

Cross border co-operation structures – Regional Governance

The existing co-operation structures, contacts and cross border exchange at the personal, economical and political level projects offer an excellent position for intensifying the relationships in the Austrian-Czech border region.

In the ongoing period the cross border co-operation can be described along the following structure:

- Co-operation on the institutional level (EuRegio in co-operation with the communities, the regions and the regional management structures)
- Co-operation on a political and administrative level and
- Project based co-operation initiatives

The EUREGIO is one example for co-operation on institutional level. In the border region three EUREGIOS are operating, the EUREGIO Region *Weinviertel- Jihomoravský kraj -West Slovakia* in the West and the EUREGIO – *Bayrischer Wald – Böhmerwald/Šumava* in the East and the Euregio *Silva Nortica* in the Middle. Most of them were founded in the second half of the 1990s. The thematic main fields of activities are location policy and economic and business development, labour market, education and qualification, environment, agriculture and forestry, tourism, regional and local partnership, social affairs and health, energy and waste management, innovation and technology, communication, rescue system and emergency management.

The EUREGIOS are very important partners regarding the implementation of the program, the development and management of projects and dissemination of program and project content. Furthermore the EUREGIOS are communication and information platforms. The EUREGIO acts as a platform for information and know-how transfer, as supporter for economic development and socio-cultural activities and as lobbyist for the specific regional concern. Other key functions are the co-ordination of the cross border activities on the local level, the transformation of the idea of cross border growth and the attendance of the program. Because of their very essential function for cross border development and the restrictive budgets of the municipalities an institutional (financial) support is indispensable for the following years.

Besides the political and institutional platforms a large number of projects aimed at the establishment of sustainable co-operation structures in the fields of regional and urban planning, transport, labour market, renewable energy, education etc. Depending on the particular tasks and the involved actors the intensity of cross border co-operation varies and covers a wide range of very different project types e.g. incubators, thematic information centres, web- and information platforms, clusters, thematic networks and co-operation agreements.
