



# INTERREG IIC Regional Framework Operation (RFO) „Change on Borders“

*Progress of the RFO: activities and  
achievements*

4th Annual Conference, 23 March in Krems (AT)





## The INTERREG IIC project “Change on Borders”

Partnership of 25 border regions from 15 European countries

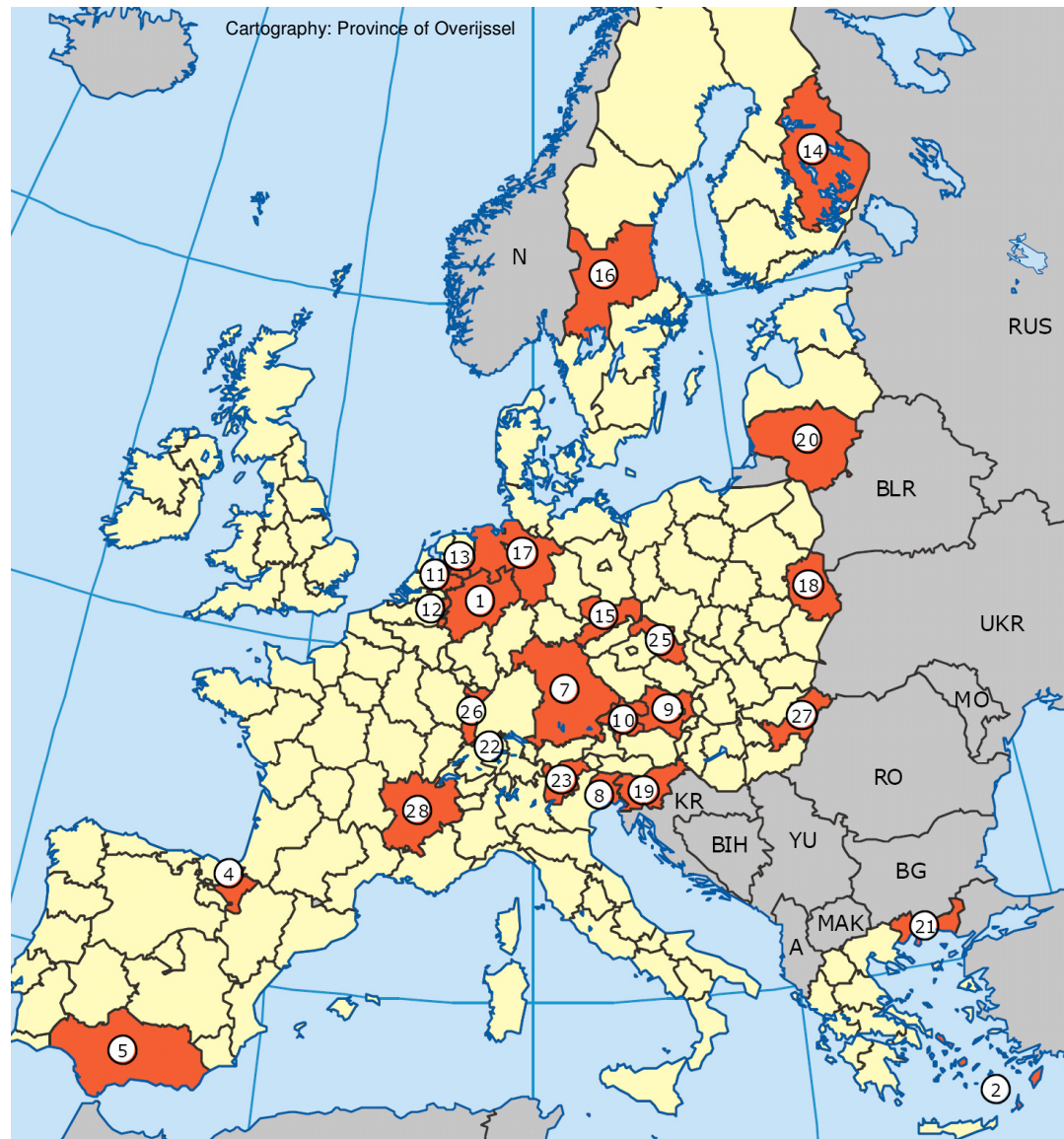
- For the first time, such a large number of regions have committed themselves to working together in an RFO which is kind of a “mini-programme” established by regional authorities.
- **Objective:** improve cross-border cooperation approaches and develop new solutions to economic, social and environmental challenges in border regions





**"Change on Borders" –  
Partners:**

- 1 **Lead Partner: North Rhine-Westphalia (DE)**
- 2 South Aegean Region (GR)
- 4 Region of Navarra (ES)
- 5 Region of Andalucía (ES)
- 7 Bavaria (DE)
- 8 Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia (IT)
- 9 Lower Austria (AT)
- 10 Upper Austria (AT)
- 11 Province of Gelderland (NL)
- 12 Province of Limburg (NL)
- 13 Province of Overijssel (NL)
- 14 North Karelia / East Finland (FI)
- 15 Saxony (DE)
- 16 Värmland (SE)
- 17 Lower Saxony (DE)
- 18 Lubelskie Voivodship (PL)
- 19 Slovenia (SI)
- 20 Euroregion Nemas (LT)
- 21 East Macedonia-Thrace (GR)
- 22 Regio Basiliensis (CH)
- 23 Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen (IT)
- 25 Euroregion Nisa (CZ)
- 26 Alsace (FR)
- 27 Hajdu-Bihar (HU)
- 28 Rhône-Alps (FR)



## ***Exchanging know-how and transferring experience between border regions in Europe***

**The overarching aims of the RFO “Change on Borders” are:**

- to improve regional policy instruments for border regions
- to support cross-border cooperation and the border regions’ development
- to disseminate the gained knowledge and good practices among the partner regions and beyond

## Three main themes of cooperation within “Change on Borders”

- **Theme 1:** Integrated, well-coordinated and environment-friendly development and governance of cross-border areas
- **Theme 2:** Further development of the economic fabric and labour market in border regions and across-borders
- **Theme 3:** Promoting the socio-cultural integration between border regions and closer contacts among citizens

## Under these themes key activities of “Change on Borders”

- **Thematic Forums (TFs)** as a thematic exchange of experience on cross-border approaches and good practices between the Partner regions
- **Smaller sub-projects (SWGs)** with a limited number of RFO partners, working together more in depth on specific cross-border questions according to interests and priorities of the Partner regions
- **Annual Conference** as a tool to bring the RFO stakeholders together, foster exchange of experience and disseminate the know-how gained so far

## **Progress made and ‘facts & figures’ for the TFs:**

**6 Thematic Forums realized in 2006 with a strong focus on recent topics, European policies & instruments such as**

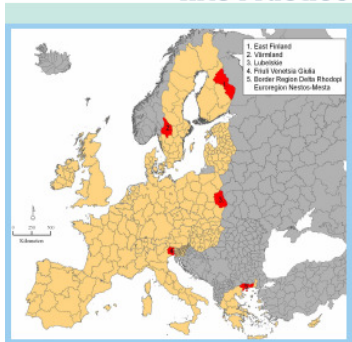
- Innovation and SME networks across borders
- New legal instrument on European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)
- Cross-border tourism in light of the Lisbon agenda
- Challenges of risk and water management across borders
- Experience with life-long learning processes and university cooperation in border regions

## What has been achieved on sub-project level ?

### Theme 1:

- ⇒ The 16th sub-project “Risk & innovation” has started
- ⇒ Two final events in Lublin and Brussels (REGBOUR, Cross-SIS)
- ⇒ Presentation of sub-project activities at fairs, on internet sites and relevant scientific conferences  
(Trans-EA, RiverCross, Cross-SIS)

### Putting New Neighbourhood into Practice



- ⇒ First sub-project results published in the guide “Putting New Neighborhood into Practice” (REGBOUR)

## What has been achieved on sub-project level ?

### Theme 2:

- ⇒ First SWG finalized and final report provided (Labour market)
- ⇒ Transfer of interregional experience in new cross-border concepts (SEP)



- ⇒ Interlinks made between concrete cross-border initiatives for economic development through interregional cooperation (Rhine Bicycle Path, WIN)
- ⇒ media coverage, Internet pages & PR material created

Rhine Bicycle path [www.rhinecyclerroute.eu](http://www.rhinecyclerroute.eu)  
S2B2B [www.b2s2b.eu](http://www.b2s2b.eu)

## What has been achieved on sub-project level ?

### Theme 3:

- ⇒ presentation of results at internet sites, political interest raised and media coverage (Youth4I [www.y4i.net](http://www.y4i.net), LABS, MEB)
- ⇒ involvement of the citizens & pupils of the border regions (Youth4I, LABS, MEB)
- ⇒ contribution to find solutions to improve the citizens' life in border regions (e-health)



- ⇒ interest raised at and with international congresses (e-health, LABS)

## **Conclusion and outcomes of the RFO “Change on Borders” so far:**

- Already existing contacts within and between border regions have been strengthened or extended
- New working relations and networks between border regions created (in particular between old and new Member States)
- Knowledge about different border regions and their strengths and potentials have been increased
- Intensive and problem-related exchange of experience & know-how can help to re-think own approaches, improve cross-border strategies and foster project development in the border regions

## **Next steps and activities of “Change on Borders”**

### **“Best Practise Manual”**

- with key criteria / elements and conditions that can be identified for the development of a successful project-based and long-term cooperation across borders.
- Good and transferable examples of SWGs concerning co-operation approaches and projects in border regions will also be presented as well as the results of the overall RFO “Change on Borders”.

### **Final Conference**

on the **23rd October 2007** in Düsseldorf (Germany) as overall disposition to close the RFO activities and disseminate the gained experiences and ideas for future cooperation.



**Further details at**

**[www.change-on-borders.net](http://www.change-on-borders.net)**

**Thank you for your attention!**