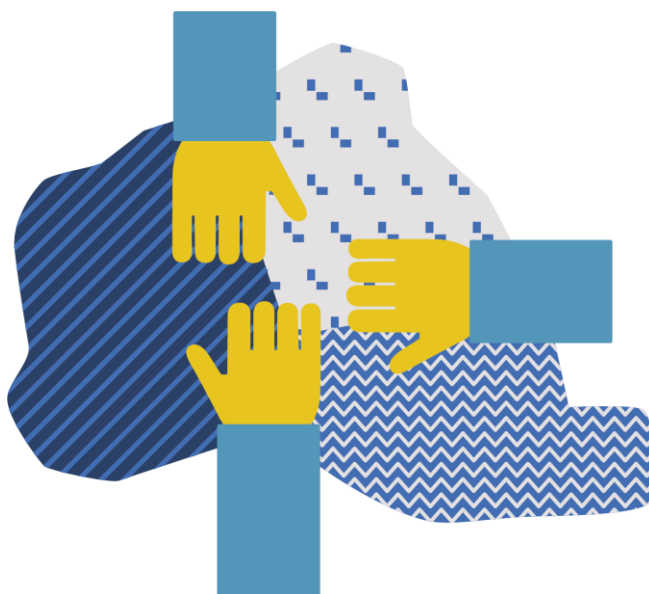


Unblocking border regions: Tackling cross-border obstacles through cooperation and coordination



24 September 2025
online





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24 September 2024

Online

Outline

In a context of global instability, security for Europe does not only involve defence. It also involves bringing countries together, fostering trust, cohesion and solidarity and breaking down barriers. While border regions can be regarded as living labs of EU integration, cross-border regions and citizens are confronted by limitations and barriers created by the administrative borders. An important step in fostering cross-border cooperation and breaking down border barriers is Interreg. With making governance a strategic priority in ISO1 of Interreg, important governance-related Interreg projects have started. These projects act within their multi-level governance systems, aiming at improving the approach towards border barriers.

The aim of the workshop is twofold: first, it reflects on the results and importance of the ISO1 priority of Interreg in the approach towards border barriers and the implications for post-2027 cohesion policy. Second, with the final BRIDGEforEU regulation in place, this workshop aims to explore how Cross-Border Coordination Points and ISO1 Interreg projects can contribute to strengthening cohesion. This online workshop showcases three relevant Interreg projects, rooted within the ISO1 priority of better cooperating governance: Alcotraité, ACCESS and Schakelpunt Grensbelemmeringen.

By bringing together the experiences of projects from across the EU, this session will highlight how cross-border obstacles are tackled, together – across governance levels, borders and institutions.

This event is co-organised by ITEM, AEBR and Interact.

The online workshop is closely connected to the European Week of Regions and Cities, as it will directly feed the session “A Dialogue for Enhanced Cross-Border Cooperation to Shape the BRIDGEforEU Regulation”, taking place on 15 October 2025 14:30-16:00 (you can find more information [here](#)).



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Wednesday, 24 September 2025

09.55 – 10.00

Onboarding

10.00 – 10.10

Introduction: A better cooperating governance as part of Interreg, now and in the future?

Interact

10.10 – 11.00

Learning from practice: Three Interreg projects tackling cross-border challenges

Presentations

- Alcotraité: Strengthening cross-border cooperation and governance in the French-Italian border region: *Marco Rolandi* (Regione Liguria)
- Schakelpunt Grensbelemmeringen: Addressing cross-border obstacles in the Flemish-Dutch border region through enhanced governance: *Maarten Vidal* (Cross-border cooperation at the Flemish Government – Chancellery and Foreign Affairs).
- #ACCESS: Analysing cross-border obstacles to the Hungarian-Slovak border region, *Melinda Istenes-Benczi* (International relations coordinator, Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives).

11.00 – 11.20

Discussion round and Q&A

Project representatives and Interact

11.20 – 11.30

Wrap up and outlook

- Bridging towards post-2027 and BRIDGEforEU: what to bring forward to EWRC and the European level
- AEBC: upcoming call