

BorderLabs CE Newsletter



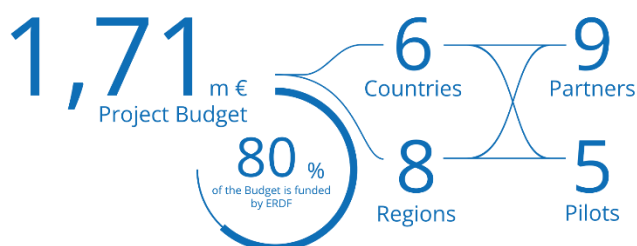
Welcome to the First Issue of the BorderLabs CE Newsletter!

We are thrilled to kick off this journey with you!

The **BorderLabs CE** project is dedicated to strengthening cross-border cooperation and development in Central Europe, and this newsletter is your guide to everything what happens during the project implementation. **In the first issue, you will get a glimpse of who we are, what we are working on, and how we plan to progress with our project over the next two years.**

BorderLabs CE

on Strengthening Cross-border Cooperation and Governance in Central Europe



The BorderLabs CE addresses critical needs for enhancing the capacity of local and regional administrations in Central Europe to **effectively manage cross-border integration processes**. The aim is to meet the needs of civil communities in cross-border functional areas, especially through improving governance and cooperation mechanisms.

Key Goals of the Project

1. **Valorising Cross-Border Functional Ties:** The project seeks to highlight and strengthen the interconnectedness between neighbouring regions and cities across borders.
2. **Spreading Strategic Planning Practices:** Promoting the adoption of successful practices in cross-border strategic planning to improve long-term collaboration and planning.
3. **Enhancing Participatory Governance:** Encouraging inclusive decision-making processes, where citizens, local authorities, and stakeholders are actively involved in shaping cross-border development.
4. **Managing Cross-Border Obstacles:** Identifying and addressing barriers – both visible and invisible – that hinder effective cooperation and integration across borders



Through all the above mentioned steps, we intend to diminish the separating effects of state borders between the central European countries, especially along the former Iron Curtain to strengthen the social, economic and territorial cohesion within and beyond the region.

Pilot Activities

The project will pilot and evaluate **new governance models and solutions** in several areas:

- 
PILOT 1
Integrated cross-border strategy development in the Three-Country Area
 SMIL, IRT, ER Nisa, EGTC NOVUM
- 
PILOT 2
Participatory governance for transition management in cross-border twin-cities
 Frankfurt (Oder)
- 
PILOT 3
 Cross-border development of **sustainable and slow tourism**
 EGTC GO
- 
PILOT 4
 Cross-border marketing and promotion of **local products**
 EGTC Ister-Granum
- 
PILOT 5
 Facilitation of joint management of **border obstacles**
 Upper Austria

These activities will foster **transnational learning** and **exchange** among the participating regions and cities. Partners in the project bring valuable experience and innovative approaches to cross-border governance that will be tested and scaled.

Expected Outcomes

- **Improved Cross-Border Cooperation:** The project will enhance governance structures from the twin-city to regional levels, making them more effective in addressing common challenges.
- **Strengthened Voice in the EU:** Central Europe's cross-border cooperation community will have a stronger representation within Europe, contributing to more effective delivery of European policies and legislation.
- **Transferable Solutions:** All insights and outcomes from the project will be shared with the broader Central European cross-border cooperation community, encouraging the mainstreaming of solutions for wider application.



News

Highlights on Transnational Kick-off Conference in Budapest

The BorderLabs CE project was officially launched on November 13, 2024 at the Bálna (Whale) Event Center in Budapest, bringing together key professionals, project partners, representatives of the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg Central Europe Programme, representatives of projects implemented in similar field to introduce the objectives of the project BorderLabs CE, and discuss the challenges and approaches to decrease the effect of border obstacles in the Central European border regions. The event, hosted by CESCO (Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives), welcomed speakers who emphasized the importance of cross-border cooperation and its role in regional development and integration within Central Europe.

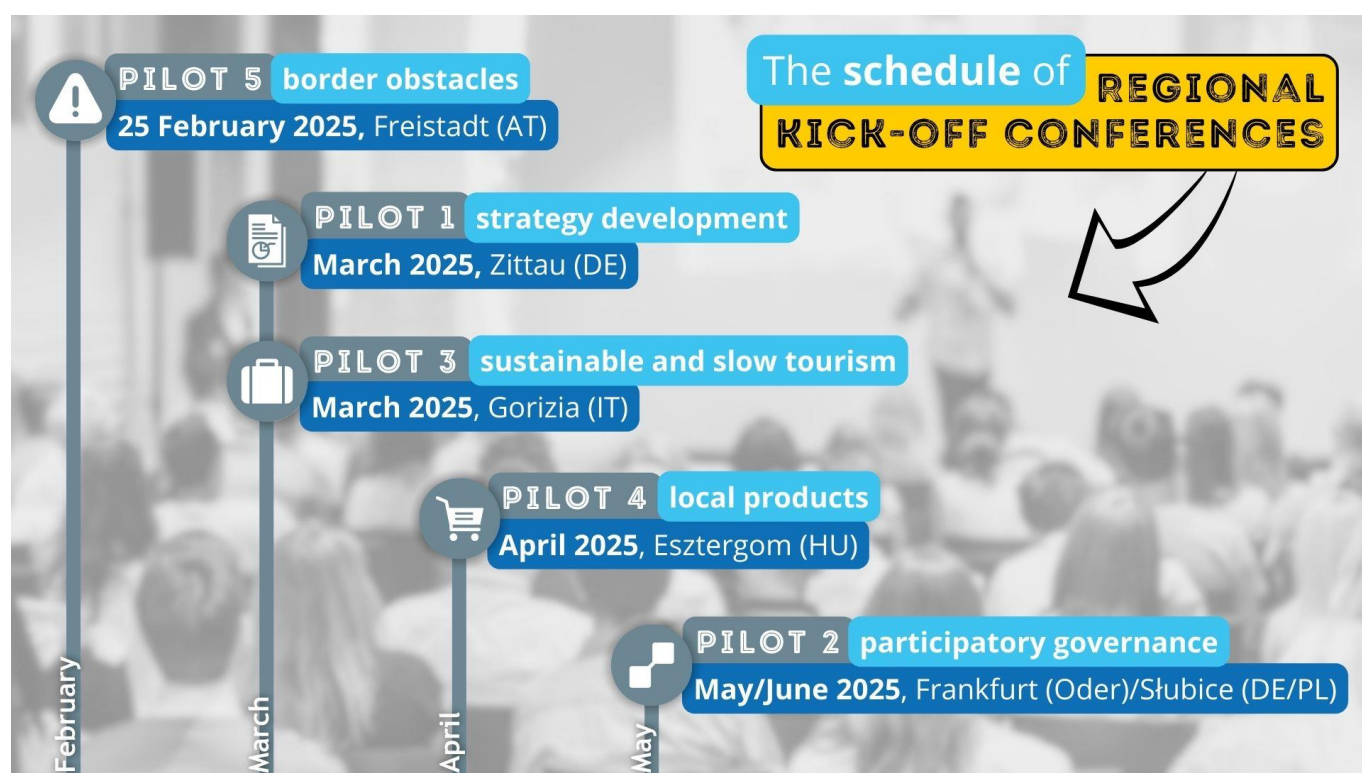
Detailed report with photos:

<https://budapest.cesci-net.eu/en/highlights-from-the-borderlabs-ce-kick-off-conference/>



Pilot Inception Reports as a Milestone to Pilot Action Plans

As a first milestone of the project, 5 pilot inception reports were completed, which are essential for ensuring alignment, coordination and clarity in the early stages of pilot activities, and setting a solid foundation for implementation. They also serve as a tool to engage stakeholders. The inception reports specify the pilot activities, their goals and how individual pilots contribute to the overall objective of the project. The reports were peer reviewed by the experts of SMIL and CESC. The activities and results foreseen in the pilot will be updated and further specified during the implementation. During the upcoming months, 5 regional kick-off conferences will be organised per pilot where the specific pilot action implementation plans as agreed within the inception reports will be presented to relevant key actors and stakeholders.



Exciting updates await!

Our upcoming editions will feature stories about the regional kick-off events, thematic workshops, study visits to pilot regions and much more.
Do not miss out – stay connected as we bring border regions closer together!

*This project is supported by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme
with co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund.
For more information visit <https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/borderlabs-ce/>.*