



## EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER PLATFORM ANNUAL MEETING

13 -14 November 2025, Gorizia, Italy

**Interpretation** – You can speak and listen in French, German, English, Italian, Slovenian

As part of European Territorial Cooperation, cross-border cooperation is one of the cornerstones of European integration and of strengthening the single market. While progress has been made in facilitating cross-border interactions in recent years, many obstacles remain. Citizens, businesses and administrations in border regions continue to encounter difficulties in their daily lives, whether it be finding a job, accessing healthcare, everyday commuting or overcoming administrative problems.

The European Cross-Border Platform (ECBP), established in 2024 as the successor of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) Platform, aims to gather all actors in cross-border cooperation from bordercities and regions to EGTCs and Euroregions. This meeting of the ECBP will provide an opportunity to present and discuss the needs and potential of border regions, their citizens, and cross-border entities. The meeting will look at recent political developments as well as practical experiences, new approaches and policy solutions for cross-border regions. The event will also include the annual meeting of the platform's EGTC working group.

### Thursday 12 November

For participants who arrive on 12 November, the local hosts offer a walking tour of the Transalpina square/Trg Evrope Cross-border Area, starting at 19:00. The tour will be in English only.

### Thursday 13 November – ECBP annual meeting

[Palazzo della Regione - Auditorium della Cultura Friulana](#)

*[For information: 8.00 to 10.00 AEBR general assembly, separate interpretation]*

09:00	Registration & welcome coffee
10:30	Welcome by Massimiliano Fedriga, President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region
10:40	Welcome by Rodolfo Ziberna, Mayor of Gorizia and Samo Turel, Mayor of the City Municipality of Nova Gorica
10: 45	Opening by ECBP president Pavel Branda
10:50	Opening remarks by Tommaso Foti, Minister for European Affairs, the NRRP and Cohesion of Italy (tbc)
11.00	Keynote speech by Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reform, European Commission (tbc)

- 11:25 Roundtable debate – The future of cross-border cooperation in a changing world  
Moderator: tbc  
Speakers :
- Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reform, European Commission (tbc)
  - Sandro Gozi, MEP
  - Danish Presidency of the Council (tbc)
  - Vasco Alves Cordeiro, Chair of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget, European Committee of the Regions (tbc)
  - EESC (tbc)
  - Cecilia Dalman Eek, President of the Chamber of Regions, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe (tbc)
- The debate will be enriched with evidence from border regions and cross-border entities incl. EGTC*
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Thematic session “Resilient borders”  
Moderator: tbc  
Speakers:
- Ricardo Ferreira, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
  - Martin Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General, Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
  - Jean Peyrony, Director General, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)
  - Pavel Branda, Member of the European Committee of the Regions
  - Representative of a “Spatial Planning” pilot action
  - Representative of a “Crisis Management” pilot action
- 15:45 Break
- 16:00 Thematic session “Cross-border regions and EU enlargement”  
Moderator:
- Federico Donelli, University of Trieste (tbc)
- Speakers:
- N.N., Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, General Director for Europe and International Trade Policy (tbc)
  - Massimiliano Fedriga, President of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia
  - Tomislav Zigmanov, Vice-President of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
  - Kerim Medjedovic, LDA – Locan Democracy Ancency – Nikšić, Montenegro
- 17:15 Conclusions
- 18:00 Light networking dinner
- 19:00-20:30 Study Visit: Gorizia’s Urban Transformation – From the Iron Curtain to a Cross-Border City at the Centre of the European Union (only in English)

**Friday 14 November – EGTC Working Group annual meeting**

Palazzo della Regione - Auditorium della Cultura Friulana

- 09:00 Registration
- 09:30 Stocktaking, ways of working of the Working Group within the ECBP
- 10:15 Presentations, exchange of practice, existing challenges and new ideas for the future of EGTC
- 11:45 Break
- 12:00 Presentations, exchange of practice, new ideas for the future of EGTC
- 13:30-15:00 Light networking lunch
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