



European Committee
of the Regions



Life in border regions - tackling the challenges

17 April 2023, Brussels & Online



AEBR
AGEG
ARFE



An on-line and in-person event
European Committee of the
Regions, Rue Belliard 101,
Brussels, Room JDE 52
And via the Interactio platform



Interpreting
English, French, Italian,
Spanish, Polish, Hungarian



This is a European Cross-
Border Citizens' Alliance
event

14:00 **Welcome coffee for the participants present at the CoR**
In front of the conference room JDE 51

14:30 **Opening**
Magali Altounian (Renew/FR), CoR member, Deputy Mayor of Nice and CoR rapporteur on the
opinion European Cross-Border Mechanism 2.0

14:45 **Challenges and obstacles faced by border regions residents; examples from the regions**
Moderator: **Martin Guillermo Ramirez**, Secretary General of the AEBR

In the first panel, we will welcome European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs) representatives and representatives of Local and Regional Authorities from Europe's border regions, who will present the issues the citizens and businesses, as well as Local and Regional Authorities, encounter in their daily lives. They will present various issues that hamper life in border regions and prevent economic and cultural integration of border regions.

Employability in the health & social sector at the Spanish-French Border
Leyre Azcona, EGTC Eurorégion Nouvelle-Aquitaine – Euskadi – Navarre

[Cross-border mobility of jobseekers and vocational training at the Belgian-French border](#)

Loïc Delhuyenne, EGTC Eurometropolis Lille – Kortrijk - Tournai

[Border obstacles linked to wood construction at the Norwegian-Swedish border](#)

Annika Daisley, Project Manager Border obstacles & opportunities, Svinesund Committee

[Trans-national business incubator at the Polish-Lithuanian border](#)

Rafal Peszka, expert in cross-border cooperation

[Cross-border local farmers' markets at the Croatian-Hungarian Border](#)

Judit Füzér dr, Deputy Director of the EGTC Pannon

[Cross-border renewable energy exchange at the German-Dutch Border](#)

Joris Bengevoord, Mayor of the City of Winterswijk

Questions and answers

15:45 **Debate: What can the European Union and its Member States do to make life in border regions easier?**

Moderator: **Gyula Ocskay**, Director of CESCO

With the Regulation on the European Cross-Border Mechanism blocked in the Council, the border regions are left wondering how to address border obstacles they face and what is the way forward. In this panel, representatives of different institutions and Member States will debate possible ways ahead.

Magali Altounian (Renew/FR), CoR member, Deputy Mayor of Nice (FR) and CoR rapporteur on the opinion "European Cross-Border Mechanism 2.0"

Sandro Gozi (Renew/FR), Member of the European Parliament

Philippe Voiry, Ambassador for intergovernmental commissions and cross-border cooperation, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France

Péter Kiss-Parciu, Deputy state-secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

Nikola Dobroslavić (EPP/HR), President of Dubrovnik-Neretva Region, Member of the CoR

16:55 **Closing**

Pavel Branda(ECR/CZ), Member of the CoR, Rapporteur on Cross-Border Public Services and Chair of CoR's Interregional Group on Cross-Border Cooperation