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



#### CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# E-UNI ALBANIA ALBANIE ANDERRE ARMENIA ARM ME ANDERIA AZIODALES CARADON RELEGIORE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BOSNIE HERZEGOVINA BOSN

## **Cross-Border Cooperation in Slovenia**

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CENTRE OF EXPERTISE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM





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**DROITS DE L'HOMME,** 

DÉMOCRATIE

**ET ÉTAT DE DROIT** 



#### Slovenia – some facts

≥20.000 km<sup>2</sup>

≥2 million inhabitants

# <u>1.370 km of borders</u>, 4 neighbouring countries 212 municipalities no regional level











Madrid convention and two additional protocols Slovenia signed in 1998, ratified in 2003

➢Protocol no.3 (ECG) Slovenia signed in 2009, ratified in 2011

➢ECG entry into force March 2013, 6 ratifications

Harmonisation of the Slovene legislation was not needed











#### Periods of CBC

- ≻period to y.1994
- period from 1994 to 2004 EU pre-accession aids for Central and Eastern Europe (2000 – 2006 programs PHARE and INTEREG III)

▶ period after Slovenian membership to EU in y. 2004

#### Areas of cooperation:

Cooperation on the working areas of municipalities (sport, culture, tourism)

➢ projects co-financed by EU ("soft projects" and investments in infrastructure)

Cooperation at natural disasters (fireman brigades in civil protection)











Complementarity of EU regulation with Slovenian legal system

Decree of Slovene government on the implementation of the Regulation (EC) establishing the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation specify:

- entities established under Slovenian law, which can establish, participate in the establishment or join the EGTC;

- acquirement of legal personality, the right to operate in Slovenia and the scope of the legal capacity of the EGTC and the registration;

- the authority responsible for granting participation in the establishment of an EGTC established in Slovenia and the membership of entities from Slovenia into an EGTC established in another member state of the EU, and the authority responsible for approving the amendment to the EGTC convention;

- the procedure for approvement participation in the establishment of an EGTC established in Slovenia and for the membership of legal entities from Slovenia into an EGTC, and

- the procedure for approvement of membership of an entity from a third country bordering at least one of the member states of EU whose entities are members of an EGTC established in Slovenia.



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Grad Dubrovnik City of Dubrovnik



<sup>2</sup> MERIE AUSTRIA AUTRICHE AZERBAIJAN A FERANDIAN BELGIUM BELGIOUE BOSNIA AND MENEEGOVINA EECE GRECE HUNGARY HONGRIE ICELANDISI, ANDE IRELANDIRI, ANDE ITALY ITALIE IATVIATEI TOINE LIECH TH D POLOGRE PORTUGAL PORTUGAL BANAMIA RUMANI RUSSIAN FEDERATION. ATO ATION DE RUSSIE ISLAVE DE MACEDORIE: TURKEY DROUBLEUKRAINE GRAMME RUSSIAN FEDERATION. ATO ATION DE RUSSIE REPUBLIQUE THEQUE DENMARK DIMEMARI BETORIA ESTORIE FINLAND FINANDE FRANCE FRANCE FRANCE REPUBLIQUE CHEQUE DENMARK DIMEMARI BETORIA ESTORIE FINLAND FINANDE FRANCE FRANCE GRAM REPUBLIQUE CHEQUE DENMARK DIMEMARI BETORIA ESTORIE FINLAND FINANDE FRANCE FRANCE GRAME REPUBLIQUE CHEQUE DENMARK DIMEMARI BETORIA ESTORIE FINLAND FINENDER RUSSIE REPUBLICO FINIDONA RUBIJIQUE EN MICOVI. MONACO MONTEMEER DIMENTEGRAN REPUBLICO FINIDONE A RUBIJIQUE EN MICOVI. MONACO MONTEMEER DIMENTIGER NE

- There are still obstacles that slow down CBC:
- A. Administrative obstacles
- Slovenian administrative system is not fully comparable with systems in neighboring countries (no regional level)
- ≻general administrative obstacles in Slovenia
- ➢Border municipalities are mostly small
- >Week financial capacity of border municipalities
- B."Real life" obstacles
- >week traffic connections
- >depopulation trends and emigration of young population
- ≻high unemployment rate,
- >dependence on traditional industries and lack of entrepreneurial climate

Iack of information, knowledge and organizational structures



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Challenges to the CBC

# All forms of CBC we estimate as positive!

Challenges:

- $\succ$  choice to build appropriate structure under ECG or EGTC – legal texts are flexible enough
- > grass-root approach with assistance of higher administrative levels (ministries in SLO case)
- $\succ$  different possible approaches combined:
  - ✓ multi-level governance structures
  - $\checkmark$  a wide range of policy areas (culture, sport, environment, civile protection)
  - ✓ small-scale cooperation structures







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### CBC is not just a matter of money !!!

#### Thank you for your attention



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