



b-solutions

Promoting „Joint thinking and doing“ through the removal of border obstacles

The initiative

- 2-year pilot initiative
- promoted by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional & Urban Policy (DG REGIO)
- managed by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

- Objective: Identify and promote sustainable methods of resolving border obstacles of a legal and/or administrative nature along EU internal land borders
- 2 calls for proposals to identify: 10 pilot projects and 35 advise cases to overcome obstacles to cross-border cooperation

Background information

- 40 land borders between the 28 EU Member States and EFTA countries
- 448 regions (NUTS3 level) located alongside at least one border
- 30% of Europeans live in these regions

> Persisting obstacles are a clear brake to the development of the endogenous growth potential of border regions

Thematic areas

COM(2017)534

Boosting Growth and Cohesion in European Border Regions

- Employment
- Health
- Transport
- Multi-lingualism
- Institutional cooperation
- Information services
- eGovernment
- Evidence and data.

I Call for Proposals

1 February 2018 – 30 April 2018

- Public bodies with a national boundary limiting their territory
- Co-applicant on the other side of the border
- Located in one of the 28 EU Member States or EFTA Countries
- To receive a grant up to 20,000 Euros
- Implementation period up to 15 months

10 Pilot Actions

- 8 experts involved in the selection process
- 14 EU Member States
- 10 Different borders
- 5 out of the 6 thematic areas covered
- To be implemented until the 31 October 2019

An overview

- 4 cases under „Institutional cooperation“
- 3 cases under „Employment“
- 1 cases under „Health“
- 1 cases under „Transport“
- 1 case under „Multi-lingualism“

The 10 Pilot Actions

PROJECTS	LEAD APPLICANTS	OBSTACLES	SOLUTIONS
1 Bilingualism in the Tri-Border Region AT-HU-SK	Lower Austrian Government, Department of Pre-Schools/Kindergartens and Schools	No legal frame allowing for HU and SK children acceptance at AT schooling	A legal frame for a realization of cross border kindergarten and school attendance.
2 Cooperation protocol on administrative procedures on health insurance for frontier workers	Eurodistrict PAMINA	High administrative burden frontier workers face in health reimbursement procedures.	A cooperation protocol between the competent authorities.
3 Lithuanian - Latvian institutional cooperation on cross-border groundwater management	Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre	Different methodologies for groundwater analysis impedes a cross-border long-term monitoring plan.	Improve data exchange; Harmonise methods for groundwater monitoring; Develop joint monitoring plan
4 GeoConnectGR	EGTC Grand Region - Summit Secretariat	Groundwater geo data produced by BE, FR, LUX is not comparable not allowing for fine-grained analyses.	Harmonising and developing reference datasets in the border area.
5 CrossMarkets - Enhance cross-border selling at local farmers' markets	PANNON EGTC	Lack of bilingual information on regulations to support local farmers' trade across the HR-HU border.	Promoting bi-lingual information about locations and specific requirements of farmers' markets across the border.
6 When EMS (emergency medical system) erase borders	Consortium of the Pyrenees Working Community	Cross-border acceptance of doctors' and nurses' diplomas	Convention between health institutions and agreements between the Orders of Doctors.
7 Cross-border mobility in dual education in the Eurometropolis	EGTC "Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai"	Different legal frameworks hamper cross-border mobility of apprentices in dual systems of education	Framework agreement for all competent authorities of the territory; Pilot committee of competent authorities.
8 XBORDER – WORK : tackling administrative issues that hinder free movement of workers	Region Friuli Venezia Giulia	Lack of a fully defined tax statuses of CB workers, leading to tax reviews and fines (or double taxation).	Bilingual form for declaring the taxes; Recommendation for legislators to apply this paper form for declaring taxes of cross-border workers
9 Roadmap for recognition of qualifications for highly demanded professions.	Province of Limburg	Recognition of particularly regulated professions' qualifications.	Documents to ease the cross border recognition of diplomas.
10 EGTC GO Cross-border Public Urban Mobility Pan	EGTC GO (SI/IT)	Lack of integration of urban transport networks operating in the EGTC GO area	Study and support from key decision-makers to develop a cross-border urban transport system

II Call for Proposals

1 February 2019 – 12 April 2019

- Public bodies with a national boundary limiting their territory
- Located in one of the 28 EU Member States or EFTA Countries
- To receive the consultancy service of legal experts
- 4 months implementation period

33 Advice Cases

- 19 EU Member States
- 14 different borders
- 6 out of 8 thematic areas covered
- 25 legal experts involved

An overview:

- 12 cases under „Institutional cooperation“
- 7 cases under „Transport“
- 6 cases under „Health“
- 6 cases under „Employment“
- 1 case under „Multi-lingualism“
- 1 case under „eGovernment“

The 33 Advice Cases



#	Title	Applicant	Border	Obstacle/aim
Transport				
1	MOBITRANS – Boosting Minho River Cross-Border Mobility	River Minho EGTC	PT-ES	Two different legal frameworks hampering joint cross-border public transportation service
6	European solution for a vignette for air pollution control	Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau EGTC	FR-DE	No mutual recognition of the national vignettes for vehicles air pollution
8	SeaFlix_Cross Border Mobility	French Riviera Chamber of Commerce - CCINCA	FR-IT	Different national legislations hinder the setup of cross-border maritime shuttles
15	Tackling cross-border obstacles regarding E-bike sharing infrastructure	Ministry of the German-speaking Community	DE-BE	Differences in legal regulations and taxes hamper cross border e-bike sharing systems
22	Cross border rail connectivity for the Port of Strasbourg	Autonomous Port of Strasbourg	FR-DE	Different legal requirements for cross-border freight trains
29	Trilateral bridge in Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa	Euroregion Nisa	CZ-DE-PL	Different building requirements hampering a trilateral cross-border bridge
33	Launch of a regular passenger transport, with cabotage, between Chaves and Verín	Municipalities of Chaves and Verín	PT-ES	National legal framework impeding public transport service with cabotage
Multi-lingualism				
27	Stop geo-blocking! Overcoming discrimination and developing intercultural competences by providing access to online content across borders	Euregio Meuse-Rhine EGTC	NL-DE; BE-NL; BE-DE	Geo-blocking impeding common cross-border access to culture and language

30	Shared cross-border public services: French-German crèches	Eurodistrict SaarMoselle EGTC	FR-DE	Differences in national legislations prevent cross-border kindergarten
31	Join to Protect Children	Elvas Municipality	PT-ES	Lack of joint procedures hamper support to vulnerable children
Health				
11	Ambulances without Borders: towards sustainable cooperation between emergency services	Municipality of Woensdrecht	BE-NL	Multiple obstacles prevent access to nearest ambulance and hospital
14	Cross-border health care between twin cities Valga - Valka	Valga Municipality	EE-LV	Differences between national systems hamper the access to healthcare across the border
18	Speedy mutual recognition of qualifications for healthcare professionals	Cerdanya Hospital EGTC	ES-FR	Absence of mutual recognition of qualifications prevents stable cross-border teams of hospital professionals
25	Development of trans-border water supply network	Kalvarija Municipality	LT-PL	Lack of legal basis for cross-border water supply network
28	Cross-border Emergency Medical Services	French Regional Health Agency	FR-BE	Regulatory obstacles preventing ambulances from crossing the border
32	Cross-border healthcare	Euroregion Nisa, regionální sdružení	CZ-DE	Legislative obstacles impeding patients' and emergencies rescue services' access to nearest hospital

Institutional Cooperation				
2	Making EGTCs more powerful: legal certainty for provision of personnel to the EGTC	Eucor - The European Campus	DE-FR-CH	Different legal application of the VAT rules hampers collaboration
4	Cross-border tourism package	QuattroPole e.V. - Luxembourg, Metz, Saarbrücken, Trier	LU-FR-DE	Legal obstacles in providing cross-border tourism packages
5	Cooperation protocol aimed at simplifying LT-PL cross-border institutional cooperation in emergency management	Vilkaviskis District Municipality	LT-PL	Absence of legal basis for fire-rescue cross-border intervention
9	Simplifying cross-border mobility of minors to carry out cultural or educational exchanges	Galicia-Norte de Portugal EGTC	ES-PT	Administrative obstacles hampering cross-border school exchanges of minors
13	Administrative common barriers blocking real implementation of environmental management system	Galician Food Quality Agency – AGACAL	ES-PT/ES-FR	Legal differences hampering cross-border transferability of best practices in wine sector
17	Cross-border share of municipal management services	Arrabona EGTC	HU-SK	Legal uncertainty preventing cross-border sharing of technical vehicles
20	Improvement of cross-border communication and care for cross-border children and young people	Winterswijk Municipality	NL-DE	Contrasting administrative procedures prevent effective child protection
21	Cross-border transport of CO2 as a resource for industrial processes	Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen – Euregio Scheldemond	BE-NL	Lack of legal clarity prevents construction of cross-border CO2 pipelines for circular economy
24	Consolidation of the circular economy concerning the WEEE	Pontevedra Province	ES-PT	Unequal environmental criteria hamper sustainable cross-border strategy for electrical/electronic waste
26	Bulgarian-Romanian Institutional Cooperation Constraint - BRICC	University of Ruse “Angel Kanchev” - BRIE	RO-BG	Differences in national legislations prevent accessibility to master programmes

Employment				
3	183 days rule obstructing cross-border mobility	Oost-Vlaanderen Province - Euregio Scheldemond	BE-NL	Confusing double tax declaration and social security contributions impacting cross-border workers
7	Juridical obstacles in establishment and financing of trans-national business incubator	Lazdijai District Municipality	LT-PL	Lack of legal basis for cross-border business incubator
10	Dutch-German cross-border employment of students originally from outside the EU	The Economic Board Arnhem-Nijmegen	DE-NL	Differences in legislation hampering internships and jobs across the border
12	Cross-border work for non-EU citizens	Euregio Rhein-Maas-nord	DE-NL	Administrative burden hampering cross-border employment of non-EU citizens who are EU residents
16	Current social and health insurance regulations as problem for borderland inhabitants working on both sides of border at the same time	Borderland Association "Nasza Suwalszczyzna" (NGO)	PL-LT	Lack of flexibility of social and health insurances across the border
23	Double personality is a single reality: working in Portugal and paying taxes in Spain due to legal and/or administrative impediments	Duero-Douro EGTC	ES-PT	Different formats of national fiscal ID numbers preventing cross-border employment
eGovernment				
19	Cross-border e-procurement	EGTC GO	IT-SI	Different transpositions of EU Directive hampering cross-border e-procurement

What is next?

December 2019: on the basis of the reports submitted by the Pilot Actions (I Call for Proposals) and the Advice Cases (II Call for Proposals), AEER will produce a compendium.

Aim: Illustrate and communicate the main findings and proposals to foster cooperation where obstacles were found and in similar cases in other border regions.

Expected outputs: lessons learnt and policy recommendations.

How to communicate:

„Replicability“ is the goal

„Dissemination“ is the key



Share your obstacle(s) on the European Commission's
online platform

[“Boosting EU border regions”](#) – Futurium



Stay tuned!

Find out more about *b-solutions* on the dedicated website:
<https://www.b-solutionsproject.com/>

THANK YOU!!