

DRAFT
PROGRAMME
AEBR ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Cross-Border Urban und Rural Integrated Areas – Challenges and Chances (WORKING TITLE AND DRAFT PROGRAMME)




LIEGE

7- 9 NOVEMBER 2013

Host:
Euregio Meuse-Rhine

provincie limburg

 Gemeente Maastricht

Main subject

Synergies between rural and urban areas in cross-border areas – integration and development, challenges and chances.

Target Group

Professionals and stakeholders dealing with cross-border cooperation, decision-makers from regional, national and European levels

Venues

07.11.13

«Le Cadran», Centre of Liège

Rue du Palais, 44

B-4000 Liège

+32 4 85 19 14 22

www.lecadran.be

08.11.13

River Meuse, ship «Le Geulvallei»

Maastricht City Hall

Markt 78

NL-6211 CL Maastricht

Working languages

English, German, French, Spanish, Polish, Czech

Registration

Registration forms can be sent via mail (info@aebr.eu) or fax (+49 2562 702 59) to the AEBR Secretariat General

Conference Secretariat

In order to get additional information please contact the team of the AEBR Secretariat General in Gronau: Tel: +49-2562-70219, Fax: +49-2562-70259, email: info@aebr.eu , homepage: www.aebr.eu

Dear Members and Friends of AEBR,

I would like to welcome you in my home region, Euregio Meuse-Rhine, to this year's AEBR Annual Conference "Cross-Border Urban and Rural Integrated Areas –Challenges and Chances".

Euregio Meuse-Rhine is a complex border region at an "old" internal border. The term "complex" can be applied, as it covers three countries, three languages and the numerous cultures of its five partner regions, as well as different administrative models and competences. The Region of Aachen, the German-speaking Community of Belgium, the Belgian Provinces of Liège and Limburg and the Dutch Province of Limburg are united in the Foundation Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

The item of this year's AEBR Annual Conference is both up to date and exciting. In the last years the term "polycentric metropolitan region" has been developed by border regions as Euregio Meuse-Rhine, covering several middle-sized urban agglomerations as well as more rural areas. Integration of urban and rural areas is important in order to guarantee cohesion and competitiveness in a cross-border region. Before entering a new INTERREG period, in particular old internal border regions need to make clear that despite long-term cooperation and relative prosperity cooperation needs to be continued and remaining obstacles need to be removed. After the elimination of physical obstacles and problems related to different systems, it is time to tackle the development of cross-border integrated areas.

According to rotating presidency, since March the German-speaking Community of Belgium is in charge of the chairmanship of Euregio Meuse-Rhine. Cooperation with the AEBR is precious and important to us. Exchange of experiences and common representation of interests between all European border regions contribute to increasing the quality of life of the citizens living in our regions. Strong networks and innovative projects play an important role in this context.

The Annual Conference 2013 is organized on a cross-border level: you will travel from the Belgian city of Liège to the Dutch city of Maastricht, the latter known among others due to the European treaty. There will be interesting technical contributions, but also small workshops, in order to take into account the wish of many members to experience more interaction. The cultural and framework programme will offer manifold occasions to get acquainted with the diversity of our euroregion as well as for exchange and networking.

Looking forward to meeting you in Euregio Meuse-Rhine,

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'K' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Karl-Heinz Lambertz

Chairman of Euregio Meuse-Rhine

Draft Working Programme

(Version 03.09.13)

Wednesday, 6th November 2013

Arrival of Participants to Liège

18.00 - 21.00 h	Reception by the city of Liège in the town hall's wedding hall
18.30 - 19.10 h	Welcome speeches by Mr. Willy Demeyer , Mayor of Liège, and Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz , President of the AEBR
19.10 - 19.30 h	INTERREG best practices in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine
19.30 - 21.00 h	Walking dinner in the "Salle des pas perdus" between INTERREG exhibition stands, on invitation of the city of Liège and INTERREG Euregio Meuse-Rhine

Thursday, 7th November 2013

«Le Cadran» Hall, Liège downtown

08.30 - 09.00 h	Registration of the participants
09.00 - 10.00 h	AEBR Executive Committee Meeting only AEBR Executive Committee members
10.00 - 10.30 h	Coffee break
10.30 - 12.30 h	AEBR General Assembly only AEBR members
12.30 - 14.00 h	Lunch for the members on invitation of Euregio Meuse-Rhine
13.30 - 14.00 h	Registration of the participants for the conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: **Cross-Border Urban und Rural Integrated Areas –** **Challenges and Chances**

14.00 - 14.15 h	Greeting speeches (maximum 3 -> 15' -> 5' - 7' each): Mr. Martin Schulz , President of the European Parliament (tbc) Mr. Walter Deffaa , Director General, DG REGIO, European Commission Mr. Paul-Emile Mottard , Deputy of the Province of Liège (tbc)
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14.15 - 14.30 h	Opening of the Annual Conference: Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz , Minister-President of the German-speaking Community of Belgium, President of the AEBR, Chairman of Euregio Meuse-Rhine
14.30 -16.00 h	Cross-border Integrated Areas in Science and Practice Moderation: Mr. Gregory Hamez , Director, Department of Geography, Université de Lorraine, Metz Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Jacques Teller, Professor for Urban and Spatial Planning, Université de Liège: <i>Cross-Border Spatial Development in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine</i> - Ms. Andrea Hartz, Project coordinator MORO/IMeG (Saarbrücken) <i>Cross-Border Metropolitan Regions</i> - n.n., Greece - Mr. Olav Jern, Chief Executive, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia - Mr. Joachim Beck, Head of the EURO-Institute (Kehl): <i>Governance of cross-border integrated areas</i> - Mr. Robert Knippschild, Institute of Geography, Technical University of Dresden: <i>Objective und subjective life quality in the border area</i>
20'' Questions / Answers	
16.00 - 16.30 h	Coffee break
16.30 - 17.30 h	Panel discussion Moderation: Mr. Alexander Homann , Director of the representation of the German-speaking Community in Brussels Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Danuta Hübner, Chairwoman of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament (tbc) - Mr. Walter Deffaa, Director General, Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission - Ms. Debora Serracchiani, President of the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia (tbc) - Mr. Francesc de Paula Gambús i Millet, Director General de Relations Exteriors, Generalitat de Catalunya (tbc) - Ms. Hande Özsan Bozatli, President of the Assembly of European Regions (AER)
17.30-18.15 h	Questions / Answers
18.15 h – 18.25 h	Final words: Governor Michel Foret (tbc)
18.25 h	Press conference
18.55 h	End of the first conference day

20.00 - 22.30 h	Palais des Princes Evêques: reception by the Province of Liège
20.00 - 20.30 h	Speeches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. André Gilles, Provincial Councillor and Chairman of Liège Provincial College (tbc) - Mr. Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament (tbc) - Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Minister-President of the German-speaking Community of Belgium, President of the AEBR, Chairman of Euregio Meuse-Rhine
20.30 h	Gala dinner on invitation of the Province of Liège
22.00 - 22.30 h	Return to the hotel

Friday, 8th November 2013

Liège, the River Meuse, Maastricht

09.00 - 09.30 h	Registration of the participants on the boat
09.30 - 12.00/12.30 h	Trip to Maastricht and brainstorming on the themes of the Annual Conference following the “ World Café ” method (+/- 45 tables with 6-8 persons, each moderated by a representative of a AEBR partner region)
- Languages: In the registration form, all participants are asked what languages they have an active or passive knowledge of. The AEBR members will be asked the same question and they will be requested to register as a table moderator.	
12.00 -15.00 h	Arrival and stay in Maastricht
12h15 -13.00 h	Reception in Maastricht City Hall by Onno Hoes, Mayor of Maastricht (tbc), and Theo Bovens, Governor of the Dutch Province of Limburg (tbc)
13.00 -14.30 h	Walking lunch in the city hall on invitation of the Province of Limburg and the city of Maastricht
14.30 -15.30 h	Short walk through the city centre and return on the ship
15.30 -18.00/18.30 h	Return trip from Maastricht to Liège
15.30 -17.00 h	First evaluation of the World Cafés (on the ship’s upper bridge) and meetings of the AEBR Task Forces (on the lower bridge); the themes are left open to the Task Forces. Future CB interconnections should be highlighted if possible. Meeting of national groups (foreseen) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>AEBR Advisory Committee</i> - <i>Task Force Cross-Border Health</i> - <i>Task Force Cross-Border Culture</i> - <i>Task Force Future Interreg Programmes</i> - <i>Task Force External Borders</i> - <i>Task Force Water Management</i> - <i>Task Force CB Labour Market</i>

The Task Force coordinators shall suggest the content of their workshops to the AEBR secretariat by the end of July. The final decision on the workshops will be taken later.

17.00 -17.20 h	First conclusions of the World Cafés and Task Forces on the main deck by Mr. Martín Guillermo Ramírez , Secretary General of AEBR
17.20 -17.30 h	Presentation of the Annual Conference 2014 in Poland
17.45 -18.00 h	End of the conference and closing speech Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz , Minister-President of the German-speaking Community of Belgium, President of the AEBR, Chairman of Euregio Meuse-Rhine
18.00 -18.30 h	Arrival in Liège and transfer to the hotels
19.00 – 19.30 h	Transfer of the participants from their hotels to the Crowne Plaza Hotel
19.30 - 22.30 h	Crown Plaza: Salle de Bal - Salon de La Marck
19.30 - 20.00 h	Reception by the AEBR and aperitif Welcome addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. George Pire, Provincial Councillor, Province of Liège- Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Minister-President of the German-speaking Community of Belgium, President of the AEBR, Chairman of Euregio Meuse-Rhine
20.00 - 20.30 h	AEBR Award “Sail of Papenburg 2013”: <i>Urban and Rural Integrated Areas – Cross-Border Challenges and Chances</i> Laudation: Mr. Reinhold Kolck , former Vice-President of the AEBR, Vice-Chairman of the AEBR Advisory Committee Presentation: Mr. Martin Schulz , President of the European Parliament (tbc)
20.30 - 22.30 h	Dinner on invitation of Euregio Meuse-Rhine

Saturday, 9th November 2013

Cultural activities, proposed programme:

09.00 h Coffee reception of the persons still present on Saturday morning in the Musée de la Vie Wallonne (“Espace rencontre”);
Introduction by the head of Wallonie Design, **Ms. Clio Brzakala**, in the design aspects in today’s Liège cityscape.

The group can then choose between:

- > A design-trip: visit of hype boutiques, artists, restaurants and art galleries along a walk through the streets of Liège (with the help of booklets and city maps handed out by the tourism association),
- > A guided tour through Liège’s historical city centre,
- > Shopping.

Participants are free to decide about their lunch and afternoon activities, so they can organize their return trip (by train, plane,...).