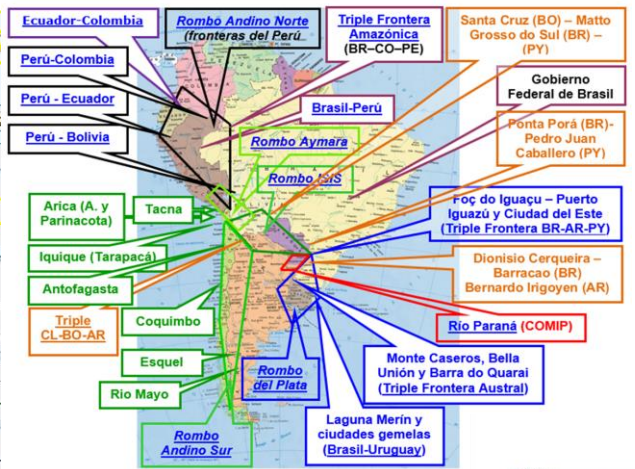
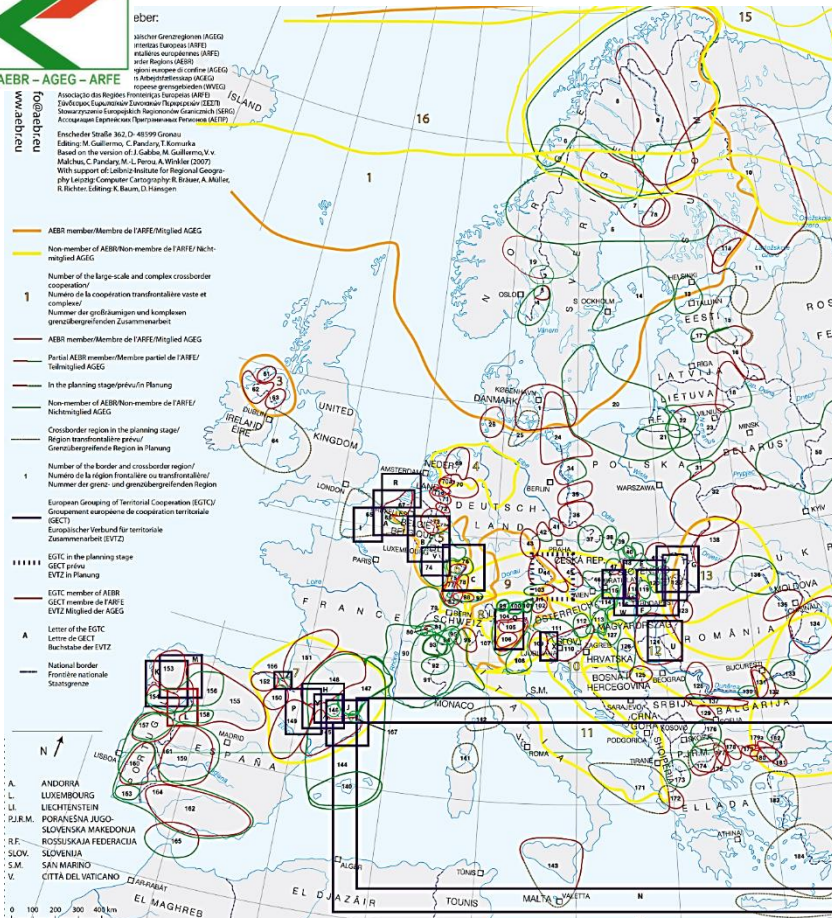


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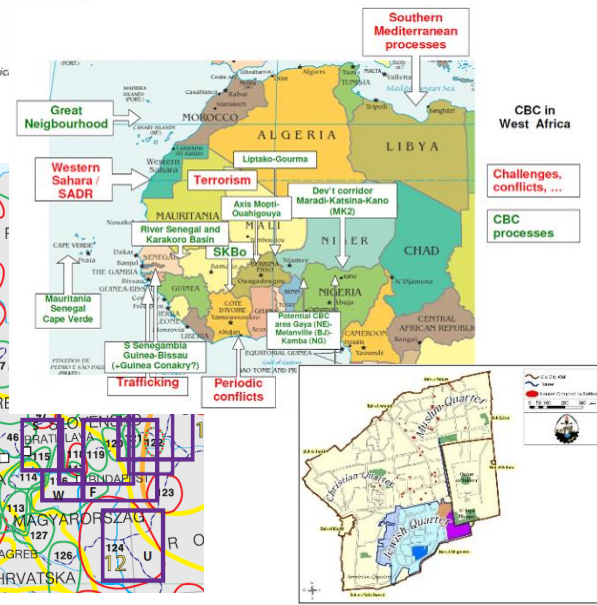
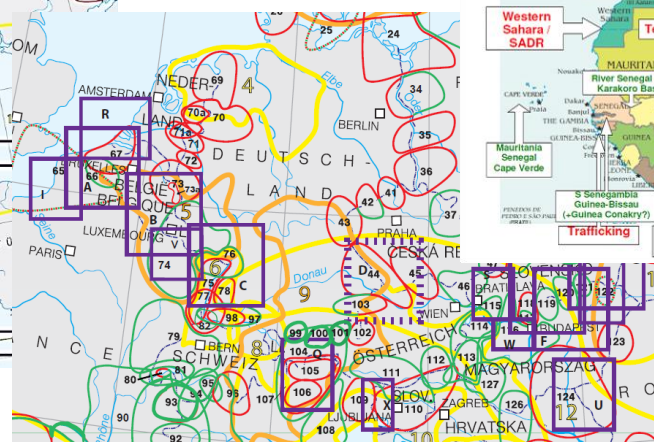


AEBR Global Initiative

Áreas de CTF en América del Sur: Sesión Informativa I, Sesión Informativa II, Sesión Informativa III, Sesión Informativa IV, Río Paraná, intervenciones posteriores (AEXCID)



Mapa consolidado de áreas de CTF y rombos de integración en América (ARFE, elaboración propia, 2017)





CBC needs & challenges

- Border regions are usually considered peripheral, away from decision-making centres, with less infrastructures, low populated, rural, with less access to public services, worst mobility possibilities/conditions, ...
- But, if they are considered in their cross-border reality, together with their neighbouring regions, they might become central (within supranational integration processes, or not).
- Effects of “re-nationalization” and scepticism (Brexit, anti-European movements); and then strengthened border controls
- Unemployment and lack of opportunities
- Brain-drain and demographic change
- Access to ICTs, (CB) Smart Specialization Strategies (3S) and Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS3), innovation practices, etc.
- Response to the exigence of welfare and prosperity for all territories of the EU

Promoting and hindering factors

- Factors **promoting** efficient/effective capacity building x CBC
 - ✓ Involvement of all administration level, including politicians, civil society, and private sector besides Academia
 - ✓ Linked with a CB strategic approach for the whole CB territory to build trust, promote smart and sustainable growth and create attractiveness for investment, visitors and own citizens.
 - ✓ Branding of CB territories
- Factors **hindering** effective capacity building x CBC
 - Absence of funding programmes, CBC structures and traditions
 - Too much focus on border security and sovereignty
 - Competition logics instead of collaborative ones
 - Mental borders



Thank you very much for your attention!



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