



**EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE
OF CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION
IN CROSS-BORDER GOVERNANCE**

FOREWORD

The study on “European experience of citizens’ participation in cross-border governance” is a preparatory action to the Council of Europe Conference on “Democratic Governance of Transfrontier Territories” (October 2015).

The study prepared by the Institute of International Sociology (ISIG), located in Gorizia, Italy, offers an overview of experiences and practices of citizens’ participation in the management of transfrontier activities and initiatives, as a working document for the conference.

By assessing, by means of in-depth interviews to qualified respondents, 9 cross-border cooperation instances across Europe and 20 CBC projects with in-built participatory activities, the study:

- Takes stock of European cross-border initiatives or experiences (“Euroregions” or similar entities) with a citizens’ participation dimension;
- Describes the main features of those initiatives and in particular the citizens’ participation aspects (regular or ad hoc consultation procedures, citizens’ advisory bodies, information and communication techniques aimed at population at large, etc.);
- Assesses the effectiveness of these participatory mechanisms and their impact on the decision-making procedures of the cross-border body or initiatives;
- Identify issues that would deserve consideration and/or decision at European level, including through a European conference or European legal instruments.

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

1. CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION, GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES

1.1 Cross-border cooperation: aims¹ and governance arrangements

Cross-border cooperation (CBC) is a concerted process of building neighbourly relationships between local stakeholders and authorities² on both sides of national land and sea borders; its aim is to foster the harmonious development of border communities.

CBC is not about conveying additional powers to border communities or authorities. Rather, it is a more efficient way of exercising their powers to:

1. Promote the socio-economic development of the border area.
2. Develop economies of scale to provide better services.
3. Widen cultural perspectives.

Despite the wide variety of CBC activities, arrangements and participating authorities, the rationale of CBC is to overcome the peripheral positioning of border areas, overcoming the sense of isolation and applying joint solutions to issues of common concern with adjacent local communities and authorities.

CBC starts as an exchange of information and develops into consultation and policy co-ordination. As CBC activities develop, extending to a growing number of issues and demonstrating CBC potential in the development of the cross-border area, local authorities seek to formalise further CBC arrangements. This often implies establishing joint CBC governance bodies. In this sense, involvement of not only local authorities, but also of civil society organisations and stakeholders representatives guarantees the incorporation of a wider set of instances into the cross-border decision making and thus a more sustainable policies' implementation process.

The choice of the legal form of CBC, including different degrees of participation, is a strategic decision. It expresses not only the political compromise that allowed developing the CBC process but also the lines of development of the CBC itself.

A CBC governance structure should be set so to operate directly for the achievement of its objectives whilst its members supervise its work and (partially) fund its activities. The more complex the tasks - compared to those carried out directly by its members - the more complex the legal basis of the CBC body and the level of clearance from competent regional and central authorities.

¹ This paragraphs draws on the contents elaborate in the following CoE Toolkits: *Cross-Border Cooperation Toolkit* (2012); and *Manual on removing obstacles to cross-border cooperation* (2013)

² Local communities and authorities are defined as "communities, authorities or bodies exercising local and regional functions and regarded as such under the domestic law of each State" (Council of Europe (COE), 1980), that is public or public-equivalent bodies who have administrative powers covering a smaller area than those of the State (Explanatory report to the Outline Convention, Article 2) (Council of Europe (COE), 1980).

Different types of CBC governance arrangements as well as an outline of the international legal frameworks regulating them are included in Annex III.

At the CoE level, legal instruments have been supplemented by a number of recommendations adopted by the Committee of Ministers, in particular Recommendation Rec(2005)2 on good practices in and reducing obstacles to transfrontier and interterritorial cooperation between territorial communities or authorities (Council of Europe (COE), 2005).

Recommendation Rec(2005)2 lays down a number of recommendations to governments of member states pertaining, inter alia, to six key measures concerning information, training and institutional dialogue. These aim to promote, facilitate and mainstream communication and participation platforms in CBC processes with a direct focus on inter-governance dialogue among institutions and CBC operators. Although there are no clear references to citizens' engagement, this is regarded as essential for successful CBC, which ultimately targets the integrated development of local communities.

The sustainability of CBC process strongly relies on citizens' participation and involvement so to see their instances mirrored in local CBC strategies and actions. To this end, whatever their legal form might be, CBC governance mechanism must ensure:

- Care of citizens' interests;
- Efficiency and effectiveness;
- Minimisation of public costs;
- Respect of the ethics of public administration;
- Local accountability.

CBC arrangements lack the direct political accountability of the public institutions they pull together but are still subject to a wider spread of accountability as:

- Citizens and beneficiaries want to know how the CBC entity is performing; but they must first understand the CBC and its operations.
- They are expected to be efficient and effective. Poor performance will undermine the value of the CBC; people will begin to see it as a waste of time and money.
- Partner municipalities and their citizens want to be sure that one partner is not benefitting at the expense of the others; this requires good communications and a culture of trust and cooperation.
- Decision-making processes have to be transparent so that people have confidence in the integrity of the CBC entity.
- The delegated CBC members represent the interests of their own municipality at the same time as they represent the interests of the citizens of all the partner municipalities.

1.2 Citizens' engagement: an introduction

Citizens' engagement is widely defined within a range of meanings:

- the participation of citizens to elections (thus as the main tool of representative democracy),
- the possibility of citizens to act directly towards modifications in the legislation (e.g. referendum)

- the active engagement of citizens within volunteer associations or informal networks devoted to community actions aimed at improvement of life within a society.

All these forms of engagement imply that citizens are at the core of society (i.e. democracy, rule of the people), and that they exercise their sovereignty through:

- representation (i.e. electing a candidate that is deemed reliable to carry out the changes/improvements desired through decision and policy making (legislation) and not renewing the trust in case he/she is not seen as a reliable representative)
- direct influence on the legislation (i.e. referendum)
- direct action (volunteering, campaigning, etc.)

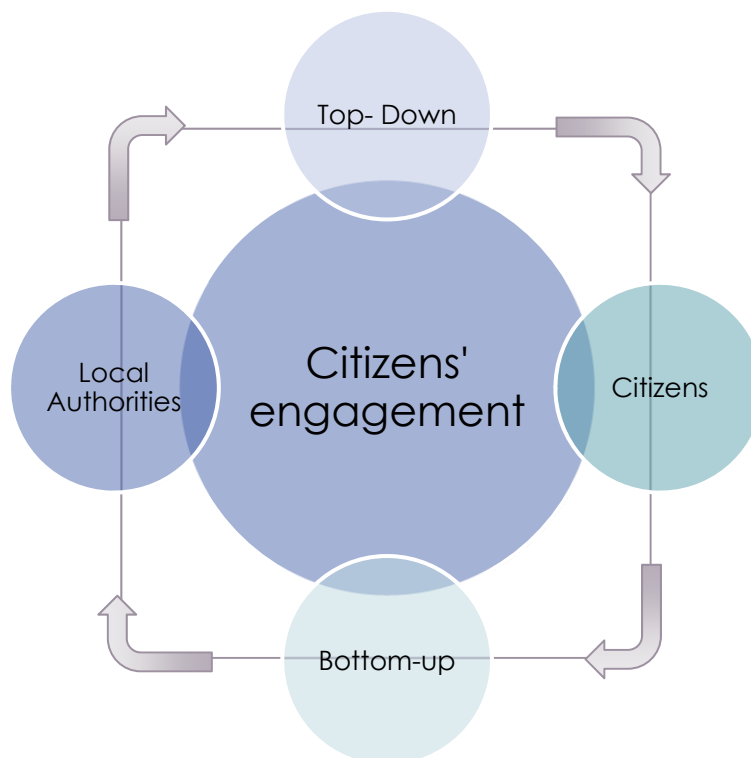


Figure 1 - circular process of citizens' engagement

As outlined in the figure above, citizens' engagement into policy-making processes traditionally links to two main paradigms:

- A top down approach (where policies descend from decision makers to citizens), based on the principles of deliberative democracy and of representation;
- A bottom up approach, expression of a participatory democracy, and implying a direct engagement of individuals in political decisions and policies.

These concepts are neither opposed nor mutually exclusive, but rather represent two ends of a circular process, initiated by citizens, whether through representation (i.e. voting) or direct participation. Although both perspectives ensure citizens' feedback, the successful integration of citizens' instances in policy-making - stemming from direct participation - carries a value added in terms of trust and sense of ownership.

Either way, two necessary features always characterize citizens' participation (Pellizzoni 2008, 93-116), namely:

- The willingness to participate (endogenous to the individual – its lack might be rooted in low level of trust in the participation process or in low sense of belonging/preparedness to the direct involvement process)
- The possibility to participate (exogenous to the individual and determined by the institutions).

1.2.2 The rationale for citizens' participation at cross-border level

Civic participation in decision-making processes at cross-border level is deemed relevant and “a crucial variable to achieve collective goals” (Morata e Noferini 2013, 2) on the basis of a number of reasons, the first being the “institutional character of cross-border cooperation”. Cross-border governance systems often have neither a “direct democratic legitimacy” nor a “direct representative democracy” system, implying the risk of increasing the distance between cross-border decisions and the local population (URBACT 2010).

At cross-border level, “we see a large number of different stakeholders” (Kranz e Mostert 2010, 92) (Klinke 2009) (Bruch, et al. 2005, 7) (Committee of the Regions 2014). Civic engagement at cross-border level is thus considered a key factor in order to achieve the “objectives of territorial cooperation” in a multi-level governance perspective. This implies a “vertical integration of the different levels of government” and a “horizontal integration” of actors, both public and private, in order to achieve common objectives and “take advantage of the available resources” (Morata e Noferini 2013, 1).

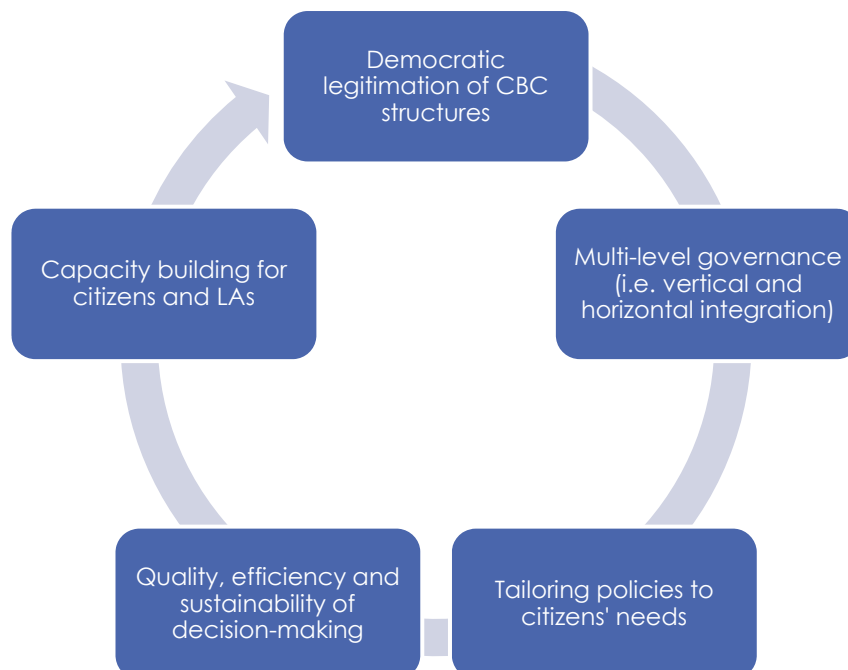


Figure 2 - Rationale for civic participation at cross-border level

SECTION 2

ASSESSING CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT IN 9 CBC GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

2. ASSESSING CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT

2.1 Case-studies' identification

Starting from the EDEN database³ and secondary research, the following relevant case studies of successful civic engagement in cross border cooperation are identified:

1. EGTC GO - European Group for Territorial Cooperation of Gorizia - Nova Gorica - Sempeter Vrtojba
2. EUROREGION BALTIC
3. ISTER-GRANUM EGTC
4. EUROMETROPOLIS Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai
5. EUROCITY CHAVES - VERIN
6. COOPERATION CENTER Frankfurt (O) - Słubice
7. EUODISTRICT Basel
8. TRINATIONAL METROPOLITAN REGION OF THE UPPER RHINE
9. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE BODENSEE

Each case study is described in Annex I where a case-study fiche is presented.

Moreover, in order to provide a wider range of instances of citizens' engagement, ISIG carried out an evaluation of 20 cross-border projects where civic participation played a substantial role in ensuring project implementation or citizens' engagement mechanisms represented in-built project features. In Annex 2, each project is presented in detail by exploring the following dimensions:

- a. Implementation period
- b. Source of funding
- c. Project Partnership
- d. Cross-border Regions/countries involved
- e. Description
- f. Citizens' involvement
- g. Sources / References

2.2 Data-gathering and analysis

Between May and July 2015, in-depth interviews were carried out by ISIG researchers with qualified respondents for each one of the case-studies above. The interview structure aimed at gathering information on the following items:

- a. inclusion of instances of citizens and governance mechanism at cross-border level
- b. on-going and past experiences of citizens' engagement

³ EDEN is the Council of Europe online platform (www.cbc.isig.it) on which users can:

- Browse through a database of CBC obstacles and solutions, learning from the past CBC experience of European actors;
- Search the database according to different criteria, allowing the user to pinpoint exactly the relevant information with high user-friendliness;
- Contact the institutions that solved specific obstacles to request suggestions or propose partnerships;
- Contribute to the database, allowing users to input their own experience of CBC in a dynamic database.

- c. description of relevant experiences of citizens' engagement
- d. evaluating the impact of civic engagement on CBC governance

The assessment of citizens' engagement in the identified CBC governance structures was carried out by plotting the data gathered against two main dimensions⁴:

- Phases of decision-making; and
- Intensity of participation.

Each dimension is composed of several variables (i.e. phases and levels), as displayed in the figure below:



Table 1 - Dimensions and variables for the assessment of citizens' participation

The interpolation of variables is presented in the two tables below. The first focuses on the objectives for each cell (i.e. instance of participation in the decision-making process), whilst the second lists the participation strategies (i.e. settings) targeting the aforementioned objectives.

2.2.1 Objectives for citizens' engagement in the decision-making process

In order to understand the increasing level of participation for each phase of the decision-making process, a per-column vertical reading is suggested.

⁴ The identification of the phases of decision-making process and levels of intensity of participation are adapted from the Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the decision-making process elaborated by the Council of Europe in 2009 – Further info: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/civil-participation>

		Phases of decision-making					
		<i>Priority Setting</i>	<i>Drafting</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>	<i>Policy Tuning</i>
Intensity of participation	Information	Ensuring brokerage of/access to knowledge on (i.e. info 'giving'): - CBC structures; - Methodology; for priority setting - Content of priority setting.	Ensuring technical accountability (i.e. transparent info)	Ensuring info on decisions taken.	Ensuring technical accountability (i.e. transparent management)	Ensuring info on monitoring indicators and procedures.	Ensuring info on decisions taken for improvement.
	Consultation	Allowing for citizens contributions to priority settings (i.e. info gathering)	Ensuring citizens' feedback gathering.	Ensuring indirect Q&A opportunities with citizens.	Ensuring citizens' possibility to contribute in the selection of: - areas of implementation; - implementing actions.	Ensuring citizens' feedback gathering on impacts/results	Ensuring indirect Q&A opportunities with citizens.
	Dialogue	Facilitating the exchange of citizens with CBC structure and relevant Las on priorities for the development of CBC.	Ensuring multi-lateral evaluation of policy drafts.	Ensuring direct Q&A opportunities with citizens.	Ensuring citizens' direct engagement in the implementation phase.	Ensuring multi-lateral <i>in itinere</i> assessment of actions-	Ensuring direct Q&A opportunities with citizens.
	Partnership	Mainstreaming consultation and multi-governance dialogue.	Co-drafting.	Co-decision-making.	Mainstreaming multi-level governance implementation (i.e. different stakeholders implement different actions within horizontal partnerships).	Co-monitoring.	Co-decision-making.

Table 2 - Objectives for citizens' engagement in the decision-making process

2.2.2 Strategies and settings for citizens' engagement in the decision-making process

		Phases of decision-making					
		Priority Setting	Drafting	Decision	Implementation	Monitoring	Policy Tuning
Intensity of participation	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication plan • On-line info • Info-desk • Own Media coverage • Press releases 					
	Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert studies • Conferences • On-line consultation • Surveys 					
	Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public hearings with CBC reps • Ad hoc working groups • Participatory seminars 					
	Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent committees with nominated / self-selected citizens' representatives • Elected / self-selected citizens' representatives seating in CBC governance structure bodies • Funding available for CSO initiatives to be initiated in the different decision making phases in partnership with CBC institutions 					

Table 3 - Strategies and settings for citizens' engagement in the decision-making process

2.3 Analysis of case-studies

Main insights for all case-studies are presented below. The interpolation of the aforementioned variables (in bold) is detailed and described.

2.3.1 EGTC GO - European Group for Territorial Cooperation of Gorizia - Nova Gorica - Sempeter Vrtojba

2.3.1.1 The Interview insights

Respondent: Sodini Sandra – *Director of the GECT GO*

Date of interview: 29.06.2015

A. INCLUSION OF INSTANCES OF CITIZENS AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISM AT CROSS-BORDER LEVEL

The entire EGTC system is based on a participatory system, based on standing committees working through participatory meetings (they take place at almost all stages of decision-making).

Moreover, technical meetings are organized and dissemination of information through the EGTC website is ensured.

Concerning citizens' participation at the EGTC GO level, the members of the Assembly of the EGTC GO are nominated by the Cities' Councils (i.e. by majority and opposition parties).

Standing Committees parallel on-going projects and include representatives from civil society organisations and economic actors. Currently, there are 6 active committees established on the basis of a proposal of the Director addressed to the Assembly. In order to ensure flexibility in the operations of the EGTC, there are no other standard rules regarding the establishment of the Standing Committees. Committees represent the link between the EGTC and civil society with a focus on gathering, assessing and integrating citizens' requests and expectations in the EGTC strategy and decision-making.

The composition of the committees usually foresees:

- a member of the assembly (so that the communication between committees and the assembly is ensured);
- two representatives appointed by the mayor and representing its citizenship/associations/etc.; and
- stakeholders involved directly by the Director on the basis of their expertise/projects.

CSOs are encouraged to give their contributions and member municipalities themselves direct citizens to the EGTC for issues regarding cross-border themes.

Participation in the EGTC GO perspective is:

- Elaborating a joint cross-border idea and working towards its implementation;
- Participation currently focuses on project design rather than implementation, which is yet hindered by external causes;
- Bringing together stakeholders from Gorizia, Nova Gorica, Šempeter on concrete project ideas.

Dissemination of information is ensured by:

- EGTC website and socials providing transparent information on EGTC documents, meetings and projects;
- EGTC front-desk at its headquarters organising seminars, meetings and providing help-desk services on a daily basis.

Concerning the participatory meetings:

- Meetings are regularly organised at the local level within a rotation system of venues;
- Meetings are usually well attended although a certain low degree of cross-border mobility of participants is noted;
- Standing committees' members' participation is performed on a voluntary basis.

An example of addressing citizens' expectations is the Citizens' meeting at "Bepon Restaurant". Bepon Restaurant is located in the proximity of an old border crossing point between Italy and Slovenia. The restaurant owner and a spontaneous group of citizens expressed their desire to refurbish the crossing point to valorise it as a tourist attraction as well as a cultural heritage site. The EGTC is now working to integrate this instance in a larger urban development project designing cycling routes in the EGTC areas and along the cross-border Isonzo River.

Concerning future perspectives for addressing citizens' instances, the EGTC is currently elaborating two flagship projects on Cross-border parks and Cross-border Health. Both projects will have in-built participation mechanisms (i.e. participatory meetings and planning) as soon as the implementation phase will start. Citizens are already aware of the two projects by the EGTC press releases on local media.

B. DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

The EGTC Assembly has decided for 3 flagship initiatives to be implemented through the Integrated Territorial Investment tool. They concern cross-border riverine parks, health and transport. The Standing Committees developed the projects objectives and main actions including citizens' instances, which were gathered at seminars and conferences.

As mentioned above, specific in-built participatory tools will be deployed at implementation phase.

A CBC project regarding cross-border transportation system was developed (2014-2015), starting from Cross-border transportation Open Meetings. All relevant actors in the EGTC area were involved in the meetings, in order to carry out a participated SWOT analysis of the transportation system and to complement data already gathered by means of an expert feasibility study. Meetings were organized as workshops and feedbacks added to the feasibility study. A large number of citizens' contribution, however, concerned matters pertaining to national authorities (i.e. taxation) or large service providers (e.g. train companies, etc.), and could not be addressed directly by the EGTC.

Drafting of the Strategic Plan of the GO EGTC (2013). The drafting of Strategic Plan of the EGTC Committees aimed at ensuring the widest participation of citizens possible. To this end, ad hoc working groups were created to complement the work of the Standing Committees. More than 40 meetings were organised and open to the public and to invited experts. The resulting plan was presented to regional, national and EU authorities.

EGTC Open Days (2012). In 2012, a series of meetings have been organized in Gorizia for all Standing Committees to present their preliminary work to citizens and gather their insights.

C. EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

There are no specific indicators as a 'performance criteria' (i.e. ability to attract funds to implement the EGTC strategic plan) is preferred.

2.3.1.2 Assessment

		Phases of decision-making					
		<i>Priority Setting</i>	<i>Drafting</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>	<i>Policy Tuning</i>
Intensity of participation	Information	Front desk open to the public	Front desk open to the public	Website and socials Front desk open to the public	Website and socials Front desk open to the public Conferences open to the public	Website and socials Front desk open to the public	Website and socials Front desk open to the public
	Consultation	--	Stakeholders instances incorporated in the drafting of 3 pilot actions at CBC level	--	Conferences open to the public/open days to gather citizens' feedbacks	--	--
	Dialogue	--	--	--	--	--	
	Partnership	--	Working committees on thematic priorities of EGTC	--	--	Working Committees on thematic priorities of EGTC	Feedbacks from stakeholders attending the Working committees are integrated in the reformulation

Table 4 - EGTC GO: Assessment

2.3.1.3 Summary analysis

Information – From decision to policy tuning: Information is available on EGTC website as well as on its Social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Also, front-desk is open to the public for information/clarification on EGTC actions.

Consultation – Drafting Stakeholders instances have been incorporated in the drafting of three pilot actions at CBC level, namely:

- Isonzo river cross border park
- Health project
- Transport

Consultation – Implementation: Conferences open to the public/open days to gather citizens' feedbacks

Partnership – Drafting/Monitoring/Policy tuning: working committees including specific stakeholders per topic are embedded in the structure of EGTC.

2.3.2 EUROREGION BALTIC

2.3.2.1 The Interview insights

Respondent: Sebastian Magier – *Head of ERB International Permanent Secretariat, Project Manager*

Date of interview: 3.07.2015

A. INCLUSION OF INSTANCES OF CITIZENS AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISM AT CROSS-BORDER LEVEL

At cross-border level, it is not that easy to involve citizens in the decision-making process, because of the institutional nature of the cooperation. NGOs are involved in several projects and they have bilateral/trilateral agreements for international cooperation/CBC cooperation.

For what concerns the Euroregion Baltic (ERB), partners are mostly regional governments/Institutions (i.e. indirect participation of citizens).

The Euroregion Baltic is a joint platform for cooperation without legal personality. All Euroregion Baltic activities are mostly based on "Gentlemen's Agreements" between its members. The Statute details the decisions-making procedures. Regarding citizens' participation, it is mainly indirect participation⁵ through elected representatives (in the case of Sweden also semi-elected ones). Representatives are both from Regional Authorities and Associations of Municipalities (Association of Polish Municipalities and Union of Western Lithuanian Municipalities⁶).

Decisions taken are based on unanimous voting during the Board Meetings (at least three times a year). Each Euroregion member has the right to appoint to the Board up to two of its representatives. In the case of Sweden (i.e. Region Blekinge, Region Kronberg and Regional

⁵ This does not exclude that one partner may have taken the decisions proposed to the board after the consultation with other corporations/CSOs/NGOs.

⁶ At present, in Lithuania, there is no Regional Authority level.

Council in Kalmar County) representatives come from majority and opposition parties, in order to ensure horizontal information and accountability.

The Presidency and Vice-Presidency are established on a yearly rotation basis. Appointed representatives, chosen among the national delegations, have no decision-making power but act as the highest-ranking representative of the ERB. The Euroregion, since 2004, has a permanent Secretariat.

B. DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

In 2004-05, ERB sought to establish different stakeholders' groups covering different areas of cooperation. Water cooperation being a core issue at the euroregional level, the then-established Water Core Groups is still a permanent workgroup within the Euroregion. Both elected representatives and civil servants compose it. The former ensure political representativeness and control over the process, the latter provide specialized insights. CSOs may indirectly take part in the work of the WCG. The Water Core Group developed a project financed by CBC South Baltic 2007-2014 Programme establishing Water Users Partnerships among different riverine stakeholders (i.e. LAs, Water Management Authorities and CSOs) to draft strategic resources plans.

The annual Stakeholder Forum started in 2010 in order to:

- strengthen cooperation within ERB;
- increase the visibility of ERB;
- facilitate citizens' and stakeholders' participation;
- promote the idea of CBC in the Euroregion;
- promote multi-level governance dialogue in the Baltic-Sea Region.

The one-day event is usually well attended by representatives as well as by the public and is structured into two parts:

- I. Presentation sessions and keynote speakers;
- II. Discussions and panels on specific topics pertaining to the development of the Baltic Sea Region.

Concerning information, all ERB meetings are open to the public without voting rights. Meetings' minutes are available on-line and open access and transparency of information at all level of the decision-making process is a priority for the ERB.

The ERB statute establishes the Permanent Youth Board. Composed by up to two representatives aged between 16 and 25 from each member, it includes activists and young politicians. The board rationale is to ensure continuity of political support to the ERB and other CBC organizations. The Youth Board benefits from a dedicated fund for its activity.

C. EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

There is no evaluation system in place but the topic is discussed at the board regular meetings.

2.3.2.2 Assessment

		Phases of decision-making					
		<i>Priority Setting</i>	<i>Drafting</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>	<i>Policy Tuning</i>
Intensity of participation	Information	All meetings (also board meetings) are open to the public without voting right;	Minutes of the meetings are available on-line (on the website of the Euroregion)	Minutes of the meetings are available on-line (on the website of the Euroregion)	N/A	All meetings (also board meetings) are open to the public without voting right; Minutes of the meetings are available on-line (on the website of the Euroregion)	All meetings (also board meetings) are open to the public without voting right; Minutes of the meetings are available on-line (on the website of the Euroregion)
	Consultation	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Dialogue	--	ERB Annual Forum of Stakeholders interested in cross-border cooperation and in the different subjects (i.e. environment, tourism, business to business cooperation, water management, youth issues). Each year a different topic is discussed with different stakeholders.	--	--	--	--

Partnership	--	<p>Youth Board functions as a tool for the continuity of political support to ERB – they have a fund for organisation of conferences/workshops for debating ERB themes</p> <p>Water Core Groups propose topics and actions for projects implementation based on Euroregion adopted policies. Decision however pertains to Executive Board of Euroregion.</p>	--	--	--	--
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Table 5 – BALTIC EUROREGION: Assessment

2.3.2.3 Summary analysis

Information – Drom priority setting to policy tuning: All institutional meetings (also board meetings) are open to the public (without voting right) to ensure transparency of methodology and content of work. Following meetings, minutes are available and accessible to all online (on Euroregion website).

Dialogue – Drafting: ERB organises an (thematic) Annual Forum of Stakeholders interested in different subjects (i.e. environment, tourism, business to business cooperation, water management, youth issues) of CBC. Each year a different topic is discussed with different stakeholders and their instances are integrated in the drafting of policies/actions.

Partnership – Drafting: a Youth Board is set up as a permanent complementary body within the Euroregion. It functions as a tool for the continuity of political support to ERB – they have a fund for organisation of conferences/workshops for debating ERB themes and gathering youth instances to be incorporated in ERB policies/actions.

Water Core Groups are created for the purpose of guaranteeing an integrated and cross-border management of water resources. They propose topics and actions for projects implementation based on Euroregion adopted policies. Decision however pertains to Executive Board of ERB.

2.3.3 ISTER-GRANUM EGTC

2.3.3.1 The Interview insights

Respondent: Peter Nagy - *Director*

Date of interview: 6.07.2015

A. INCLUSION OF INSTANCES OF CITIZENS AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISM AT CROSS-BORDER LEVEL
Ister-Granum EGTC was established in 2008. Among its statutory bodies a “Civil Parliament” is foreseen. At present, it operates merely as an informal Civil Forum, which allows for greater inclusion of citizens within the EGTC.

The institutionalisation of the Civil Forum has not deemed relevant by representatives and citizens since its modus operandi is already functional to facilitate citizens' engagement at the cross-border level.

B. DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

Today, the involvement of citizens in the decision-making process in the Ister-Granum EGTC is implemented at different levels, through:

- Civil Forum - an informal institution with no voting right but with a consultative role;
- Projects developed in collaboration with CSOs;
- Catalogue of CSOs.

Compiling a Catalogue of CSOs was the starting point of civic engagement. In order to draft the catalogue several meetings were organised to ensure CSOs had the opportunity to participate and present their projects, activities, etc.

Regarding project making, the EGTC is facilitating citizens' engagement at a very early stage. Among several examples, a recent project focused on the creation of a new brand mark for Ister-Granum local products starting from the instances of local producers and consumers. Further, a project on the issues of sustainable energy endeavours to establish the partnership between the EGTC and a CSO operating in the sector allowing for regular meetings.

C. EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

There is no evaluation system in place.

3.3.3.2 Assessment

		Phases of decision-making					
		<i>Priority Setting</i>	<i>Drafting</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>	<i>Policy Tuning</i>
Intensity of participation	Information	--	--	--	A catalogue of CSO has been created and CSO are informed about EGTC policies	--	--
	Consultation	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Dialogue	Civil Forum – citizens/CSO that participate to EGTC meetings. Decisions and opinions formulated by the forum are then forwarded to the Assembly	Civil Forum – citizens/CSO that participate to EGTC meetings. Decisions and opinions formulated by the forum are then forwarded to the Assembly Individual CSOs involved as project partners in drafting of project proposal	--	Individual CSOs involved as partners in projects implementation	--	--
	Partnership	--	--	--	--	--	--

Table 6 – ISTER-GRANUM EGTC: Assessment

3.3.3.3 Summary analysis

Information – Implementation: Specifically targeted information has been devised. A catalogue of CSO has been created and CSO are informed about EGTC policies through newsletters.

Dialogue – Priority setting/drafting: a Civil Forum has been created, formed by citizens/CSO that participate in EGTC meetings. Decisions and opinions formulated by the forum are then forwarded to the Assembly for decision-making.

Dialogue – Implementation: Individual CSOs have the possibility to be involved as partners in projects implementation.

3.3.4 EUROMETROPOLIS Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai

3.3.4.1 The Interview insights

Respondent: Mr. Vande Meulebroucke - *General Director*

Date of Interview: 8.07.2015

A. INCLUSION OF INSTANCES OF CITIZENS AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISM AT CROSS-BORDER LEVEL

Eurometropolis is a European Group of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) that includes local provincial and regional authorities, the Belgian federal state and the French national state. It is therefore are a multi-level governance organization. In order to integrate civil society in the consultation platforms a "Forum of Civil Society" has been created to contribute to the decision-making process.

B. DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

The "Forum of Civil Society" involves 80 representatives, representing different sectors of civil society (public actors, economic stakeholders, CSOs). The Forum holds up to 4 plenary sessions to define inputs for the political agenda of the EGTC and feedbacks on adopted policies/implemented actions. The role of the Forum is merely advisory as members of the Forum have no representation in the decision-making bodies. Every region of the cross-border area is autonomous in defining the procedure for the appointment of its representatives in the Forum.

One of the achievements of the Forum in terms of youth involvement was the suggestion to organise a totem event. Thus the "Heartbeats Eurometropolis Festival" was organized and massively attended by youth from the 3 countries.

Future citizens' engagement projects include:

- "The Blue Eurometropolitan Space" Project is intended as a transversal project for participatory mapping of water resources and issues in the Euroregion. The Forum will actively cooperate in order to involve citizens in a reflection on water issues (i.e. chances, challenges, organization of daily-life, etc.) and in the suggestion of new projects/initiatives in the sector.

- Also a virtual info-desk will be created as the first virtual access point collecting all available information on issues/initiative of the cross-border area. Online surveys and spaces for feedback will also be embedded on the virtual platform.

C. EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

No impact evaluation of citizens' participation is in place.

2.3.4.2 Assessment

		Phases of decision-making					
		<i>Priority Setting</i>	<i>Drafting</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>	<i>Policy Tuning</i>
Intensity of participation	Information	--	--	--	Organisation of open CBC festivals	--	--
	Consultation	--	On the online Infodesk space for feedback/inputs will be created for citizens	--	--	--	--
	Dialogue	Forum Of civil society (80 representatives) – 4 plenary sessions per year to give inputs on the agenda setting and drafting --	--	--	--	Forum Of civil society (80 representatives) – 4 plenary sessions per year to give feedbacks on implemented policies	--
	Partnership	--	--	--	--	--	--

Table 7 – EUROMETROPOLIS: Assessment

2.3.4.3 Summary analysis

Information – Implementation: The Eurometropolis organised a CBC Festival during which participants (especially young people) were informed about its work and had hands-on experience of CBC exchanges.

Consultation – Drafting: An online Info-desk for feedback/inputs is being created for encouraging and facilitating citizens' inputs into the drafting phase.

Dialogue – Priority setting/drafting: a Forum of civil society has been created (80 representatives). Four plenary sessions are organised each year aimed at giving inputs on priority setting and drafting.

Dialogue – Monitoring: the Forum of Civil Society also gives feedbacks on implemented policies.

2.3.5 EUROCITY CHAVES – VERIN

2.3.5.1 The Interview insights

Respondent: José Sousa – *Office of Technical support of the Eurocity Chaves-Verin EGTC*

Date of interview: 14.07.2015

A. INCLUSION OF INSTANCES OF CITIZENS AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISM AT CROSS-BORDER LEVEL

In the cross-border area and within both municipalities, there are several projects in which civil society and stakeholders are involved. However, a (structured) participatory methodology is not included yet within the EGTC governance mechanism. The EGTC is working with both Municipalities, but the participation of citizens is still confined within each municipality.

B. DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

The involvement of citizens in the decision-making process and in the agenda setting, started even before the institution of EGTC. In 2008, citizens were involved in the elaboration of the Strategic Plan of the EGTC (available on-line). The elaboration of the Strategic Plan was developed by means of a bottom-up methodology. A total of 60 stakeholders, from both cities, were invited to participate to the meeting and formulate proposals for the Strategic Plan.

Within the EGTC, civic participation in the decision-making process is achieved through:

- Sectorial committees – Since the beginning of the EGTC there are several committees with representatives and technicians from both Municipalities, for each sector (sports, culture, youth, tourism, transport, education), in order to prepare the joint action plan each year and to organize every action/event;
- On-line surveys and questionnaires – with questions addressed to citizens on on-going and future projects (e.g. Hospitals in Chaves-Verin);
- Youth Forum composed by youth CSOs representatives of the cross-border area.

While participation is good at municipal level (i.e. within Municipal councils), at cross-border level there is little participation.

The EGTC is currently elaborating project proposals to be presented to the EU cross-border cooperation programme (2014-2020) by the end of the year. In May 2015, for each sector (culture, sports, tourism, youth, entrepreneurship, transport, etc.) the most active stakeholders in Chaves-Verin were invited to discuss the proposals they wanted to be included in the future projects (for projects lasting from 2015 to 2017).

The results from these meetings (May 2015) will be used on the one hand for the elaboration of project proposal and then for the next review of the Strategic Plan.

For the Eurocity Chaves-Verin Strategic plan for tourism 50 stakeholders were interviewed, working in the tourism sector. In this case and in any case of strategic plan drafting/implementations citizens are invited to participate to surveys to give their insights/feedbacks.

The Forum for Youth involves youth members of all the associations present on the cross-border area (200 associations). Forums are formally held annually, but also meet in the meantime if projects/initiatives are at stake.

C. EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

There is no standard procedure in place for evaluation of citizens' engagement. Only after some spot participation initiative, citizens' perception is evaluated by means of questionnaire.

2.3.5.2 Assessment

		Phases of decision-making					
		<i>Priority Setting</i>	<i>Drafting</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>	<i>Policy Tuning</i>
Intensity of participation	Information	Online and newsletter information available	Online and newsletter information available	Online and newsletter information available	Online and newsletter information available Press releases to inform citizens about Plan for Tourism	--	--
	Consultation	--	Online consultations (questionnaire) on future projects Interviews to gather opinions on Plan for Tourism	--	--	Online consultations (questionnaire) on ongoing projects Forms to collect citizens opinions on ongoing projects/initiatives	--

	Dialogue	--	Participatory elaboration of insights for strategic plan (60 citizens involved)	--	--	--	--
	Partnership	--	Participatory elaboration of project proposal with selected stakeholder representatives	--	Forum for Youth – youth associations collaborate for the development of CBC project	--	--

Table 8 – EUROCITY CHAVES-VERIN: Assessment

2.3.5.3 Summary analysis

Information – From priority setting to implementation: online information is available to the public. Also, interested citizens/CSOs can subscribe to the newsletter. Press releases are also published on specific topics (e.g. Plan for Tourism).

Consultation – Drafting: Online consultations (i.e. survey) have been conducted to gather citizens' insights on future project ideas. Also, in the phase of drafting of the Plan for Tourism, interviews were conducted with citizens to gather their instances.

Consultation – Monitoring: Online consultations (i.e. survey) are also launched to gather feedbacks on ongoing projects. Questionnaires have been distributed to reach citizens also off-line and gather their insights on on-going specific initiatives.

Dialogue – Drafting: Participatory elaboration of insights (with 60 citizens involved) was promoted and implemented for the elaboration of the Strategic Plan. Also, participatory elaboration of project proposals is conducted ad hoc with selected stakeholders' representatives.

Dialogue – Implementation: the Forum for Youth (composed by representatives of youth associations in the cross-border area) collaborates with CBC institutions for the development of projects.

2.3.6 COOPERATION CENTER Frankfurt (O) – Słubice

2.3.6.1 The Interview insights

Respondent: Sören Bollmann – Head of the Frankfurt-Słubicer Cooperation Center and Contact Person for International Cooperation

Date of interview: 14.07.2015

A. INCLUSION OF INSTANCES OF CITIZENS AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISM AT CROSS-BORDER LEVEL

Within the Frankfurt-Słubice Cooperation Center citizens' views are included in the decision-making process, by means of meetings and conferences involving also civil society actors and invitation of civil society experts to Joint Council meetings. Information is also open to the public by means of website and newsletter dissemination. On specific topics questionnaires are addressed to citizens for the gathering of their insights.

B. DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

Frankfurt and Słubice cooperated in the organisation of the Future Conference (2009), for the development of joint future visions of the twin cities towards the year 2020. The conference saw the active participation of stakeholders, CSOs, Las and citizens. The insights gathered lead to the definition of the Local Action Plan of Frankfurt and Słubice.

In 2009-2010 several meetings were organized as a follow up to the conference in order to reinforce the trust between citizens and CBC institutions, as well as to gather feedbacks for monitoring implemented actions.

Participation is low, unless there are very concrete projects and ideas, which directly concern citizens.

However, citizens are constantly informed on the activities of CBC institutions. The annual joint city council meetings are open to the public and press releases are published with summary of meetings' content. To facilitate participation, joint City Council meetings are divided into two main parts. During the first part strategic and implementation plans are presented. Then workshops are organised to discuss the presented instances with stakeholders/citizens.

The activities of Frankfurt and Słubice are disseminated online, via Internet. Information is provided throughout the decision-making process, from agenda settings to implementation.

Surveys are also conducted to gather citizens' insights. In the attempt of creating cross-border schools (with both languages studied) on the German side of the border a questionnaire was distributed to parents on the interest of having their children attend Polish classes. 40% of all parents decided to participate to the survey and a new German-Polish association was created by German-Polish families and parents from both sides of the border, campaigning for a German-Polish school in the cross-border area.

C. EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

There is no standard procedure in place for evaluation of citizens' engagement.

2.3.6.2 Assessment

		Phases of decision-making					
		<i>Priority Setting</i>	<i>Drafting</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>	<i>Policy Tuning</i>
Intensity of participation	Information	Information available via newsletters and published on website	Information available via newsletters and published on website	Information available via newsletters and published on website	Information available via newsletters and published on website Joint Council meetings open to citizens to report on actions/strategies	Press releases on monitoring of implemented actions/strategies	Information available via newsletters and published on website
	Consultation	Future Conference – CB conference organised to gather insights from citizens and stakeholders on 'visions' for the CBC area towards 2020	--	--	Workshops during City councils, where citizens can feedback on results/impact of implemented actions/strategies	Organisation of follow-up meetings to Future conference to get a feedback on implemented actions	--
	Dialogue	--	Questionnaire – to parents on the interest in Polish classes in German schools	--	Involvement of parents associations in the campaigning for awareness raising towards German – Polish school	--	--
	Partnership	--	--	--	--	--	--

Table 9 – COOPERATION CENTER: Assessment

2.3.6.3 Summary analysis

Information – From priority setting to policy tuning: Information on all phases of decision-making is available via newsletters and published on the website. Also, for what concerns specifically the implementation phase, Joint Council meetings are open to citizens to inform them on implemented actions/strategies. Press releases are then published, as a follow-up, to inform on monitoring actions taken and on the state of implementation of presented actions.

Consultation – Priority setting: In 2009, the Future Conference was organised to gather insights from citizens and stakeholders on 'visions' for the CBC area towards 2020.

Consultation – Implementation: Workshops are organised during City councils, where citizens can feedback on results/impact of implemented actions/strategies.

Consultation – Monitoring: In the year after the Future conference, follow-up meetings were organised with citizens to get their feedback on implemented actions.

Dialogue – Drafting: Given the identified priority of creating cross-cultural education experiences in the CB area, questionnaires were gathered from parents (on the German side of the border) to survey their interest to have Polish classes in German schools.

Dialogue – Implementation: The above survey was followed by the direct involvement of parents associations in the campaigning for awareness raising towards German – Polish school.

2.3.7 EURODISTRICT Basel

2.3.7.1 The Interview insights

Respondent: Frédéric Duvinage - *Director of the ETB (Eurodistrict Trinational de Bâle)*

Date of interview: 9.07.2015

A. INCLUSION OF INSTANCES OF CITIZENS AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISM AT CROSS-BORDER LEVEL
Until recently, citizens did not have many possibilities to influence the policy making process, which fell mainly under politicians' competencies. The Council (i.e. ETB Parliament) is composed of politicians - not of citizens, and the Parliament of Basel is also a very political instance, made by politicians and civil servants. However in 2015, within the 3Land Project, citizens had the chance to express their views with regard to a specific project, by means of a questionnaire. This was the first time the ETB engaged with citizens' ideas and suggestions.

CBC activities and initiatives have always been disseminated to all citizens of the cross-border area through different channels, such as the official Internet website and the ETB newsletter, which is opened to all citizens.

B. DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

In 2012, the Eurodistrict decided to increase the support to the work of the civil society, and thus an amount of money (400.000€) was allocated to small cross-border projects promoted by associations in the field of culture, environment, languages, music, sport. Access to this fund was regulated by means of a call for proposals. Currently only 200.000€ were allocated to associations -

the strategy for delivering the rest of the fund will be decided by the end of this year. Fourteen projects presented have been funded. The fund worked as follows: a call opening was made: guidelines explaining procedures and priorities were provided and it was publicized in the media and also through a public presentation of the initiative. A commission assessed all project proposals. Projects results were eventually integrated in the political agenda.

The 3Land Project⁷ involves the three cities of: Huningue, Weil am Rhein and the City of Basel (including the Communities of the Municipalities of the Three Borders and Haut-Rhin). The project aims to coordinate the urban planning and to realize a common development vision for the area between Palmrain Bridge and Dreirosenbrücke. The project focuses on broker information to the citizens and feeds their feedback into urban planning strategies⁸.

2.3.7.2 Assessment

		Phases of decision-making					
		<i>Priority Setting</i>	<i>Drafting</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>	<i>Policy Tuning</i>
Intensity of participation	Information	--	--	--	CBC activities/initiatives are published on the official website and disseminated through newsletter Information on 3Land project disseminated through a travelling exhibition	--	--
	Consultation	Feedbacks collected from citizens (questionnaire) on urban planning needs/suggestions	Feedbacks collected from citizens (questionnaire) on urban planning needs/suggestions	--	--	Feedbacks collected from citizens (/through questionnaire) on perception of CBC area	--
	Dialogue	--	--	--	--	--	--

⁷ Eurodistrict Trinational de Bâle, "3Land", <http://www.freewillastrology.com/horoscopes/taurus.html>, last accessed 17th July 2015, Official Website of 3Land, <http://3-land.net/start/fr/>, last accessed 17th July 2015 and Eurodistrict Trinational de Bâle, "IBA Basel 2020", <http://www.eurodistrictbasel.eu/fr/projets/iba-basel-2020.html>, last accessed 17th July 2015

⁸ The content of the questionnaire: 3Land, "Concept urbain 3Land : trois villes – un avenir commun", <https://www.findmind.ch/survey.php?go=start&id=7y4835&lang=&mode=&g=&p=&k=&lang=3>, last accessed 17th July 2015

Partnership	--	--	--	400.000 € allocated in a fund for civil society projects in the field of culture, environment, language, music , sports	--	--
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Table 10 – EURODISTRICT Basel: Assessment

2.3.7.3 Summary analysis

Information – Implementation: of particular relevance is the information activity performed in implementation phase. CBC activities/initiatives are published on the official website and disseminated through newsletter. Also, more specifically, information on 3Land project for re-thinking urban spaces was disseminated through a travelling exhibition in the cities of the cross-border area.

Consultation – Priority setting/drafting: Feedbacks are being collected from citizens (questionnaire) on urban planning needs/suggestions (within 3 Land project).

Consultation – Monitoring: Feedbacks are collected from citizens (through questionnaire) on their perception of CBC area and on the appropriateness of actions/strategies implemented.

Partnership – Implementation: a fund of 400.000 Euro has been allocated for supporting civil society projects in the field of culture, environment, language, music, sports that fulfil requirements set by the Euroregion.

2.3.8 TRINATIONAL METROPOLITAN REGION OF THE UPPER RHINE

2.3.8.1 The Interview insights

Respondent: Dr. Johanna Becker-Strunk

Date of interview: 28.07.2015

A. INCLUSION OF INSTANCES OF CITIZENS AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISM AT CROSS-BORDER LEVEL

In the Upper Rhine Region 3 open councils are established that include also stakeholders participation.

B. DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

Also, 12 working groups composed of experts from France Germany and Switzerland contribute to policy drafting on: transport; environment; culture; education; youth; health; economy; land use planning; disaster management; climate protection; agriculture; sport. These working groups are in turn assisted, on specific topics, by the collaboration of 35 expert commissions.

C. EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

There is no standard procedure in place for evaluation of citizens' engagement.

2.3.8.2 Assessment

		Phases of decision-making					
		<i>Priority Setting</i>	<i>Drafting</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>	<i>Policy Tuning</i>
Intensity of participation	Information	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Consultation	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Dialogue	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Partnership	12 working groups	12 working groups	--	12 working groups 35 expert commissions embedded in project development and implementation	12 working groups	12 working groups

Table 11 – TRINATIONAL METROPOLITAN REGION: Assessment

2.3.8.3 Summary analysis

Partnership: pertains to all phases of decision-making. 12 thematic working groups (transport; environment; culture; education; youth; health; economy; land use planning; disaster management; climate protection; agriculture; sport) composed by experts from the 3 countries set priorities on the work of the metropolitan region, draft policies and follow through until revision phase.

Partnership – Implementation: the work of the working group is supported by expert commissions for the development and implementation of specific projects.

2.3.9 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE BODENSEE

2.3.9.1 The Interview insights

Respondent: Klaus Diете-Schnell

Date of interview: 27.07.2015

A. INCLUSION OF INSTANCES OF CITIZENS AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISM AT CROSS-BORDER LEVEL

Although not yet an official strategy, there are measures to include citizens' instances in decision-making and consultations. The International Lake Constance Conference (IBK) mission statement draft, for instance, was finalized according to a public consultation and online reviews.

The IBK has a very active Internet web site to disseminate information paralleled by the members' own official websites. The IBK regularly carries out online consultations. Moreover, printed version of the Annual Report of Activities is widely spread around the region, mostly, however, among institutional actors, decision makers or members of Parliament.

Meetings and conferences are often organized in order to disseminate to and gather information from citizens. For what concerns the processing of gathered feedbacks, especially in online consultations, the support of the University of Constance is fundamental.

C. DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

Regarding the engagement of citizens, IBK has started since 1999 and has been successful in bringing together stakeholders and especially citizens closer to the institutions. Citizens' participation also includes working together with interest groups and lobby organisations, and especially with young people. For instance, there we organized four youth Summits with about 700-1000 young people from all over the region. The first one was in 2003 and the last one in 2010. Because of this cooperation, an Organizational Team was founded, made of young people: they co-organize conferences and include in the agenda their own themes of interest to discuss with politicians.

Citizens are usually involved in the phase of agenda setting and drafting of the policy-making process. There is also a citizens' involvement during the monitoring and reformulation process. For instance, the upgrading of the cross-border transportation ticket will soon see citizens involved through a consumer consultation.

IBK established a Cross-border cooperation fund to support small projects. Until now, 104 projects were supported in coordination with the Interreg programme.

Conferences and dissemination events are organised to cover the whole IBK territory. During conferences and workshops specific interest is paid to analysing the spatial distribution (i.e. from where do the people come) and the distribution on the sectors of society (e.g. economy, civic society, science) of the participants.

D. EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

No official/established indicators to evaluate the impact assessment.

2.3.9.2 Assessment

		Phases of decision-making					
		<i>Priority Setting</i>	<i>Drafting</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>	<i>Policy Tuning</i>
Intensity of participation	Information	Website	Website	Website	Report of annual report of activities disseminated among institutional actors in the region	--	--
	Consultation	--	Online consultations open to gather ideas for themes to be handled by 5 th Interreg programme Economic council Conference – open (500 participants) Thematic workshops organised to gather ideas on how to implement CBC strategies	--	Meeting/conferences organised to gather info/feedbacks from citizens	Meeting/conferences organised to gather info/feedbacks from citizens Monitoring conference on transport system – relevant stakeholders invited to gather their feedbacks	--
	Dialogue	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Partnership	--	--	--	Small fund set up for CSOs to implement CBC projects	--	--

Table 12 – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE BODENSEE: Assessment

2.3.9.3 Summary analysis

Information – Implementation: besides the availability of information on the website, to disseminate knowledge about implemented actions, the report of annual activities is spread among all institutional actors in the cross-border region.

Consultation – Drafting: Online consultations were open to gather ideas from citizens for themes to be handled by 5th Interreg programme. Also, during the Economic council Conference thematic workshops were organised to gather ideas on how to best implement CBC strategies.

Consultation – Implementation/monitoring: Meeting/conferences are periodically organised to gather info/feedbacks from citizens. A specific monitoring conference was organised on the topic of CB transport system. Relevant stakeholders were invited to attend and deliver their feedbacks/insights.

Partnership – Implementation: A small dedicated fund has been set up for CSOs to implement CBC projects.

SECTION 3

INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT IN CBC GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

3. INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Insights on tools of citizens' engagement

At cross-border level, several tools and methods were identified to involve civil society within decision-making processes: "from informal councils to civil parliaments or to dialogue tools" (MOT - Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière 2011), from information to consultation to the active involvement of citizens and stakeholders. Citizens' participation, as seen in the case studies, takes places at different stages of the decision-making process.

The table below summarizes the identified tools.

<i>Cross-border institution</i>	Tools and methods
<i>Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict (F/D)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Eurodistrict (ReD) (2004) • Cross-border events (i.e. European Picnic, Bicycle Festival, Hiking Day, Solidarity Kilometer mobilizing schoolchildren) • On-line discussion platform (October 2010), for: discussion, feedback, submission of project proposal. <p><i>(MOT - Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière 2011)</i></p>
<i>Eurégio Pirineus – Mediterrànea (F/E)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of the Professional days • Support to cross-border cultural projects <p><i>(Euroregio 2015)</i></p>
<i>Europaregion Euregio Tirol Süd-Tirol Trentino (A/I)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website brokering to the citizens knowledge on specific area of its territory. <p><i>(Europaregion 2015)</i></p>
<i>Øresund Region (S/DK)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web forum for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ public information ○ communication and sharing of information among citizens <p><i>(MOT - Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière 2011)</i></p>
<i>Trinational Eurodistrict Basel (TEB) (F/D/CH)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrobasel (organization bringing together industries and bank institutions) providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ annual economic newspaper realized in two languages and spread among the population ○ annual forum in which companies evaluate public policies and develop proposals <p><i>(URBACT 2010)</i></p>
<i>Eurocidade Chaves-Verin (E/P)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal dialogue with the representatives of civil society on the strategic Agenda of the Eurocidade. <p><i>(URBACT 2010)</i></p>
<i>Internationale Bodenseekonferenz</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference on Economy (<i>Wirtschaftskonferenz</i>) involving

(D/A/CH/FL)	representatives of the economy, politics and civil society. <i>(Bondenseekonferenz 2015)</i>
Euregio (D/NL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC citizens meeting in the socio-cultural field (e.g. school exchanges, sport events, etc) • EUREGIO Working Committees <i>(Euregio 2015)</i>
Euroregiunea Siret – Prut – Nistru (RO/MD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Forum <i>(Euroregiune 2015)</i>
Frankfurt (Oder)/Slubice (D/PL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public debate forum • Euroregional Working groups • Internet platform for annual citizens conference. <i>(URBACT 2010); (MOT - Mission Opérationelle Transfrontalière 2011)</i>
Eurometropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai (F/B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum of the Eurometropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai <i>(URBACT 2010); (MOT - Mission Opérationelle Transfrontalière 2011)</i>
Baltic Euroregion (DK/LT/PL/RUS/S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Users Partnership (WUP) <i>(Union of the Baltic Cities s.d.)</i>
Upper Rhine Trinational Metropolitan Region (CH/FR/D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens Forums <i>(Région Métropolitaine Trinationale 2015); (MOT - Mission Opérationelle Transfrontalière 2011)</i>
Ister-Granum EGTC (H/SK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil parliament project (2006) <i>(URBACT 2010); (MOT - Mission Opérationelle Transfrontalière 2011)</i>

Table 13 - Citizens' participation in practice

3.1.2 Success factors for citizens' engagement

A preliminary assessment of the above instances of citizens' participation in decision-making processes at cross-border level showed the existence of some relevant factors underlying the success of public involvement.

An essential element is knowledge, both gathered from the citizens and brokered to the citizens. A border area is ultimately a place of cultural production, providing new visions of the social life through border's lens, and border-community has the capacity to shape and re-shape the concept of border itself (Schimanski and Wolfe, 2010) in two directions:

- From the citizens – gathering through participation local citizens' knowledge is fundamental in order to have effective inputs to implement all the possible actions in decision-making (Stafanik, 2009) and to overcome border-discourse asymmetry (i.e. understanding people perceptions) (Maria De Fatima Amante, 2010).
- To the citizens – border areas citizens, including politicians, are not always well informed about cooperative actions across borders, their advantages and disadvantages. Without

appropriate knowledge, civil society cannot integrate CBC in their daily discourses, consequently, in local identity. Cooperation projects may be perceived as 'bureaucrats toys', not responding to local community needs.

The main factors identified refer to:

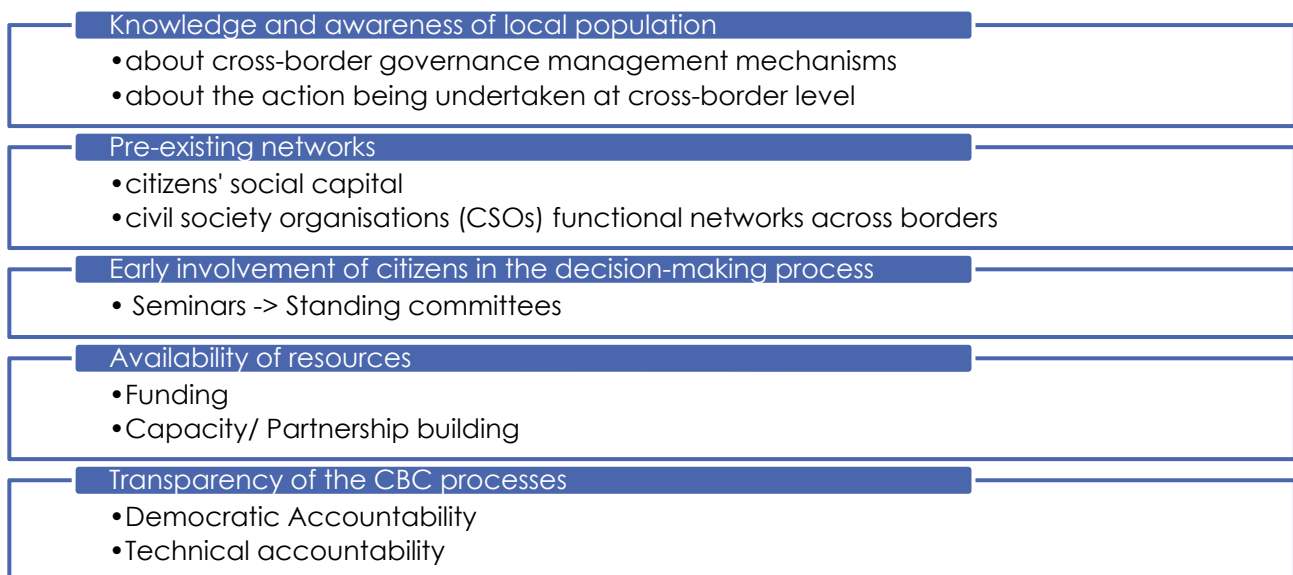


Figure 3 - Success factors for citizens' engagement

3.2 Recommendations

Citizens' engagement in CBC structures allows for and contributes to:

- Increased democratic legitimacy of CBC structures and sense of ownership of citizens in cross-border areas towards CBC arrangements, projects and initiatives;
- Improved multi-level governance opportunities as it implies vertical and horizontal integration of stakeholders in the decision-making process;
- Improved responsiveness of policies to local needs;
- Enhanced quality, efficiency and sustainability of decision-making of cross-border governance structures;
- Improved capacities of LAs, CBC authorities and citizens in developing the cross-border areas through multi-lateral dialogue.

The possibility of implementing citizens' engagement in CBC governance structures and strategies, and their success is directly linked with:

- Citizens knowledge and awareness of:
 - cross-border governance (legal and financial) mechanisms;
 - the action being undertaken at cross-border level.

A relevant example in practice is represented by the annual Stakeholders Forum organized by Euroregion Baltic (ERB) since 2010, in order to increase the visibility and transparency of its actions while also promoting at grass root level a 'culture' of CBC'. In this context, specific panels are organized to involve stakeholder in the debate on the future of ERB. (Section 2, p. 18)

- The pre-existence of functional networks among the civil society based on citizens' own social capital;

This is observed as a particularly relevant requisite for what concerns the sustainable development of strategies initially promoted by citizens, supported by the CBC body and then again supported and campaigned for by CSOs. A significant example is represented by the cross border school project initiated by Cooperation Center Frankfurt (O) - Slubice, where, following a survey conducted among the population, it was then the parents' association which further campaigned for further awareness-raising on this project idea among citizens at CBC level. (Section 2, p. 29)

- The involvement of citizens in the decision-making process from the very beginning of CBC activities, regardless of the level of institutionalisation of CBC;

A relevant example is that of the Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai where a Forum of Civil Society (composed by 80 stakeholders' representatives) participates in both priority setting and drafting of the agenda and in the monitoring phase of the policies adopted and projects/actions implemented. Their participation is structured in 4 plenary meetings per year, in which their inputs are gathered and incorporated in the decision-phase as well as in the policy tuning (Section 2, p. 24).

- The availability of resources dedicated to CSOs/citizens' involvement and capacity building initiatives.

Dedicated funds to encourage CSOs to develop CBC projects have been created by the International Conference of the Bodensee. So far 104 small projects have been funded within this initiative and in the framework of Interreg Programme (Section 2, par. 34). Also, the Eurodistrict Basel has created a fund of 400.000 for financing civil society projects in the field of culture, music, environment, languages, sport (Section 2, p. 31).

Depending on the intensity of participation, citizens' engagement is experienced by:

- Representation (voting);
- Snap-shot engagement in spot initiatives;
- Ad hoc, project-based, working group.

CSOs engagement on topics of their interest is channelled through the Civil Forum of the Ister-Granum EGTC. Relevant CSOs can formulate opinions on topics of their competence after participation to EGTC open meetings. Their insights are then forwarded to the Assembly and CSOs might be invited to participate as partners/experts on ad hoc initiatives/projects (Section 2, p. 22).

- Institutional engagement mechanisms, which, depending on their power to influence the decision making, are classified as follows:
 - Regular conferences;
 - Advisory boards;
 - Standing and Monitoring committees;
 - Decision-making committees.

A relevant example for what concerns the role and potential of standing committees is that of EGTC Gorizia-Nova Gorica-Sempeter Vrtojba, where specific working committees of experts on thematic priorities of the cross-border area are created and meet on regular basis, as part of the functional organs of the EGTC (Section 2, p.14).

Similarly, the Trinational Metropolitan region of the Upper Rhine has institutionalised in its bodies 12 working groups, composed of experts from the French, German and Swiss institutions, that collaborate in partnership to the priority setting and agenda drafting, as well as to implementing and monitoring of both policies and actions (Section 2, p. 33).

Institutionalised citizens' engagement implies that participating citizens are elected/selected to seat in specific bodies within CBC institutions. This, in turn, put a brake on wider public access participation. Therefore citizens directly engaged need to become accountable as representative of the civil society as a whole. This implies, moreover, that institutionalised forms of citizens' engagement (e.g. standing committees) must be accompanied by less structured but regular participation opportunities open to all willing citizens (e.g. civil forum).

This is embodied by the experience of Eurocity Chaves-Varin, where civic participation in CBC decision making is achieved through the creation of sectorial committees (sports, culture, youth, tourism, transport, education) composed by stakeholders' representatives that contribute to the development of a yearly joint action plan. At the same time, citizens (i.e. wider public) are engaged by means of online questionnaires/surveys to give feedbacks on project proposals and citizens youth forum is in charge of grass-root insights' integration. (Section 2, p. 26)

Capacity building for and monitoring of citizens' engagement is essential. The costs associated with negative participation experiences are extremely high since citizens' trust is easily eroded and has negative spill-overs on citizens' overall perception of CBC and its participating institutions. In order to establish successful in-built participation tools, CBC governance structures must provide for professional expertise on:

- Organising participation events;
- Facilitating participation events;
- Integrating and following-up of citizens feedbacks in the decision making-process.

Summing up, participation must not be fostered per se but rather be adopted according to specific phases of the decision-making process. To this end, Table 1 - Dimensions and variables for the assessment of citizens' participation) offers an interpretation matrix bridging decision-making with current civic participation intensity. The matrix application on the state-of-the-art in a given cross-border governance instance allows for self-assessment and monitoring. By identifying the juxtaposition of the context with the interpolation of the variables, it is also possible to foresee the next steps needed to ensure the appropriate level of civic participation.

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SECTION 4

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

CASE STUDIES, INTERVIEWS HIGHLIGHTS AND ASSESSMENT

1. EGTC GO - European Group for Territorial Cooperation of Gorizia - Nova Gorica - Sempeter Vrtojba

1.1 Description

A. SUMMARY OF CBC

<i>TYPE OF CBC ACTIVITY</i>	European Group for Territorial Cooperation with a focus on: Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urban Planning ▪ Energy ▪ Health ▪ Culture and Education ▪ Sport
<i>ACTORS INVOLVED</i>	<p>Gorizia, Italy: COR (Committee of the Regions); EGTC President, Vice President, Director, Members of the Assembly, Standing Committees, Audit Committee; INFORMEST (Agency for Development and International Economic Cooperation); Mayor; Town Council; Population</p> <p>Nova Gorica, Slovenia: COR (Committee of the Regions); EGTC President, Vice President, Director, Members of the Assembly, Standing Committees, Audit Committee; RRA SP (Regional Development Agency); Mayor; Town Council, Population</p> <p>Šempeter Vrtojba, Slovenia: COR (Committee of the Regions); EGTC President, Vice President, Director, Members of the Assembly, Standing Committees, Audit Committee; Mayor; Town Council, Population</p>
<i>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Municipality of Gorizia ▪ Municipality of Nova Gorica ▪ Municipality of Šempeter Vrtojba
<i>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA</i>	365,11 km ²
<i>TOTAL POPULATION</i>	73.750 inhabitants

B. STRUCTURE OF THE CBC BODY

<i>LEGAL FORM OF CBC ARRANGEMENTS:</i>	<p>The EGTC is regulated by EU and national legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Implementation Act; ▪ Low of the Italian Republic no.88/2009 of 7 July 2009 on the adoption of the Regulation (EC) on European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Implementation Act; ▪ Regulation of the Republic of Slovenia on the establishment of EGTC
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	<p>(OJ no. 31/08 and 9/11)."</p> <p>The EGTC has legal personality and based on the statute, which delineates the "organizational and functional" guidelines. It is also regulated by the founding agreement of its members.</p>
<i>CBC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:</i>	<p>"EGTC's specific objective is to strategically coordinate the policies relating to the metropolitan area, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ management, implementation and modernization of transportation infrastructure, systems and services, mobility and logistics; ▪ coordination of the public transport policies, also by jointly managing transportation services; ▪ management of intermodal logistic nodes in the metropolitan area; ▪ use and management of local energy and environmental resources; ▪ drafting of an energy plan for the metropolitan area; ▪ drafting of plans for joint implementation in other sectors aimed at strengthening economic and social cohesion."
<i>FOUNDING MEMBERS:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Municipality of Gorizia – Comune di Gorizia ▪ Municipality of Nova Gorica - Mestna občina Nova Gorica ▪ Municipality of Šempeter Vrtojba - Občina Šempeter-Vrtojba
<i>ORGANIGRAM:</i>	
<i>STAFFING:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice President • Members of the Assembly • Director • Technical Bodies • Standing Committees

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit Committee
<i>FINANCIAL RESOURCES:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ European Union ▪ Regional Authorities ▪ Regional Agencies
<i>ACCOUNTABILITY TO CITIZENS:</i>	All information on the GO EGTC are available on the official website: www.euro-go.eu
<i>MONITORING AND EVALUATION:</i>	The Standing Committees carry out an analysis on EGTC program, in order to define the EGTC key elements.
<i>FURTHER INFO</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Official website of GECT GO, www.euro-go.eu, last accessed 25th June 2015. ▪ Municipality of Gorizia, http://www3.comune.gorizia.it/it/gect-go-gruppo-europeo-di-cooperazione-territoriale-0, last accessed 25th June 2015.

2. EUROREGION BALTIC

2.1 Description

A. SUMMARY OF CBC

<i>TYPE OF CBC ACTIVITY</i>	<p>Fields of CBC activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lobbying Activities (EU Cohesion Policy) ▪ Strategic Actions (ERB Joint Development Programme; prioritised Institutional Activities; other forms of Cooperation) ▪ Exchange Initiatives
<i>ACTORS INVOLVED</i>	<p>Denmark: Representatives of the Regional Municipality of Bornholm.</p> <p>Lithuania: Representatives of the Regional Development Council in Klaipeda County and Municipalities of Klaipeda, Neringa and Palanga, and District Municipalities of Klaipeda, Kretinga, Silute and Skuodas.</p> <p>Poland: Representatives of the Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic and the Regions of Pomorskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie</p> <p>Russia: Representatives of the Association of Municipalities of the Kaliningrad Region, Government of the Kaliningrad Region, Municipality of Kaliningrad, and Regional Parliament of the Kaliningrad Region</p> <p>Sweden: Representatives of the Regional Council in Kalmar County, Region Blekinge and Regional Council in södra Småland</p>
<i>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Secretariats of all the regions involved. ▪ Municipalities of Klaipeda, Neringa and Palanga, and District Municipalities of Klaipeda, Kretinga, Silute and Skuodas. ▪ Municipalities of the Kaliningrad Region. ▪ Municipality of Kaliningrad.
<i>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA COVERED</i>	86.040 km ²
<i>TOTAL POPULATION</i>	5.562.705 million

B. STRUCTURE OF THE CBC BODY

<i>LEGAL FORM OF CBC ARRANGEMENTS:</i>	On 22 February 1998, in Malbork (Poland), the representatives of the national delegations signed the "Agreement establishing the Euroregion Baltic".
<i>CBC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:</i>	<p>The Euroregion Baltic aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote contacts and cooperation among the local communities, ▪ promote the common interests of the territory, ▪ provide measures for a more sustainable development within the territory,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ improve the territorial attractiveness, ▪ improve the transport accessibility, ▪ organize exchange activities.
<i>FOUNDING MEMBERS:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic, ▪ The Government of the Kaliningrad Region, ▪ The Pomorskie Region, ▪ The Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, ▪ The Regional Council in Kalmar County, ▪ The Regional Development Council in Klaipeda County, ▪ The Regional Municipality of Bornholm, ▪ The Region Blekinge, ▪ The Regional Council in södra Småland.
<i>ORGANIGRAM:</i>	<pre> graph TD EB["Executive Board / President"] --- YB["Youth Board"] EB --- TF["Task Forces"] EB --- IPS["International Permanent Secretariat"] IPS --- RS1["Regional Secretariat in Denmark"] IPS --- RS2["Regional Secretariat in Lithuania"] IPS --- RS3["Regional Secretariats in Poland"] IPS --- RS4["Regional Secretariat in Russia"] IPS --- RS5["Regional Secretariats in Sweden"] </pre>
<i>STAFFING:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ERB President ▪ The ERB Vice Presidency ▪ The Executive Board ▪ The Youth Board ▪ The Task Forces ▪ The International Permanent Secretariat ▪ The Regional Secretariats
<i>FINANCIAL RESOURCES:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EU funds ▪ Members resources
<i>ACCOUNTABILITY TO CITIZENS:</i>	Official website: www.euroregionbaltic.eu
<i>MONITORING AND EVALUATION:</i>	<p>Quantitative indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ population density and demography ▪ remoteness, accessibility and the level of severe permanent natural handicaps ▪ climate vulnerability and environmental emissions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ energy supplies and safety <p>Qualitative indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ attractiveness based on natural and cultural heritage ▪ number of NGOs and their activity level, ▪ access to knowledge (education and libraries), ▪ access to basic social and health care services, ▪ traffic death rate, level of criminality and substance abuse (alcohol and drugs). <p>Source:</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/archive/consultation/terco/pdf/4_organisation/103_er_baltic_en.pdf</p>
SOURCES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EUROREGION BALTIC 2020, http://www.rfkl.se/Documents/Internationellt/ERB/ERB%202020%20Agenda.pdf, last accessed 1st July 2015. ▪ Euroregion Baltic, http://www.youthboard.org/yc3/about/euroregion-baltic.aspx, last accessed 1st July 2015. ▪ STATUTES OF EUROREGION BALTIC, http://euroregionbaltic.eu/images/file/ERB%20Statutes.pdf, last accessed 1st July 2015. ▪ EUROREGION BALTIC, Response to the European Commission's public consultation on the Green Paper: Territorial Cohesion – turning territorial diversity into strength, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/archive/consultation/terco/pdf/4_organisation/103_er_balticen.pdf, last accessed 1st July 2015

3. ISTER-GRANUM EGTC

3.1 Description

A. SUMMARY OF CBC

<i>TYPE OF CBC ACTIVITY</i>	<p>Fields of CBC activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cohesion ▪ Industry ▪ Tourism ▪ Labour market ▪ Health care ▪ Energy policy ▪ Public transport ▪ Communication ▪ Civil society
<i>ACTORS INVOLVED</i>	<p>Country A: Hungary, 42 settlements (i.e. local municipalities) in 2013</p> <p>Country B: Slovakia, 40 settlements (i.e. local municipalities) in 2013</p> <p>The complete list of members is available at:</p> <p>http://www.istergranum.hu/tagtelepulesek_en.html</p> <p>However the EGTC aims at reaching 102 members (i.e. local municipalities) as the former Euroregion</p>
<i>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mayor of the city of Esztergom ▪ Mayor of the city of Štúrovo ▪ Mayors of all the 82 municipalities involved
<i>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA COVERED</i>	<p>The Ister-Granum EGTC encompasses the territory displayed in the map below and accounts for an area of 1846 sqkm, its functional area revolves around the cities of Esztergom (HU) and Štúrovo (SK), which are the two largest cities in the area.</p>
<i>TOTAL POPULATION</i>	<p>189.000 inhabitants, 2/3 living on the Hungarian side</p>

B. STRUCTURE OF THE CBC BODY

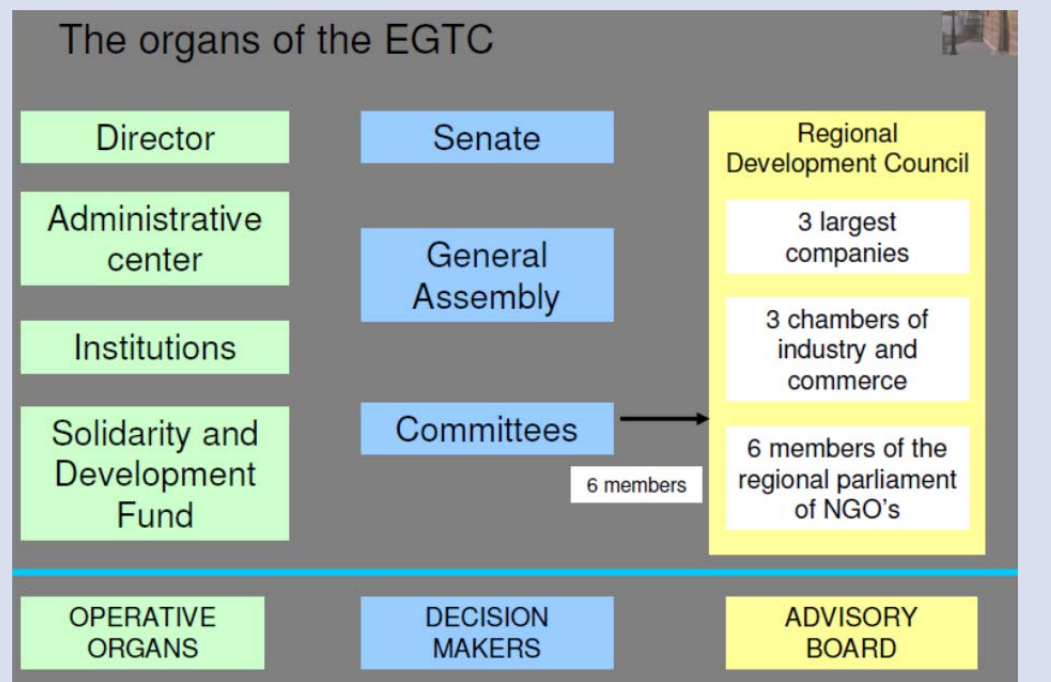
<i>LEGAL FORM OF CBC ARRANGEMENTS:</i>	<p>The Ister-Granum EGTC is a non-profit organization with legal personality that was established in 2008 by the signing of its Statute and Convention.</p> <p>The Ister-Granum EGTC was registered on 29th November 2008 and the communication was published on the Official Journal of the EU, it succeeded to the Ister-Granum Euroregion, which was established in 2003 by 102 local governments. Only 89 local governments out of the original 102 became part of the EGTC.</p> <p>The legal documents that are at the basis of the EGTC are the Convention and the Statute.</p> <p>The EGTC is based on the European Commission's Regulation 1082/2006/EC on European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation and on the Act XIXC of 2007 adopted by the Hungarian National Assembly and focused on European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation.</p>
<i>CBC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:</i>	<p>The main objective of the Ister-Granum EGTC is the cooperation between all its members in all fields that are relevant for the regional development.</p> <p>Furthermore the Ister-Granum EGTC also aims to foster the social and economic cohesion within the region.</p> <p>The Ister-Granum EGTC is responsible for implementing projects of territorial cooperation co-funded by the European Union such as the Common Energy Agency, the Regional Tourist Destination Management Organization and the EGTC Solidarity Fund.</p> <p>Other tasks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of programmes, projects and actions even not financed by the EU ▪ "Raising awareness on the competitive advantages occurring at local and national level" (Statute of the Ister-Granum EGTC, <i>Article II, b</i>) ▪ Ensuring the objectives of the EGTC are met and adequately advertised, ▪ Appointment of representatives in Brussels provided enough financial means are available ▪ "Influencing of the decisions involving regional politics within the institutional framework created by the European Union" (Statute of the Ister-Granum EGTC, <i>Article II, e</i>)
<i>FOUNDING MEMBERS:</i>	<p>Municipalities of Esztergom and of Štúrovo and 87 other local municipalities of the region.</p>

ORGANIGRAM:

The Ister-Granum EGTC is made up by the following Organisms:

- General Assembly of mayors, made up of the mayors of the member authorities, it meets twice a year
- Senate, made up by the executive chair, the deputy chair and 6 mayors, it is the “managing body of the General Assembly and it represents the General Assembly between two meetings” (Statute of the Ister-Granum EGTC, *Article X, par. 4.1*)
- Director
- Chair, made up by the two mayors of the cities of Esztergom and Štúrovo.
- Supervisory Committee, it is made up by three members.

The figures below show the organization of the Ister-Granum EGTC:



	<p>Political structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive board (Senate) Mayor of Esztergom + Mayor of Šturovo General assembly Committees 8 members <p>Technical team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director <p>Advisory Board (cross-border Local Support Group) Regional Development Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 largest companies - 3 chambers of industry and commerce - 6 members of the regional parliament of NGOs <p>Cross-border development agency Institutions Solidarity Fund</p>
<i>STAFFING:</i>	In 2013 the Ister-Granum EGTC had one Hungarian and one Slovak employee
<i>FINANCIAL RESOURCES:</i>	<p>In 2012 the Ister-Granum EGTC had a budget of 74.000€; in 2013 the budget corresponded to 54.000 €. The budget is made up as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 80% from national contributions and ▪ 20% from members' contributions
<i>ACCOUNTABILITY TO CITIZENS:</i>	www.ister-granum.hu
<i>MONITORING AND EVALUATION:</i>	<p>The financial monitoring and the approval of the budget are responsibility of the General Assembly.</p> <p>The Supervisory Committee is responsible for evaluating the “operation and management” of the EGTC. For all contracts that exceed the value of 5 million HUF the approval of the Supervisory Committee is needed. The Supervisory Committee can request information from the Director, the employees and has access to accounts and documents (statute of the Ister-Granum EGTC, <i>Article X, par. 7.12</i>).</p> <p>The audit of funds is responsibility of the competent authorities under Hungarian law, the auditing of the EGTC</p>
<i>SOURCES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Committee, “EGCT Monitoring Report 2013 Towards the New Cohesion Policy”, http://cor.europa.eu/en/documentation/studies/Documents/EGTC-monitoring-report-2013.pdf, last accessed 26th June 2015

- Convention of the Ister-Granum EGTC, 2008, http://www.istergranum.hu/egyezmeny_en.pdf, last accessed 26th June 2015
- European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, "Ister-Granum EGTC", <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/CoRActivities/Pages/Ister-Granum-EGTC.aspx>, last accessed 26th June 2015
- Istvan Ferencsik, "Understanding the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation", 2011, http://www.aer.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Commissions/InstitutionalAffairs/EventsAndMeetings/2011/Ister-Granum_EGTC_cz2802_mod.pdf, last accessed 26th June 2015
- Local Action Plan of the Ister-Granum European Grouping Territorial Cooperation, First Draft, http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/local_action_plan_istergranum_final_version_en.pdf, last accessed 26th June 2015
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- Official website of the Ister-Granum EGTC, http://www.istergranum.hu/index_en.html, last accessed 26th June 2015
- Statute of the Ister-Granum European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation, http://www.istergranum.hu/statute_en.pdf, last accessed 26th June 2015
- The Mot (Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière) Guides, n°8 Civil Society and Cross-Border Cooperation, http://tacso.org/doc/doc_mot_guide.pdf, last accessed 26th June 2015

4. EUROMETROPOLIS Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai

4.1 Description

A. SUMMARY OF CBC

<i>TYPE OF CBC ACTIVITY</i>	Fields of CBC activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Citizen services ▪ Tourism ▪ Culture ▪ Mobility ▪ Land use planning ▪ Economic development
<i>ACTORS INVOLVED</i>	Belgium: Districts of Mouscron, Tournai, Ath, Kortrijk, Ieper, Roeselare, Tielt and communes of Silly, Enghien and Lessines. France: President of Lille metropolis.
<i>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All Belgian government levels ▪ All French government levels ▪ Mayors of all the 147 municipalities involved
<i>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA COVERED</i>	3550 km ² . The complete list of municipalities covered is available at: http://www.eurometropolis.eu/who-are-we/territory/list-of-towns.html
<i>TOTAL POPULATION</i>	2.1 million

B. STRUCTURE OF THE CBC BODY

<i>LEGAL FORM OF CBC ARRANGEMENTS:</i>	Based on EGTC regulation and French legislation
<i>CBC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:</i>	The Eurometropolis aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve an “integrated territorial development.” • bring together all the institutions to achieve better collaboration, communication and political participation. • improve the daily lives of its inhabitants through cross-border cooperation in its territory. • promote and implement cross-border projects.
<i>FOUNDING MEMBERS:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The French State ▪ The Nord-Pas-de-Calais-Region ▪ The Département du Nord ▪ Métropole Européenne de Lille

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Belgium Federal State ▪ The Region and Community of Flanders ▪ The Province of Western Flanders ▪ The LEIEDAL Inter-communal Authority ▪ The wvi Inter-communal authority ▪ Wallonia ▪ The French community of Belgium ▪ The Hainaut Province ▪ The IDETA Inter-communal authority ▪ The IEG Inter-communal authority
<i>ORGANIGRAM:</i>	<p>Six cooperation bodies have been set up within the Eurometropolis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Presidency ▪ The Assembly (deliberative body) ▪ The Board (executive body) ▪ The Cross-Border Agency ▪ The Thematic Working Groups ▪ The Conference of Mayors and Burgomasters
<i>STAFFING:</i>	<p>The Executive Management Committee is composed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Lille Métropole • Mayor of Lille • Mayor of Tournai • Mayor of Courtrai <p>Members of the Board: 32 members elected by the Eurometropolis Assembly for one year. The complete list of the members is available at: http://www.eurometropolis.eu/who-are-we/the-board.html</p> <p>Members of the Assembly: 84 members. The complete list of the members is available at: http://www.eurometropolis.eu/who-are-we/the-assembly.html</p>
<i>FINANCIAL RESOURCES:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accreditations ▪ Partnerships
<i>ACCOUNTABILITY TO CITIZENS:</i>	<p>Official website: www.eurometropolis.eu</p> <p>Information is also disseminated through TV channels offering a cross-border programme visible in the whole territory, regional newspapers and websites.</p>
<i>MONITORING AND EVALUATION:</i>	NA
<i>SOURCES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Official Website of the EUROMETROPOLIS Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai, http://www.eurometropolis.eu/, last accessed 29th June 2015

5.1 Description

A. SUMMARY OF CBC

<i>TYPE OF CBC ACTIVITY</i>	Fields of CBC activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperation ▪ Culture ▪ Sport ▪ Education ▪ Civil protection ▪ Health ▪ Tourism ▪ Environmental protection (Protection of the River Tamega)
<i>ACTORS INVOLVED</i>	Portugal: Eixo Atlántico, Government of Portugal. Spain: Eixo Atlántico, Government of Galicia (Xunta de Galicia), Council of Ourense.
<i>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Municipality of Chaves ▪ Municipality of Verín
<i>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA COVERED</i>	685,3 km ²
<i>TOTAL POPULATION</i>	55.710 inhabitants

B. STRUCTURE OF THE CBC BODY

<i>LEGAL FORM OF CBC ARRANGEMENTS:</i>	In 2010 the two municipalities started work for establish the Eurocidade Chaves – Verín culminating in its registration in the Register of Groupings of Territorial Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain and in the Register of the European Committee of the Regions (EGCC).
<i>CBC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:</i>	The Eurocidade Chaves – Verín aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ promote regional cooperation among its members, ▪ develop economic and social cohesion of the territory, ▪ promote environment and natural resources, ▪ manage public works and services of public interest.
<i>FOUNDING MEMBERS:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Municipality of Chaves ▪ Municipality of Verín ▪ Government of Portugal ▪ Xunta de Galicia ▪ Council of Ourense ▪ Eixo Atlántico
<i>ORGANIGRAM:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Assembly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Presidential Secretary

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members of the General Assembly ▪ Executive body: Director Vice Director ▪ Advisory Board Xunta da Galicia North Regional Coordination and Development Commission Eixo Atlántico Deputation of Ourense Inter-community of Alto Tâmega
<i>STAFFING:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Presidential Secretary • Mayor of the City Council of Verín • Vice President of the Municipal Chamber of Chaves • Council member of the Municipal Chamber of Chaves • Council member of the Municipal Chamber of Chaves • Deputy Mayor of the City Council of Verín • Deputy of Ourense in Galician Parliament • Council member of the City Council of Verín • Director • Vice Director
<i>FINANCIAL RESOURCES:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ European Regional Development funds ▪ European Social funds ▪ Cohesion funds
<i>ACCOUNTABILITY TO CITIZENS:</i>	Official website: www.es.eurocidadechavesverin.eu
<i>MONITORING AND EVALUATION:</i>	NA
<i>SOURCES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Official Website of the Eurocidade Chaves - Verin, es.eurocidadechavesverin.eu, last accessed 2nd July 2015.

6. COOPERATION CENTER Frankfurt (O) - Słubice

6.1 Description

A. SUMMARY OF CBC

<i>TYPE OF CBC ACTIVITY</i>	Frankfurt (O) and Słubice have a long tradition of cooperation dating back to 1990s. Fields of CBC activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economy (including, inter alia, energy, wastes, water management) ▪ Education and culture ▪ Mobility and transport ▪ Security and management of hazardous events ▪ Sport ▪ Sustainable development and landscape protection ▪ Spatial planning
<i>ACTORS INVOLVED</i>	Germany: Frankfurt (Oder) Poland: Słubice
<i>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frankfurt (Oder) ▪ Słubice
<i>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA COVERED</i>	The area covered is that of the "twin cities" of Frankfurt am Oder (German) and Słubice (Poland)
<i>TOTAL POPULATION</i>	80.000 inhabitants

B. STRUCTURE OF THE CBC BODY

<i>LEGAL FORM OF CBC ARRANGEMENTS:</i>	The two municipalities signed an agreement in 1991, which laid the ground for their cooperation. In 1993 the two Mayors signed a joint declaration on cooperation that established fixed meetings between the highest local authorities of the two municipalities in order to foster cooperation.
<i>CBC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:</i>	The cross-border cooperation between the cities of Frankfurt (O) and Słubice aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve and simplify the lives of its citizens through the implementation of adequate projects ▪ Develop a common culture ▪ Foster greater homogeneity of the cross-border area
<i>FOUNDING MEMBERS:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City of Frankfurt/Oder and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City of Słubice
<i>ORGANIGRAM:</i>	<p>The organs of the Frankfurt (O)-Słubice are:</p> <p>“Executive power” (coordinate actions to fulfill the objectives)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leader Team – Lord Mayor of Frankfurt, Mayor of Słubice, councilors (meet every two months) ▪ Steering Group – Lord Mayor of Frankfurt, Mayor of Słubice, heads of departments (meets every two months) <p>“Legislative power”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint City Council Assembly – all Members of the Councils of the two municipalities – it sets the goals and oversees their implementation (meets once a year) ▪ Joint City Council Committee – 5 members for each of the two City Councils (10 members in total) – it adopts and discusses resolutions and decisions (it meets every 2/3 months) <p>“Implementation bodies”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working Groups – they work on various topics (i.e. economic development, city planning, education and culture, city marketing, international cooperation and joint projects’ implementation) ▪ Coordination Team – it deals with: “project development and management reporting, public relations, civil society dialogue, organization of meetings/workshops, mediation” and translations services <p>Source: (EGTC, URBACT 2010, pp. 119-120)</p> <p>In 2010 the Frankfurt – Słubice Cooperation Center was established, the body works to enhance cooperation between the two towns.</p>
<i>STAFFING:</i>	4 employees (2 Germans 2 Polish) worked for the Frankfurt-Słubice cooperation between 2010 and 2013.
<i>FINANCIAL RESOURCES:</i>	The two cities do not share a common budget. Financial resources either derive from the budget of the municipalities or from national and European funds (e.g. Interreg Programme).
<i>ACCOUNTABILITY TO CITIZENS:</i>	<p>Official website: www.frankfurt-slubice.eu</p> <p>In June 2009, 200 citizens took part to the “Frankfurt-Słubice Future Conference 2020). Citizens had the chance to develop and exchange their ideas on the future development of the two cities and to propose projects to be implemented within 2010-2020 (1/3 of the projects’ ideas, objectives and</p>

	<p>strategies come from civil society). Project fields were⁹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic development ▪ City marketing ▪ City planning ▪ Culture and education ▪ International cooperation. <p>The public forum involved citizens and local authorities.</p> <p>Since 2009, a citizens' conference is organized once a year involving citizens of the two municipalities, local authorities and civil society stakeholders to discuss on topics relevant for the cross-border area. The public debates shall also act as a cohesion tool to increase the sense of belonging to one single community. Moreover, citizens take part to the working groups contributing to develop new ideas for the cross-border area.</p>
<i>MONITORING AND EVALUATION:</i>	<p>The annual citizens' consultation and their participation in working groups acts as monitoring tool (Frankfurt – Słubice Handlungsplan 2010-2020, p. 19).</p>
<i>SOURCES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dascher Kristof, "The Cross-Border Region of Frankfurt (Oder) – Słubice", May 2003, http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.196.778&rep=rep1&type=pdf, last accessed 3rd July 2015 • EGTC, URBACT (a), "Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations – Handbook on the Governance of Cross-border Conurbations", May 2010, http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/import/Projects/Egtc/outputs_media/Handbook_CBgovernance_EGTC_URBACT_May_2010.pdf, last accessed 3rd July 2015 • EGTC, URBACT (b), "Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations – Seminar 'Involvement of Civil Society in cross-border agglomerations'" 11th February 2010, Tournai, http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/import/Projects/Egtc/documents_media/Minutes_Tournai_Feb_2010_EGTC_URBACT_EN.pdf, last accessed 3rd July 2015 • Frankfurt – Słubice Handlungsplan 2010-2020, http://www.frankfurt-slubice.eu/Files/files/frankfurt-slubice_handlungsplan_ii.pdf, last accessed 6th July 2015 • Official Website of the Frankfurt – Słubice Kooperationszentrum, http://www.frankfurt-slubice.eu/home.en.html, last accessed 6th July 2015 • Official Website of the Municipality of Słubice, http://www.slubice.pl/pl/wspolpraca-z-zagranica, last accessed 3rd July 2015

⁹ Source: (EGTC, URBACT 2010, p. 116)

7. EURODISTRICT Basel

7.1 Description

A. SUMMARY OF CBC

<i>TYPE OF CBC ACTIVITY</i>	<p>The Trinationnal Eurodistrict Basel (TEB) is an association that aims at deepening the cooperation between the cities of its area.</p> <p>Fields of CBC activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management of the territory and sustainable development, ▪ Transport and mobility, ▪ Projects involving citizens (citizens' relations), ▪ Public relation and communication, ▪ Urban development in the Trinationnal context, ▪ Environment, ▪ Energy, ▪ Culture, ▪ Education, ▪ Events capable of strengthening the international influence of the TEB
<i>ACTORS INVOLVED</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ France – Alsace Region ▪ Germany – Land of Baden-Württemberg ▪ Switzerland – Cantons of Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft
<i>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</i>	<p>The Eurodistrict encompasses 250 towns. The following municipalities are part of the TEB:</p> <p>Switzerland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Towns of the Bâle-Ville Canton ▪ Towns of the Bâle-Campagne Canton ▪ Planungsverband Fricktal Regio (Argovie) ▪ The borough of Thierstein and Dorneck ▪ The Forum Regio of the Soleure Canton <p>Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Towns of the Lörrach District ▪ The city of Wehr ▪ The city of Bad Säckingen <p>France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 3 Communities of the towns of the Pays de Saint Louis <p>The complete list of member towns as of 2013 is available at the following link in pdf format: www.eurodistrictbasel.eu/fr/tout-sur-letb/perimetre-et-membres.html?file=files/assets/ueber_den_teb/perimeter_und_mitglieder/NO</p>

	T 2013-11-18 MembresETB-TEBMitglieder PFr D-F.pdf , last accessed 2 nd July 2015
<i>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA COVERED</i>	1989 km ² Source: Eurodistrict Trinationale de Bâle, http://www.eurodistrictbasel.eu/fr/tout-sur-letb/perimetre-et-membres.html , last accessed 2 nd July 2015
<i>TOTAL POPULATION</i>	About 900.000 inhabitants. Each day more than 50.000 people cross the borders to work in the nearby territories.

B. STRUCTURE OF THE CBC BODY

<i>LEGAL FORM OF CBC ARRANGEMENTS:</i>	<p>TEB was established on 27th January 2007 in the form of an Association under Local Law of Associations of the Upper-Rhine, the Lower Rhine and the Moselle (<i>droit local des associations</i>) by the political representatives of the three countries involved. The Association is non-profit.</p> <p>TEB succeeded to two institutions: the ATB (<i>Association pour le Développement Durable du Territoire de l'Agglomération Trinationale de Bâle</i>) and the <i>Conférence de l'Agglomération</i> (i.e. the Agglomeration Conference).</p> <p>The establishment of the Eurodistrict in 2007 has its roots in the creation of the Regio Basiliens in 1963 and in the cooperation established in 1995 between experts coming from the 3 countries in order to deepen collaboration in the fields of urban development and territorial management.</p>
<i>CBC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:</i>	<p>The TEB aims to¹⁰:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage a feeling of belonging in the citizens of this territory, ▪ Foster the participation of citizens to the democratic activity of the cross-border area, ▪ Deepen and improve the cross-border cooperation. <p>The objectives are met thanks to the implementation of projects and cross-border actions.</p>
<i>FOUNDING MEMBERS:</i>	<p>The TEB was created by the association in one body of the following entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agglomération Trinationale de Bâle (ATB) ▪ Conférence d'agglomération ▪ INFOBEST PALMRAIN¹¹

¹⁰ The objectives and the main fields of activity are retrieved from: The Trinationale Eurodistrict Bâle, "Missions de l'ETB", <http://www.eurodistrictbasel.eu/fr/tout-sur-letb/objectifs.html>, last accessed 2nd July 2015

¹¹ INFOBEST PALMRAIN gives information and advices regarding cross-border cooperation in the Upper Rhine region. More information are available on the official website: <http://www.infobest.eu/de/infobest---quest-ce--de/?PHPSESSID=dbcfe25416701efc3cbeb3881d871770>, last accessed 3rd July 2015

<i>ORGANIGRAM:</i>	<p>The main organisms of the TEB are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Assembly of the members: it meets once a year and is entrusted with the establishment of the basic guidelines for managing the TEB, it approves the budget and decides about the TEB's objectives, ▪ Steering Committee: it has 27 members (9 German, 9 French and 9 Swiss); the President and Vice-President of the Committee are elected every two years, ▪ IBA Political Committee: it will last until the end of the IBA Project in 2020 (the IBA Basel project concerns an International exhibition in the field of architecture, urban development and culture), ▪ Advisory Board: it has 20 Swiss members, 15 French members and 15 German members. All members are elected candidates and hold a political position in their countries; the Board has one President and two Vice-presidents. ▪ The 5 working groups¹²: Technical Coordination Committee (18 members from the three countries made of experts), Planning and Landscape, Mobility and Transport, Energy and Environment, Civil Society, GIS Geoportal
<i>STAFFING:</i>	<p>The permanent administration of the TEB is made up by 4 employees: a director, an assistant and two project managers</p>
<i>FINANCIAL RESOURCES:</i>	<p>The budget of the TEB derives from the annual fee paid by members and from local, national and European funds (Regio Basiliens 2007).</p> <p>As of 2014 the TEB had the following financial means to support cross-border projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) ▪ Interreg Rhin Supérieur ▪ Between 2012 and 2014 the fund <i>microprojet</i> granted between 3.000 and 80.000€ for cross-border projects implemented by legal entities in the field of sport, culture, youth, environment and language. The projects involved exchanges between citizens and cooperation actions.
<i>ACCOUNTABILITY TO CITIZENS:</i>	<p>Official website: www.eurodistrictbasel.eu</p> <p>The TEB has been focusing on the implementation of projects in the fields of transport, mobility and urban development. However, beginning in 2012, the TEB supports cross-border projects (called <i>microprojets</i>) involving citizens' exchanges and fostering the opportunities for cross-border meetings.</p> <p>Examples of implemented projects in this field are: Le BebbiSprint 2012 (sport tournament for young students aged below 14 years); the guided tour in the Bâle Region (Bâle, Lörrach, Saint Louis) to discover sustainable ways of living (concerning housing) in 2013; the "Gott parle-t-il dytsch?" in 2014 which</p>

¹² The working groups are retrieved from: The Trinational Eurodistrict Bâle, "Groupes de Travail", <http://www.eurodistrictbasel.eu/fr/tout-sur-letb/groupes-de-travail.html>, last accessed 2nd July 2015

	consisted in an exchange and debate between youngsters from the French, German and Swiss regions.
<i>MONITORING AND EVALUATION:</i>	NA
<i>SOURCES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driscoll John, Vigier François, Leith Kendra, "The Basel Metropolitan Area : Three Borders – One Metropolitan Area", 2010, http://iclr.org/web/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Basel-Metropolitan-Area-Three-Borders-One-Metropolitan-Area-Dec10.pdf, last accessed 3rd July 2015 • Duvinage Frédéric, "Trinational Eurodistrict Basel", 19th November 2008, http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/import/Projects/Egctc/documents_media/PPT_Launch_conf_Urbact.pdf, last accessed 2nd July 2015 • Eurodistrict Trinational de Bâle, « Périmètre et Membres », http://www.eurodistrictbasel.eu/fr/tout-sur-letb/perimetre-et-membres.html, last accessed 2nd July 2015 • Eurodistrict Trinational de Bâle, « Fonds Microprojets : vivre des rencontres transfrontalières », http://www.eurodistrictbasel.eu/fr/projets/microprojets.html, last accessed 3rd July 2015 • Forum Regio Plus, « Trinationaler Eurodistrict Basel – TEB », http://www.forum-regio-plus.ch/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=125, last accessed 3rd July 2015 • Jacob Erik and Frieseke Manuel, "Trinationaler Eurodistrict Basel", Regio Basiliens Informationsbulletin, March 2007, http://www.google.it/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=10&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CG0QFjAJ&url=http%3A%2F%2Ffurerkarrer.ch%2Fcms%2Fde%2Fcomponent%2Fjoomdoc%2Fdoc_download%2F12-regioinform-1-07-eurodistrict-basel.html&ei=BDCWVfTINsOAU4SAgAN&usq=AFQjCNH57jhZNe5qE9qCaEt5ylwBSydMnQ&bvm=bv.96952980,d.d24, last accessed 3rd July 2015 • List of member towns of the Trinational Eurodistrict Basel as of 2013 is available at the following link in pdf format: www.eurodistrictbasel.eu/fr/tout-sur-letb/perimetre-et-membres.html?file=files/assets/ueber_den_teb/perimeter_und_mitglieder/NOT_2013-11-18_MembresETB-TEBMitglieder_Pfr_D-F.pdf, last accessed 2nd July 2015 • Local Action Plan of the Trinational Eurodistrict Basel, April 2010, http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/local_action_plan_etb_final_version_april_2010_en_v2.pdf, last accessed 2nd July 2015 • Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, "Basel Trinational Eurodistrict", http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/resources/territories/territory-factsheets/territories/territory/show/eurodistrict-trinational-de-bale/, last accessed 2nd July 2015 • Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, "Results of the first thematic seminar of the EGCT Urbact project", Press Release, 24th March 2009,

http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Evenements_MO_T/PR_Urbact_EGTC_24_03_09_EN.pdf, last accessed 3rd July 2015

- Official Website of the Trinational Eurodistrict Basel, <http://www.eurodistrictbasel.eu/fr/page-daccueil.html>, last accessed 2nd July 2015
- Status de l'Association Eurodistrict Trinational de Bâle, 12th April 2013, www.eurodistrictbasel.eu/fr/tout-sur-letb.html?file=files/assets/ueber_den_teb/REG_2013-04-12_StatutsETB-SatzungTEB.pdf, last accessed 2nd July 2015
- Trinational Eurodistrict Basel, "Governance structure of a Trinational Sadtregion", http://www.eurodistricte.cat/sites/default/files/contingut/Eurodistrict_trinational_bale.pdf, last accessed 2nd July 2015

8. TRINATIONAL METROPOLITAN REGION OF THE UPPER RHINE

8.1 Description

A. SUMMARY OF CBC

<i>TYPE OF CBC ACTIVITY</i>	<p>Fields of CBC activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Science ▪ Economy ▪ Civil Society ▪ Politics
<i>ACTORS INVOLVED</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Upper Rhine Conference ▪ The Rhine Council ▪ Cities Network ▪ Eurodistricts
<i>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ France: the Prefect of the region of Alsace ▪ Germany: the District President of Freiburg im Breisgau or Karlsruhe and the competent representative of Rhineland-Palatinate ▪ Switzerland: the Member of the Executive Council of Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft
<i>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA COVERED</i>	21.518 km ²
<i>TOTAL POPULATION</i>	5,9 million

B. STRUCTURE OF THE CBC BODY

<i>LEGAL FORM OF CBC ARRANGEMENTS:</i>	<p>The idea of a Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine was first launched in 2006, in Freiburg, during the 10th Tripartite Congress (<i>Dreiländerkongress</i>) and led to the creation of the Metropolitan Region after the 2008 11th Congress.</p> <p>The following documents are at the basis of the creation of the Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Gründungserklärung der Trinationalen Metropolregion Oberrhein, i.e. the Declaration funding the Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine was signed on 9th December 2010; ▪ 9th December 2010: signing of the <i>Offenburger Erklärung</i> (Offenburg Declaration) by the ministers and Secretary of state for the creation of the Trinational metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine, signed by representatives of the countries at ministerial level. <p>However, the cooperation in the Upper Rhine area dates back to 1975 with the</p>
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	establishment of the intergovernmental Commission.
<i>CBC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:</i>	<p>The main objective of the Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine is to enhance the cooperation between its members, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Realize innovative projects holding a high added value that its members could not achieve alone. These projects focus on the fields of: development, industry, environment, culture and tourism and aim at increasing the regions' competitiveness; ▪ Reinforce the cohesion of its members from an economic, societal and territorial point of view; ▪ Become a n example to follow in the field of sustainable development.
<i>FOUNDING MEMBERS:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Council of Alsace ▪ Government (Regierungspraesident) of Freiburg ▪ Pôle Alsace Energivie ▪ Oberheinkonferenz ▪ Governamental Council of the Basel-Landschaft canton ▪ Regio Basiliens ▪ German University of Administrative Sciences (Deutsche Hochschule fur Verwaltungswissenschaften)
<i>ORGANIGRAM:</i>	<p>The Upper Rhine Conference “provides the institutional framework for Cross-Border Cooperation in the Upper Rhine region” ¹³</p> <pre> graph TD A[Franco-german-swiss inter-governmental Commission] --> B[Franco-German-Swiss Upper Rhine Conference] B --> C[Steering Committee and Plenary Assembly] B --> D[Joint Secretariat] C --> E[Working groups and expert commissions] D --> E </pre>
<i>STAFFING:</i>	<p>The RMT Policy Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prefect of the region of Alsace ▪ President of the General Council of Haut-Rhin ▪ TEB President of Landrätin in Lörrach ▪ Member of city Council of Landau in der Pfalz ▪ President of General Council of Bas-Rhin ▪ Regional President of Karlsruhe ▪ Member of Council of Basel-Stadt

¹³ Deutsche, Französische Schweizerische Oberheinkonferenz, “The Upper Rhine Conference”, <http://www.oberrheinkonferenz.org/de/services/english.html>, last accessed 26th June 2015

- Regional President of Basel-Stadt
- Commissioner for the cross border cooperation, Chancellor of Rheinland-Pfalz
- President of the Regional Council of Alsace
- Mayor of Strasbouorg
- Regional President of Freiburg
- Member of the Parliament of Baden-Württemberg
- Regional President of Basel-Landschaft

The Joint secretariat of the Franco-German Swiss Upper Rhine Conference:

- 1 Member from each French, German and Swiss delegation
- 1 assistant

The Steering Committee of the Franco-German Swiss Upper Rhine Conference:

- A delegation from each of the three countries, headed by the heads of each delegations, i.e.:
 - Prefect of Region Alsace for France,
 - District president of Freiburg or Karlsruhe for Germany,
 - A member of the executive council of one of the cantons of Basel-Stadt or Basel-Landschaft

The plenary Assembly of the Franco-German Swiss Upper Rhine Conference:

- A delegation for each of the member countries with maximum 25 delegates each

12 working groups: made up of experts coming from the French, German and Swiss Institutions. The working groups are: transport, environment, culture, education, youth, health, economy, land use planning, disaster management, climate protection, agriculture, sport

35 expert commissions working on developing specific projects

*FINANCIAL
RESOURCES:*

According to the Guide of the funding sources for cross-border projects in the Upper Rhine (2011) published on the official website of the Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine, the following funds are available:

- 25.000€ a year are available for the functioning of the Common Secretariat, decisions on funds delivery are made by the Coordination Committee or by the Director's committee (> 5.000€)
- 100.000€ from the Common Cooperation Funds of the Upper Rhine to support cross-border projects capable of making the Upper Rhine a model region in cbc (Cross-border cooperation);
- 10.000€ a year for the Theatrical exchange in the Upper Rhine to promote theatrical activities within the cbc region;
- Maximum 4.000€ for Youth Projects (Fund for Youth Projects

	<p>Jugendprojektfunds)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interreg; ▪ Funds from the Council of Alsace to support the cbc cultural cooperation; ▪ 5.000€ a year from the Communauté urbaine de Strasbourg for crossborder school exchanges; ▪ Funds from Associations, Foundations, etc., such as: Fondation Entente Franco-Allemande (FEFA), Fondation Johan Wolfgang von Goethe, Fondation Robert Bosch; ▪ For other resources available in the single countries and more information, please download the guide at the following link: www.rmtmo.eu/de/services/download.html?file=tl_files/RMT-TMO/ORK-CRS-Leitfaden_Guide_Finanzierung_Version10-DE-FR-2011.pdf
<i>ACCOUNTABILITY TO CITIZENS:</i>	<p>Official website: http://www.rmtmo.eu/fr/home.html</p> <p>A number of entities have been established to give citizens information and advice on CBC in the Upper Rhine area (e.g. INFOBEST, Euro-Insitut, etc.).</p>
<i>MONITORING AND EVALUATION:</i>	-
<i>SOURCES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beck Joachim, Hermann Patrice, Oser Jürgen, "The Trinational metropolitan Region Upper Rhine – a laboratory for territorial Cohesion in Europe", http://www.regbas.ch/de/assets/File/downloads/Presentation_upper_rhine_25_9_09.pdf, last accessed 6th July 2015 • Conférence Franco-Germano-Suisse du Rhin Supérieur, « Rhin Supérieur Faits et Chiffres », 2012, http://www.rmtmo.eu/, last accessed 6th July 2015 • CORDIS, "International Cooperation, Cooperation in the Upper Rhine Region", http://cordis.europa.eu/baden-wuerttemberg/int-coop-upper-rhine_en.html, last accessed 26th June 2015 • Deutsch-Franzosisch-Schweizerisches Konferenz, "The Upper – Rheine Conference", http://www.conference-rhin-sup.org/fr/services/english.html, last accessed 26th June 2015 • Mission Operationnelle Transfrontalière, "Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhein", http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/resources/territories/territory-factsheets/territories/territory/show/region-metropolitaine-trinationale-du-rhin-superieur/, last accessed 26th June 2015 • Official Website of the Deutsch-Franzosisch-Schweizerisches Konferenz, Official Website, http://www.conference-rhin-sup.org/fr/, last accessed 26th June 2015 • Official Website of the Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine, http://www.rmtmo.eu/de/home.html, last accessed 26th June 2015 • Stratégie 2020 pour la Région Métropolitaine Trinationale, http://www.rmtmo.eu/fr/region-metropolitaine/la-demarche-de-region-metropolitaine-trinationale-du-rhin-superieur.html, last accessed

3rd July 2015

- Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhein, “Building the Trilateral Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhein”, 28.06.2013, <http://www.euroinstitut.org/pdf/Download-Unterlagen/2013-NoviSad/Cahueau.pdf>, last accessed 26th June 2015

9. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE BODENSEE

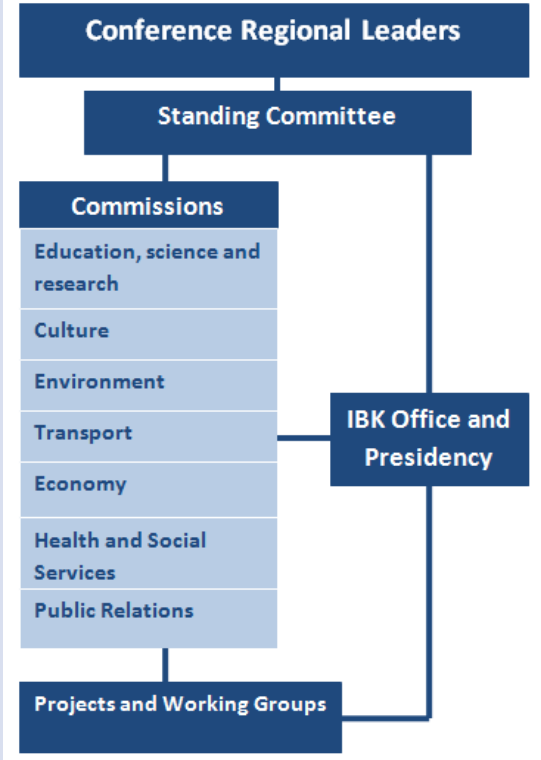
9.1 Description

A. SUMMARY OF CBC

<i>TYPE OF CBC ACTIVITY</i>	<p>Fields of CBC activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education, science and research ▪ Culture ▪ Environment ▪ Transport ▪ Economy ▪ Health and Social Services ▪ Public Relations
<i>ACTORS INVOLVED</i>	<p>Austria : Vorarlberg</p> <p>Germany: Baden-Württemberg, Free State of Bayern</p> <p>Liechtenstein: Principality of Liechtenstein</p> <p>Switzerland: Canton of Thurgau, Canton of St. Gallen, Canton of Schaffhausen, Canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden, Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Canton of Zürich</p>
<i>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Counties of Landkreise Konstanz, Bodenseekreis, Ravensburg, Sigmaringen (Baden-Württemberg) ▪ Counties of Landkreise Lindau and Oberallgäu, Stadt Kempten (Free State of Bayern)
<i>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA COVERED</i>	<p>The Costance Lake (Bodensee) covered an area of 538 km².</p> <p>The area covered by the countries involved is about 114.512 km².</p> <p>(Vorarlberg: 2.590 km²; Baden-Württemberg: 35.751 km²; Bayern: 70.551 km²; Liechtenstein: 160 km²; Canton of Thurgau: 991 km²; Canton of St. Gallen 2.026 km²; Canton of Schaffhausen: 298 km²; Canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden: 173 km²; Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden: 243 km²; Canton of Zürich: 1.729 km²)</p>
<i>TOTAL POPULATION</i>	<p>About 25.727.447 million inhabitants</p> <p>(Vorarlberg: 370.440 inhabitants; Baden-Württemberg: about 11 million inhabitants; Bayern: about 12 million inhabitants; Liechtenstein: 37.000 inhabitants; Canton of Thurgau: 260.000 inhabitants; Canton of St. Gallen: 487.000 inhabitants; Canton of Schaffhausen: 78.000 inhabitants ; Canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden: 15.778; Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden: 53.691; Canton of Zürich: 1.425.538 million inhabitants)</p>

B. STRUCTURE OF THE CBC BODY

<p><i>LEGAL FORM OF CBC ARRANGEMENTS:</i></p>	<p>The statute that regulates the Internationale Bodenseekonferenz is available at the following link:</p> <p>http://www.bodenseekonferenz.org/bausteine.net/f/9847/IBK-Statut_Stand1.1.2010.pdf?fd=0</p>
<p><i>CBC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:</i></p>	<p>The main IBK objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote an integrated cooperation in the cross-border region; ▪ promote a sustainable development; ▪ improve the attractiveness of the region in terms of tourism, culture, economy and quality of life; ▪ develop the Natural area of the Costance Lake (Bodensee); ▪ develop a competitive and integrated educational, scientific and research system; ▪ improve the cross-border transport infrastructure; ▪ strengthen cooperation in the Prevention and Health promotion.
<p><i>FOUNDING MEMBERS:</i></p>	<p>The founding members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Swiss Cantons of St.Gallen, Thurgau, Schaffhausen ▪ The Federal States of Baden-Württemberg and Bayern (Germany) ▪ The Federal States of Vorarlberg (Austria) <p>In 1993 were added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Swiss Cantons of Appenzell Innerrhoden and Appenzell Ausserrhoden <p>In 1998 were added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Swiss Canton of Zürich ▪ The Principality of Liechtenstein

<i>ORGANIGRAM:</i>	 <pre> graph TD A[Conference Regional Leaders] --> B[Standing Committee] B --> C[Commissions] B --> D[IBK Office and Presidency] B --> E[Projects and Working Groups] C --> D C --> E </pre>
<i>STAFFING:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg ▪ IBK Office: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manager ▪ Commissioner for Public Relations and Organizations ▪ Projects Coordinator ▪ Associate Project Coordinator ▪ Assistannt
<i>FINANCIAL RESOURCES:</i>	<p>Two types of project funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The small Encounter Projects are funded with a maximum of 2.500 euro entirely from the IBK budget. ▪ The interregional small Projects with a long term cooperation are funded with a maximum of 25.000 euro from the Interregional Program.
<i>ACCOUNTABILITY TO CITIZENS:</i>	<p>Official website:</p> <p>The IBK Mission was presented in a public hearing, making its activities transparent to the citizens.</p>
<i>MONITORING AND EVALUATION:</i>	Not available
<i>SOURCES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Official Website of the Internationale Bodenseekonferenz, http://www.bodenseekonferenz.org/23031/Home/index_v2.aspx, last accessed 9th July 2015. ▪ Bodensee, http://www.aeiou.at/aeiou.encyclop.b/b594279.htm;internal&action=

[setlanguage.action?LANGUAGE=en](#), last accessed 9th July 2015.

- Baviera, <http://www.holidaysineurope.ch/baviera.php>, last accessed 9th July 2015.
- Vorarlberg, <http://www.viaggio-in-austria.it/vorarlberg.html>, last accessed 9th July 2015.
- Liechtenstein in figures 2014. http://www.llv.li/files/as/pdf-llv-as-fl_in_zahlen_englisch_2014, last accessed 9th July 2015.
- Schweiz. <https://www.swisscommunity.org/de/entdecken-sie-die-schweiz>, last accessed 9th July 2015.

ANNEX II

EU CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS AND CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

1. Citizens empowerment Project

Duration: 2007-2011

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Operational Programme France-Wallonie-Flanders

Partner: Periferia ASBL (B), Arpenteurs (F)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Belgium and France (Wallonie - Nord Pas-de-Calais)

Description: The project aimed specifically at increasing citizens' participation and active involvement. Project partners aimed to empower citizens of the entire cross-border area in order to widen their "impact (...) on daily life and public policy". The network between partners and civil society remained active after project's end, ensuring continuity to the initiative.

Citizens' involvement: Within the project, citizens were actively involved through:

- three "citizens' empowerment plenary meetings" to address "transversal issues and (...) work priorities"; and
- a series of public debates that were organized in different cities (e.g. Lille, Roubaix, Dunkerque) of the cross-border area. These debates involved the participation of local stakeholders (including members of the cross-border civil society) who engaged in a dialogue on various issues from health to housing and participation. The theme of a greater citizens' involvement in the public sphere and decision-making was specifically discussed together with politicians of both cross-border areas (France and Belgium) during the plenary meeting of Roubaix in 2007. The focus was on the need for politicians to open to bottom-up projects and proposals.

Website:

- <http://www.keep.eu/search/show/24680>, last accessed 24th July 2015;
- www.capacitation-citoyenne.org, last accessed 27th July 2015;
- <http://www.capacitation-citoyenne.org/livrets/emeraude/roubaix07.pdf>, last accessed 27th July 2015

2. Haute-Sûre River Contract Project

Duration: 2008-2011

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Operational Programme Great Region

Partner: Parc Naturel Haute-Sûre (L), Parc Naturel Haute-Sûre Forêt d'Anlier (B)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Belgium and Luxemburg (Haute-Sûre cross-border area)

Description: The project aimed at developing a "River Contract" (i.e. a cross-border joint management plan for the waters of the Basin of the Haute-Sûre).

Citizens' involvement: The project involved both local authorities and civil society stakeholders. The following methods were used to ensure local inhabitants and stakeholders were involved in the development of the River Contract:

- The River committees made up by representatives of the local authorities and administrations but also by local residents and stakeholders (in the field of economy, environment and youth): the committees had the objective of drafting a number of actions for protecting and managing the waters of the Haute-Sûre Basin. The actions were jointly drafted with contributions of all participants and were implemented by project partners.
- The thematic working groups made up by all actors involved in river management in order to find joint solutions. The working groups were not only open to the members of the committees and external experts, but to all citizens wishing to give their contribution to the final River Contract Document.

Website:

- <http://www.crhs.eu/index.php?id=1;lang=fr>, last accessed 22nd July 2015

3. Masterplan Project

Duration: 2009-2011

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Austria – Bayern Operational Programme

Partner: Land Salzburg - Department for Spatial Planning (A), Euregio Salzburg - Regio Berchtesgadener Land - Traunstein e.V. (A and D), Regional Planning Association of South East Upper Bavaria (D), Government of Upper Bavaria (D), Regional association Salzburg City and surrounding municipalities (A)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Austria and Germany Kernregion Salzburg (Bayer, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Tyrol and Vorarlberg)

Description: The project focused on the drafting of a new Masterplan for the Euroregion of Salzburg - Berchtesgadener Land – Traunstein and on establishing a common cross-border set of development measures to be implemented up to 2030. The Masterplan was organized in four core areas: Housing, Economy, Transport and 'Landscape and Public Space'. The first version of the Masterplan was drafted on the basis of the results of the workshops held in 2009 with local representatives and technical experts.

Citizens' involvement: The citizens were called to express their views on the first draft of the Masterplan. The dialogue phase with local citizens was launched during the so-called "Second Future Conference for the Salzburg Core region" in January 2010. During the conference, citizens and local authorities had the chance to be presented with the details of the Masterplan (which was also accessible on-line for the public) and were urged to comment on this first draft. The observations were taken into consideration in the final writing phase of the Masterplan.

Website:

- <http://www.salzburg.gv.at/rp2-masterplan>, last accessed 24th July 2015;
- http://service.salzburg.gv.at/lkorj/Index?cmd=detail_ind&nachrid=44264, last accessed 24th July 2015.

4. IREK Project - Integrated Strategy to Spatial Planning for selected territories of the Wipptal

Duration: 2009 (beginning of the project)

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Italy-Austria Operational Programme

Partner: Forest Engineering Service for Torrent and avalanche control - Office of Tyrol (A), Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Offices of Water engineering and of Fire and Civil Defense (I), Office of the Provincial Government of Tyrol – Spatial Statistics and Water Management Offices (A)

Cross-border Regions/Countries involved: Italy and Austria (Municipality of North Wipptal (North Tyrol), Gries am Brenner, Geschnitz, Navis, Obernberg, Schmirn, Trins, Vals; Brennero, Vipiteno (Sterzing), Vize (Pffisch) and Racines (Ratschings)).

Description: The project aimed to develop a strategy for spatial planning dealing with all the multiple risks the Wipptal area is subject to.

Citizens' involvement: The project gave particular attention to the involvement of citizens and local stakeholders in the planning stage. The methodology chosen in order to meet this aim was:

- the participatory process, during which citizens had the chance to share their views and make observations and proposals regarding a sustainable territorial development;
- discussion sessions with the public: results of the participatory process were used by experts to develop a draft version of defence measures that were improved by local authorities' suggestions and finally submitted to the local population during a discussion session for the last evaluation.

Website:

- http://www.provincia.bz.it/protezione-civile/service/news.asp?aktuelles_action=300&aktuelles_image_id=588126, last accessed 21st July 2015;
- <http://www.interreg.net>, last accessed 21st July 2015;
- <http://www.keep.eu/search/show/6354>, last accessed 21st July 2015

5. Youth Cross-Border Cooperation and Communication Project

Duration: 2009-2011

EU Programme: 2007-2013 South Baltic Operational Programme

Partner: Blekinge Region (S), Regional Council in Kalamar County (S), Regional Council of Southern Småland (S), Regional Municipality of Bornholm (DK), Office of the Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship (PL), Office of the Marshal of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship (PL)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Blekinge Region

Description: The project aimed at transforming the Youth cross-border Forum (founded in 2007) into a permanent body for discussion and engagement with political work.

Citizens' involvement: The involvement of young participants was ensured through:

- Workshops that were held in each of the eight cross-border regions involved;
- The "Interactive Youth Web Platform" that ensured a wide young audience was reached and actively engaged in the project.

Project activities involved more than 700¹⁴ young citizens and resulted in the drafting of two strategic documents: "Youth Influence Concept" (i.e. new ways to integrate the ERB and the Youth Board activities) "and the ERB (Euroregion Baltic) Vision and Action Plan on Youth Cooperation", setting the agenda for Youth Board in the following years.

Website:

- <http://www.keep.eu/search/show/24377>, last accessed 23rd July 2015;
- http://en.southbaltic.eu/db/index.php?p=6&id_db=4&id_record=79, last accessed 23rd July 2015;
- en.southbaltic.eu/files/?id_plik=1957, last accessed 24th July 2015;
- <http://www.youthboard.org/yc3/meetings.aspx>, last accessed 28th July 2015

¹⁴ Fifty-five among them came from the neighboring country of Russia.

6. Brand Project

Duration : 2009-2013

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Ireland – Wales Operational Programme

Partner: Municipalities of Rhyl (UK), Holyhead (UK), Athy (IRL) and Dun Laòghaire (IRL)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Ireland – Wales (Towns of Rhyl, Holyhead, Athy and Dun Laòghaire)

Description: The project aimed at a re-branding of four towns located at the border of Ireland and Wales and suffering from a poor (self-)image: Rhyl, Holyhead, Athy and Dun Laòghaire. The local communities were part of the re-branding process. More specifically local stakeholders were involved in the establishment of a “sustainable cross-border model for urban re-branding”. Great attention was devoted to the development of a truly cross-border final model capable of answering the needs of all the four towns.

Citizens’ involvement: The project methodology for ensuring citizens' involvement was the following:

- Organization of a Forum to actively involve local stakeholders in the development of the town rebranding and of the related toolkit;
- Establishment of the so called “ambassador thinking” (i.e. a positive image of the towns among the members of its community who would then act as multipliers in the local society and also towards external people);
- Organization of “Community workshops, stakeholder interviews and immersions in order to assess the position of the four towns’ brands (“Brand Audit”).

Website:

- <http://brand-project.eu/methodology/>, last accessed 22nd July 2015

7. Building the Upper Rhine Metropolitan Region Project! For a cross-border active civil dialogue

Duration: 2010-2012

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Upper Rhine Operational Programme

Partner: State Chancellery Rheinland-Pfalz (D), Alsace Region (F), Department of the Upper Rhine (F), Department of the Lower Rhine (F), Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Baden-Württemberg (D), Regional Council of Karlsruhe (D), Swiss Confederation (CH)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: France, Germany, Switzerland

Description: The project aimed at involving the local civil society in the building of the Trinational Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine, by also creating a stable network among them in order to strengthen the Cross-border region.

Citizens' involvement: The chosen method used to engage civil society was:

- The Forum (or convention). Three "citizens' forums" were organized, each hosted in a different area of the Upper Rhine Region. Participants were either invited directly from organizations of the civil society or independently signed up through an online application procedure. Topics of discussion were decided in advance and targeted cross-border and civil society issues; however, issues that came up as the discussion unfolded were also treated. The three forums were also meant to lay the ground for a permanent active citizens' dialogue in the cross-border area.

Website:

- <http://www.interreg-oberrhein.eu/schwerpunkt-b,10204,de.html>, last accessed 24th July 2015

8. Project on the Development of cross-border cooperation between local governments in order to strengthen the transparency ("Rozvoj cezhraničnej spolupráce miestnych samospráv za účelom posilnenia transparentnosti miestnych samospráv na S")

Duration: 2011

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Hungary-Slovakia Operational Programme

Partner: Transparency International Slovensko (SK)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Hungary and Slovakia

Description: The project focused on fostering governmental transparency through reinforced cross—border networks.

Citizens' involvement: The project also aimed at empowering citizens with tools to monitor public spending in order to increase the "civic control of the local government spending".

Website :

- <http://www.keep.eu/search/show/24982?ss=b27c62094ab319ca2f954f2d268f09dfe7c362a7ddc504e12d8a4d664bd15fe4&zoom=3#bb>, last accessed 23rd July 2015;
- www.husk-cbc.eu/, last accessed 23rd July 2015

9. CareSam Project

Duration : 2011-2013

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Cross-Border Operational Programme Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak

Partner: University of Malmö (S), Roskilde University (DK), Skåne Local Authorities (S), Professionshøjskolen (DK), Municipality of Copenhagen – Administration for Health and Care (DK), Local government Association - Kommunernes Landsforening (DK)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Denmark and Sweden (Oresund Region)

Description: The project aimed at establishing a “regional network within the elderly care sector”. The project fostered the involvement of all stakeholders in a cross-border debate on the future development of the elderly care system, given the increasing trends in the number of elderly in the region.

Citizens' involvement: the stakeholders were involved through:

- Four Seminars, dealing with the topic “The Future of the Elderly care system”, that were advertised through the website page and held between the months of September and December 2011. Seminars were divided in two stages: the first part consisted of interventions of prominent speakers on “elderly-care”, the second stage consisted in a debate session with the audience. Speakers came from both parts of the border;
- Workshops. At the end of the conferences, participants and experts were divided into smaller groups to take part to round tables and/or workshops to allow the participating stakeholders to express opinions, suggestions and good practices arising from their experiences. The topics discussed related to future developments of the sector, employees' training and ways to increase job attractiveness. The inputs were collected by the organizers and will be used in the future for developing projects in the elderly care system.

Website:

- <http://www.ruc.dk/institutter/paes/forskning/projekter/caresam/seminarer-dansk/> last accessed 23rd July 2015;
- <http://www.keep.eu/search/show/12954>, last accessed 23rd July 2015

10. Coastal Communities 2150 (CC2150) Project

Duration: 2011-2014

Eu Programme: Interreg IV A Two Seas

Partner: Environment Agency (UK), Hampshire County Council (UK), Kent County Council (UK), Agency for Maritime Coastal Services – Coastal Division (UK), Province of West Vlaanderen and ICZM Coordination Group (NL), Stichting Dienst Landbouwkundig Onderzoek (NL)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: United Kingdom and the Netherlands

Description: The project aimed at raising awareness among coastal communities about the risks linked with climate change and sea level rise by also encouraging them to develop “their own responses” to the threat.

Citizens' involvement: Local residents were involved in the project through the:

- “Coastal Future Group” that encompassed also experts and representatives of the local authorities and civil society. The Group was responsible for “steering the project and engage the wider community”.
- Community workshops. Held during 2013, the workshops involved the wider community and the members of the Coastal Future Group. The outcome of the workshops was the “Waking up tomorrow” document (i.e. the vision and the action plan of the project wrote by the Future Group in accordance with workshops' results);
- The “Ecosystem services workshop”, involving local residents, environmental experts and decision makers, the workshop resulted in the development of a “map of the very long-term ecological impacts” in the area.

Website:

- <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/wfo/136998.aspx>, last accessed 28th July 2015;
- <http://prime-c.net/projects/cc2150/>, last accessed 27th July 2015

11. Gotrawama Project

Duration: 2011-2014

EU Programme: Interreg IVA Italy-Slovenia

Partner: University of Nova Gorica (SLO), Water and Sewage Society of Nova Gorica (SLO), Municipality of Nova Gorica (SLO), City of Šempeter Vrtojba (SLO), University of Udine (I), Municipality of Gorizia (I), Institute of Mining, Geotechnology and the environment – IRGO (SLO), University of Ferrara (I), Institute for Health in Nova Gorica (SLO)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Italy and Slovenia (Gorizia and Nova Gorica)

Description: The project aimed at drafting guidelines for the “integrated management of trans-boundary waters”. The project worked “towards an appropriate common policy for the sustainable and effective citizen participation”. The close cooperation between partners ensured that even after the end of the project the synergies were maintained.

Citizens' involvement: As part of the “Communication activities”, the project adopted the following methods for ensure citizens' active involvement:

- Conferences and
- Round table discussions among experts, local citizens and political representatives.

Website:

- http://www.gotrawama.eu/en_attivita.htm, last accessed 21st July 2015

12. Bit Generation project

Duration: 2012-2015

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Italy-Austria Operational Programme

Partner: Belluno Province (I), Cooperativa Sociale Itaca Sas of Pordenone (I), RMO of Lienz (A)

Cross-border Regions/Countries involved: Italy and Austria (Tyrol, Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia regions)

Description: The project aimed at multiplying the Internet access points in the Alpine area. This was expected to impact on the possibility for the inhabitants to access the online services of e-governance and foster the so called "e-democracy", with a special focus on encouraging active citizenship within younger citizens.

Citizens' involvement: The widening of the Internet access points in the area had positive impacts not only on economy and society, but also on citizens' participation through the increase of e-government and e-governance services, thus increasing citizens' participation via web in the long-term. The project activities involved exchange of know-how and good practices between local stakeholders and young citizens through:

- Meetings, online conferences, working groups, trainings, workshops; and
- A Youth meeting in which young citizens were engaged in a participatory manner to analyse the relationship between new technologies and democratic participation with the help of experts.

Website:

- http://www.interreg.net/it/novita/news.asp?aktuelles_action=4&aktuelles_article_id=499514, last accessed 22nd July 2015;
- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/austria/bit-generation-brings-information-society-into-remote-alpine-areas, last accessed 22nd July 2015;
- http://www.provincia.belluno.it/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=7662, last accessed 28th July 2015.

13. Another Illumination Project

Duration: 2013-2014

EU Programme: Operational Programme Germany-Netherlands

Partner: Municipality of Venray (NL) and City of Geldern (D)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Germany and the Netherlands

Description: The project aimed at involving citizens in the planning of the public spaces. In order to achieve this objective it involved citizens in the re-thinking of public lightning towards a more sustainable and energy saving system.

Citizens' involvement: Cross-border citizens were given a core role in the project through the establishment of two pilot areas in the Municipalities of Vernay and Geldern. Part of the so-called "quadruple helix" (together with government, entrepreneurs and schools), they contributed to the shaping of the final outcome (the new public lighting system) becoming active partners, whereas the local government acted as a facilitator between the different stakeholders. The project was demand-driven therefor the suggestions provided by citizens represented the basis for the final lightning plan. Examples of proposed changes were:

- better illumination in places perceived as dangerous (e.g. pedestrian underground passages); and
- citizens' preferences for certain types of lights' color.

Website:

- <https://www.deutschland-nederland.eu/projekt-datenbank/>, last accessed 22nd July 2015;
- <http://www.euregio-rmn.de/euregio-foerderungen/interreg-iv-a/rahmenprojekte/massnahmenbereich-2.html>, last accessed 22nd July 2015;
- <https://praktijkvoorbeelden.vng.nl/userpages/Unthemed/DownloadDocument.aspx?id=5767>, last accessed 29th July 2015

14. Openwind Project

Duration: 2013-2015

EU Programme: ENPI (European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument) CBC Programme - Cross-Border Cooperation in the Mediterranean

Partner: Provincial Government of Malaga (E), Anel Nicosia Development Agency (CY), University of Sfax (TN), Union of Municipalities of Iqleemel Tufah (RL), Al-Quds Univeristy (IL)

Cross-border Regions/Countries involved: Spain (Malaga), Cyprus (Nicosia), Lebanon, Israel and Tunisia

Description: The project aimed at involving citizens in the decision-making process thank to the use of new technologies. The activities focused on the establishment of online Government services and on fostering their use by citizens. In order to ensure a joint development of the project and exchange of know-how, partners were involved in meetings and study visits to the Provincial Government of Malaga. The project expected an increase in citizens' participation as a result of the implementation of its activities. More specifically the project aimed at reaching a "20% increase in citizens' participation in telematics procedures" and a "10% increase in procedures or requests made by citizens", thus having a positive impact on citizens' active involvement in the public sphere.

Citizens' involvement: Under the activity: "Consensus Building and Adoption of Governance and Open Government Methods", the "Local Public Committees" (LPCs) were established. These were groups made up of the project partners and locals stakeholders (politicians, members of NGOs and citizens' associations). The LPCs were in charge of finding and adopting solutions regarding the joint e-Government and Governance model developed during the project. The Committees adopted the following working methodology: "workshops, meetings and round tables".

Website:

- <http://www.openwind.eu/#!project/c20fs>, last accessed 29th July 2015

15. Baltic Youth Influencing Transport Policies Project

Duration: 2014

EU Programme: 2007-2013 South Baltic Operational Programme

Partner: Self-Government and Agency for Promotion and Culture Szczecinek (PL), ATI ert nonprofit GmbH, agency for technology transfer, education, research and furtherance of cooperation (D), Klaipeda Public Transport Authority (LT)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Poland, Germany and Lithuania

Description: The project, aimed at involving young citizens in transport policy planning.

Citizens' involvement: Youngs (aged 16-19) of the cross-border area took part to three summer-camps in Greifswald (Germany), Klaipeda (Lithuania) and Szczecinek (Poland) in order to analyze the state-of-the-art of the public transport sector and give their suggestions for future policies and improvements. The following methods were adopted:

- Before the beginning of the three summer camps, a Competition was organized in all three cities. Young people were asked to present their ideas for a cleaner transport sector (Power Points, pictures, written reports). A jury awarded the best three proposals with a prize;
- Klaipeda Summer Camp: onsite visits (cycle tours and walks) and public transport "geocaching" with young participants divided in teams competing one against each other were organized. These activities aimed at involving youngs in the analysis of the state-of-the-art of the transport sector. Young citizens were also taken part to a brainstorming session during which participants listed the transport issues they observed during the visit according to their severity;
- Szczecinek Summer Camp: a quest (a game) on public transport to evaluate its functioning and a brainstorming session were organized. During brainstorming youngsters filled in templates with the negative and positive aspects of public transport they observed, at the end of the session the results of the brainstorming were presented to the local decision makers;
- Greifswald Summer Camp: youngsters were involved through workshops (three hours in the morning and one hour in the evening) revolving around the topic of urban development and worked closely with the municipal administration of Greifswald.

Website:

- <http://www.keep.eu/search/show/40444>, last accessed 24th July 2015;
- <http://bayintrap.eu/wpress/beispiel-seite/>, last accessed 24th July 2015

16. Shared Landscape Project

Duration: 2014 (end of the project)

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Operational Programme Italy-Switzerland

Partner: Municipality of Magnano (I), Ethnographic Museum of the Muggio Valley (CH), Municipality of Verrone (I), Observatory of Biella – Heritage and Landscape – nonprofit organization (I)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Italy and Switzerland (Biella, Ticino District and the Municipalities of Magnano and Verrone)

Description: The project aimed at rethinking the mountainous landscapes of the four towns of: Magnano, Verrone, Breggia and Castel San Pietro. The project was based on the implementation of the European Convention on Landscape adopted by the Council of Europe in 2000 and signed by Italy and Switzerland in 2006. According to article 6 of the Convention landscapes transformations need to be decided jointly by local authorities and citizens who were asked to imagine the future of their territory.

Citizens' involvement: Citizens were involved in the identification of the areas of intervention and of the objectives to be reached through the improvement measures. The following methods were adopted to ensure citizens' active participation in the project:

- The "Landscape Assemblies" (*Assemblee di Paesaggio*). The assemblies involved citizens and local authorities in a participatory process that led them to the joint identification of the areas of intervention and of the needed retraining actions; the identified objectives were then integrated by local authorities into concrete action proposals;
- Community maps, which are the representation of the territory made directly by residents. These maps identify the heritage, landscape and specificities of the territory with which the local residents identify the most; common questions that are answered to build the map are: "What do we have in common?", "What makes our territory unique?", etc. the maps were then translated into technical programmes, ready for the implementation by local authorities;
- WEB-GIS system: this activity involved all citizens, also the ones that did not take part to the Assemblies; the WEB-GIS is an online map about landscape quality and good practices of landscape transformation that any citizen in the area could contribute to simply by entering the website and following the online procedure.

Website:

- <http://www.interreg-italiasvizzera.it/progetti:rid=135>, last accessed 23rd July 2015;
- <http://www.osservatoriodelbiellese.it/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/PAESAGGIO-CONDIVISO-Abstract.pdf>, last accessed 23rd July 2015;
- <http://www.osservatoriodelbiellese.it/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/PAESAGGIO-CONDIVISO-Descrizione-dettagliata-del-progetto.pdf>, last accessed 23rd July 2015
- <http://www.mappadicomunita.it/>, last accessed 29th July 2015

17. Democracy across the Sound Projects – Phases I and II

Duration: n.a.

EU Programme: 2000-2006 Öresund Region Operational Programme

Partner: City of Malmö and Stadsdelsförvaltning Fosie (S) and City of Malmö - Fosie Local Administration (S) for Phase I and City of Malmö – Environment Office (S) for Phase II

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Sweden and Denmark

Description: The first project (Phase I) focused on increasing citizens' participation as a mean to reach the broader aim of deepening the democratic development of the area. The first phase focused on research on transnational local democracy and on creating a network between teachers in the region. Whereas the second Phase (Phase II) aimed at training "democracy consultants" and at creating "a network which can support the development of cross-border and local democracy".

Citizens' involvement: The second phase of the project involved public employees and "active citizens from the major NGOs" in the region in a training process to become "democracy consultants". The latter were meant to deepen the cross-border "integration process". Curricula were first tested by pilot groups and modified according to their observations.

Website:

- <http://www.keep.eu/search/show/18205>, last accessed 27th July 2015
<http://www.keep.eu/search/show/18206>, last accessed 27th July 2015

18. Project on Trans-boundary Government and Citizen Participation¹⁵

Duration: 2005 (beginning of the project)

EU Programme: Interreg IIIA EUREGIO – Euregio Rhine Wahl and Euregio Rhine-Maas-Nord

Partner: Fachhochschule Osnabrück (D), EUREGIO (D), Saxion Hogeschool Enschede/ Instit. Org. Bestuur en Recht (NL)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Germany and the Netherlands (Osnabrück and Enschede)

Description: The project aimed at drafting a series of proposals to be integrated in national legislation, regarding the implementation of the planning procedures at cross-border level. The results were collected in a manual.

Impact on citizens' involvement: The project paved the way for easier cross-border cooperation and citizens' participation through a comparative analysis of the two legal frameworks (the German and the Dutch one). Nine issues were identified as hindering citizens' cross-border participation and cross-border cooperation among local authorities. Government representatives came up with possible solutions during interviews with project partners. The proposed solutions were collected in a manual.

Website:

- <http://www.keep.eu/search/show/34991?ss=be88d6e4b33b9d8c7b1b8af2c036979f102139846bf65c13a7b1d958ce869107&zoom=3#bb>, last accessed 23rd July 2015;
- http://www.uni-muenster.de/imperia/md/content/hausderniederlande/zentrum/projekte/niederlandenet/aktuelles/gisjahrespfd_1.pdf, last accessed 23rd July 2015

¹⁵ The following projects did not see the direct involvement of citizens; however, they either had the objective of increase participation or the implemented activities and actions had the effect of increasing the active involvement of the society in the public sector.

19. Youth competences in Municipal Politics Project: the “Youth Participation Days”

Duration: 2010-2013

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Italy-Austria Operational Programme

Partner: Youth Department of Tyrol (A), Association ‘Jugendhaus Kassianum’ (I)

Cross-border Regions/Countries involved: Italy and Austria

Description: The project focused on themes regarding Youth with a special focus on reducing the distance of the public local authorities to these topics. The project was based on the observation that the majority of young people states that their interests are neglected at political level.

Impact on citizens' involvement: Within the project, numerous seminars were organized for cross-border local authorities. The political representatives had the chance to be trained on the different actions that they could implement in order to foster young citizens' participation at municipal level. The main methods proposed during the seminars by experts to increase youth participation at local level were:

- Informal vs. formal ways of participation (involvement in institutionalized forms of “Youth Parliaments”, meetings with the mayors, Youth Forums, etc.);
- “Youth Participation Days” consist of giving young citizens the chance to cooperate with municipal employees and authorities to jointly develop a project that is relevant for them; in this activity youngsters act as external experts of the “youth sector” for the project development;
- Guided tours for local authorities managed by youngsters and “Youth maps of the town” to identify the most important places for the young citizens; pictures and videos made by young citizens on a specific theme regarding their environment as a basis for a participatory dialogue with local authorities were suggested too.

Website:

- <http://interregiv.jukas.net/cs.asp?st=126>, last accessed 22nd July 2015;
- http://interregiv.jukas.net/up_sitetool/Diverse/Interreg/Foglio%20aggiuntivo%20AM%208%20Giornate%20della%20partecipazione%20giovane.pdf, last accessed 22nd July 2015;
- <http://www.keep.eu/search/show/6327>, last accessed 22nd July 2015

20. CivilCity Project: a sustainable model to involve civil society in the decision-making processes of local authorities

Duration: 2011-2012

EU Programme: 2007-2013 Hungary-Romania Operational Programme

Partner: IT Carei Association (RO), Pro Minoritate Alapítvány (H)

Cross-border Regions/ countries involved: Romania and Hungary

Description: The project aimed to jointly solve two problems: scarce involvement of civil society in public affairs and decreasing funds at disposal of the local authorities.

Impact on citizens' involvement: The outcome of the project was the drafting of a model to guarantee greater civic involvement in the local decision-making process "in exchange for a bigger financial contribution". The recommendations developed during the project were submitted to the local government and NGOs, they included cross-border best practices and an analysis of the legal frameworks to assess the feasibility of implementing the model in the cross-border area.

Website:

- <http://www.keep.eu/search/show/23622?ss=4f4c92945ded7f63654b7fdc9d360e94dda519da298cebb3a84fad31cfab1d97&zoom=3#bb>, last accessed 27th July 2015;
- http://www.huro-cbc.eu/en/project_info/1428, last accessed 27th July 2015