

## Activities of the RFO:

### Thematic Forums (TF)

The Thematic Forums are set up to achieve a sustainable cooperation process at the level of each theme. The objectives are to exchange theme-related experience and to identify best-practice examples on cross-border issues. Furthermore, the outputs of the TFs are used to design practical policy approaches and concepts for border-regions.

For each Thematic Forum at least two meetings per year are held in different Main Partner regions.

### Sub-theme Working Groups (SWG)

The three related sub-themes are the framework for the RFO internal projects, the Sub-theme Working Groups (SWG).

In SWGs, a limited number of Partner Regions work together on specific cross-border questions. The aim is to find solutions for the specific problems of border-regions. Through SWGs, for example, cooperation methods for cross-border regions or practical cross-border policy approaches are developed. Furthermore SWGs provide the opportunity to organise study visits or staff exchanges in order to improve the know-how transfer. In addition SWGs enable the realisation of cross-border pilot actions.

“Change on Borders” has the objective to realise 12 SWGs.

### Annual Conferences

Through the Annual Conferences a cross-thematic integration of the RFO outputs, developed during the TFs and SWGs, is realised. Annual Conferences also help to spread RFO-achievements widely throughout Europe. In total, four Annual Conferences are realised with “Change on Borders”.

## Contact:

### RFO Coordination Unit

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### Contact person at the Main Partner institutions:

Please look at:  
[www.change-on-borders.net](http://www.change-on-borders.net) > partnership



The INTERREG IIC Regional  
Framework operation (RFO):

**“Change on Borders”**

“Exchanging know-how and trans-  
ferring experience among borders  
in Europe”



## INTERREG IIIC:

INTERREG IIIC is an EU-programme to promote interregional cooperation between regional and other public authorities across the entire EU territory and neighbouring countries. It allows regions to work together in common projects and develop networks of cooperation. The overall aim is to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and instruments through large-scale information exchange and sharing of experience (networks) in a structured way. Three types of operations can be funded: Networks, Individual projects and Regional Framework Operations.

The INTERREG IIIC programme is financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and co-financed by national project partners. The application period is 2002-2006. All activities have to be finalised by end of 2008.

## Regional Framework Operation (RFO):

A Regional Framework Operation (RFO) is composed of a group of regional authorities or equivalent bodies aiming at exchanging experience on methodology and project-based activities. This strategic framework is a kind of “mini-programme” where the partners can choose the activities to be funded. Each RFO should address a limited range of subjects relevant to the regions participating, thus covering a limited range of smaller projects.

## The RFO “Change on Borders“:

Duration: November 2003 – October 2007

Total Budget: 8,2 m EUR

EU funding: 4,9 m EUR



Cartography: Province of Overijssel

### Partnership:

25 border-regions of the NUTS I and II - level from 15 European countries participate in the RFO

- 1 Lead Partner Region: North Rhine-Westphalia (DE)
- 2 South Aegean Region (GR)
- 4 Region of Navarra (ES)
- 5 Region of Andalucia (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 Lublin (PL)
- 19 Slovenia (SI)
- 20 Euroregion Nenumas (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 Rhone-Alps (FR)

With “Change on Borders” for the first time such a large number of regions have committed themselves to working together in a RFO.

## Themes of cooperation in “Change on Borders“:

“Change on Borders” consists of 3 thematic themes with three constant related sub-themes. They provide the structure for the cooperation.

Promoting an integrated, well coordinated and environmentally friendly development of cross-border areas

1. Cooperation among regions with similar geographical features
2. Governance in border regions
3. Environmentally friendly development & water management

Further development of the economic fabric and of the labour market in (cross-) border regions

1. Development of SMEs, R&D and innovation in border regions
2. Cross-border labour market development
3. Tourism development in border regions

Promoting the socio-cultural integration between border regions and support closer contacts among individual citizens

1. Strengthening of social cohesion in border regions
2. Training, education and cross-border mobility
3. Culture, media & people-to-people activities