

# Eixo Atlântico do Noroeste Peninsular

## What is Eixo Atlântico?

### In 1991

In 1991, at the same time as the Working Community was being set up, Fernando Gómes, mayor of Oporto, attempts to found an Association of Galician and Northern Portuguese Cities with the aim of forming an urban lobby to pressurise EU authorities into providing funds.

### Constitution of Eixo Atlântico

On 1 April 1992, in Oporto, the official constitution of Eixo Atlântico was witnessed by Portuguese and Spanish cities, and the presence of the General Director of the Regional Development Scheme (DX XVI of the European Commission) the German M. Manfredi. Eixo Atlântico is a cross-border regional space whose philosophy follows the guidelines of the European Union, particularly referring to bringing down borders that affect or obstruct the free movement of people, capitals, goods or services. At the end of 2007, Eixo Atlântico will have 34 members.

### Galicia and North Portugal area is the third peninsular community

- *About 6.5 millions inhabitants and a commercial interchange of 2.000 millions of euros per year define the third largest populated metropolitan area of Europe, after the London and Paris areas.*
- *With a PIB of almost 90.000 millions of euros, the fifth biggest of the Iberian Peninsula after Lisbon, Madrid, Catalonia and Andalucía. It would be the third most inhabited "autonomous community" of the Peninsula, after Andalucía and Catalonia; and the second largest, surpassed only by Andalusia.*
- *Eurostat in its official documents talks about "one single economic unity".*
- *Daily, 43.000 citizens of both regions cross the former border to work.*

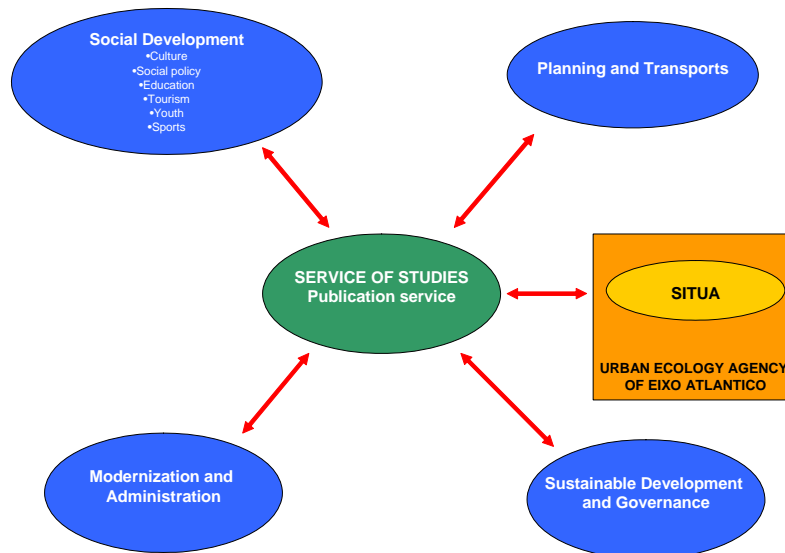


## Objective

The principal finality of Eixo Atlântico is the economical, social, cultural, technological and scientific development of the cities and regions, as the cohesion and the will to promote all the socio-economical and cultural aspects leading to the organization of a common territory.

### 2002: Assembly of Aixo Atlantico in Ourense

8 priorities were laid out: to request the building and improvement of important road and railway infrastructures; to favour the redefinition of the goods transport strategy into a multimodal perspective; to build science and technology parks in association with the universities; to promote cooperation initiatives between universities-businesses-councils; to promote the creation of business centres and overseas markets information centres; to motivate and support action to restore and recondition cultural and historical heritage; to implement ground studies to be used in the design of a strategic plan; to facilitate the free circulation of merchandise and people by building bridges over the river Miño.



## Realizations 1992-2007

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### Sustainable economic development and planning

- Eixo Atlântico First Strategic Study (1994)
- Eixo Atlântico First congress (1995)
- Second Strategic Study (2004)
- Eixo Atlântico Second Congress (2005)
- Strategy Agenda (2007)
- Intermodality Strategy (2000 updated in 2007)
- Eixo Atlântico Tourism Guides Collection
- Project MILLENIO of internationalization of enterprises (jointly with the Business Confederation of Ourense and the Portuguese Business Association)
- Eixo Atlântico Businesses Centre (in collaboration with the Financial Club of Vigo)
- Implementation of the Agenda 21
- Realization of the Urban Audit

## Communication and knowledge

- Co-production of the documental series "one Euroregion for the 21st century"
- Eixo Atlântico web gateway
- Tourism Magazine "Via Nova"
- Eixo Atlântico Library
- Euroregional Centre of Studies
- Eixo Atlântico Urban Observatory

## Sports and culture

- Eixo Atlântico Games
- Eixo Atlântico Regatta (in collaboration with the Nautical Clubs of Vigo, Baiona, Viana do Castelo, Póvoa de Varzim and Porto)
- Tournament of Handball (in collaboration with Handball clubs)
- Eixo Atlântico Classic Cars Trophy (in collaboration with Ibero Clássicos)
- Galician-Portuguese Narrative Prize
- Biannual Exhibition of Painting
- Eixo Atlântico Art and Culture Collection (inventory of the cultural patrimony in 12 volumes)
- Cultural Agenda
- Schools Exchanges Programs
- Eixo Atlântico Cinema Forum
- Eixo Atlântico Independent Theatre Festival

## Objectives 2008-2013

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- Implementation of the local digital agenda i2010
- Definition and implementation of an endogenous model for sustainability
- Creation of SIUTEA: System of Transborder Urban Information of Eixo Atlântico
- Creation of the Urban Ecology Agency of Eixo Atlântico
- Definition of a local tourism strategy
- Promotion of the Portuguese Path of Santiago
- Creation of the Transborder Consortium of Transports
- Implementation of the Intermodality Strategy of Eixo Atlântico
- Creation of the Transborder Debate Forum
- Creation of the Youth Forum

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