

BorderLabs CE Newsletter



BorderLabs CE Newsletter #4

From dialogue to action: strengthening cross-border cooperation across Central Europe

This fourth edition of the BorderLabs CE newsletter highlights a dynamic period of project implementation, marked by expert meetings, study visits, a thematic workshop and the successful closing conference in Brussels. Over recent months, partners have continued to explore practical solutions to improve cross-border governance, address legal and administrative obstacles, and strengthen participatory governance in European border regions. The activities presented below reflect the project's core ambition: turning knowledge and exchange into more effective and integrated cross-border cooperation, free from barrier effects.

Closing Conference of BorderLabs CE

BorderLabs CE final event in Brussels to discuss a more integrated Central Europe

The BorderLabs CE project held its final event on 10 June 2026, “Towards a Central European Territorial Agenda?”, as a side event of the European Cross-Border Platform Annual Meeting 2026 in Brussels. The conference brought together policymakers, experts, researchers and cross-border practitioners to reflect on strengthening territorial integration in Central Europe through strategic planning, participatory governance and the removal of legal and administrative barriers. A key highlight was the presentation and launch of the Charter for a more integrated Central Europe and its related network, setting the stage for continued cooperation beyond the project. [Read more here.](#)





Charter for participatory cross-border cooperation governance in Central Europe

The Charter was introduced at the closing conference in Brussels. It calls for a stronger cooperation across Central Europe in response to major shared challenges expected in the coming decade, including migration, security policy and EU enlargement. It stresses that these issues require coordinated actions, a shared vision and more integrated management of territorial development. The document encourages governments, decision-makers and spatial planning professionals to work together and establish a common platform to jointly develop solutions and support more effective and coordinated responses across the regions.



Meetings and events



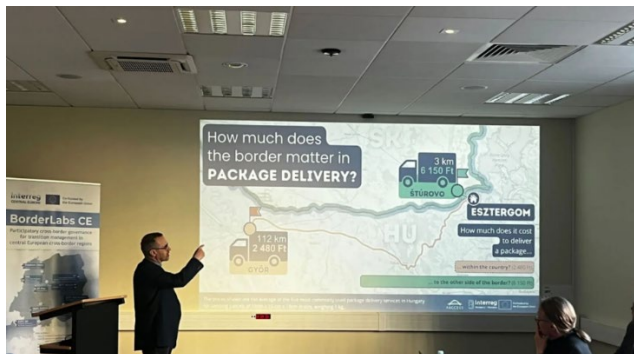
Cross-Border Forestry Dialogue held in Bad Leonfelden

Representatives from Austrian and Czech forestry, veterinary, emergency and administrative authorities met on 13 January 2026 to enhance cross-border cooperation in the Upper Austrian-South Bohemian border region. The discussions focused on practical challenges and opportunities in areas such as forest management, African swine fever prevention, disaster response, veterinary cooperation and wildlife legislation. [Read more here.](#)



Advancing Cross-Border Trade for Local Producers

On 2 February 2026, Ister-Granum EGTC organised its third Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) meeting in Štúrovo, bringing together local producers, market organisers, municipalities and Slovak and Hungarian experts working on cross-border trade solutions for local products. The meeting focused on reviewing expert materials that will form the basis of an upcoming legal guide aimed at helping local producers navigate cross-border sales. [Read more here.](#)



Cross-Border Cooperation in the Era of Challenges and Transformation: Space, Energy, Climate and Culture - Wrocław Conference

On 4 March 2026, linked to the third thematic expert workshop of the BorderLabs CE project an international conference titled “Cross-border cooperation in the era of challenges and transformation - space, energy, climate, culture” was held in Wrocław, Poland. The conference featured expert presentations and discussions on sustainable development, smart specialisation, and the removal of legal and administrative barriers in cross-border cooperation, highlighting the need for integrated and coordinated approaches across European regions.

[Read more here.](#)



BorderLabs CE Dialogue Forum Promotes Cross-Border Understanding in Frankfurt (Oder)

On 28-29 May 2026, the second Dialogue Forum of the BorderLabs CE project brought together 25 participants from three European twin cities at the Kleist Forum in Frankfurt (Oder), creating a space for open and structured dialogue on key societal challenges. Organised by the Institute for Conflict Management at the European University Viadrina, the forum enabled participants to discuss sensitive topics such as migration, the war in Ukraine, defence policies, nationalism, social polarisation, and hate speech. The event highlighted the value of constructive dialogue methods that can be applied in other cross-border contexts. [Read more here.](#)

Thematic Expert Workshop

Three thematic workshops were organised within the framework of the BorderLabs CE. The three workshops addressed the three main topics of the project, namely cross-border strategic planning, cross-border participatory governance and the management of cross-border legal and administrative obstacles.



Partner meeting and thematic workshop of the BorderLabs CE project in Wrocław

On 2-3 March 2026, partners of the BorderLabs CE project gathered in Wrocław, Poland, to discuss the final steps of the project and exchange experiences on managing cross-border legal obstacles. Hosted by the Institute for Territorial Development (IRT), the meeting brought together experts and project partners from across Central Europe.



As part of the BorderLabs CE project meeting in Wrocław, partners and experts took part in a thematic workshop. The discussions highlighted EU tools supporting cross-border integration, including Interreg, the EGTC Regulation and the new BRIDGEforEU Regulation. Experts and project partners shared practical experiences from across Europe, presenting initiatives that help border citizens navigate administrative and legal challenges through information points, coordination mechanisms and pilot projects. [Read more here.](#)

Study tours Supporting Cross-Border Co-Learning and Knowledge Exchange

Three study tours to support the co-learning process, allowing the in-depth investigation of model cases and the involvement of local and regional key actors and stakeholders, including political decision-makers were organised in spring 2026. The coordinator of the study tours (CESCI) has compiled a summary report, capturing the main lessons learned across the project's three thematic areas: cross-border planning, participatory governance, and obstacle management.



BorderLabs CE Study Tour in Basel Showcases Cross-Border Cooperation in Practice

On 17-18 March 2026, BorderLabs CE project partners participated in a study tour across Basel, Lörrach and Saint-Louis, exploring one of Europe's most advanced trinational border regions. The programme included site visits and presentations on cross-border governance, spatial planning, mobility integration and citizen support services, as well as providing practical insights into how coordinated planning, institutional cooperation and joint projects can successfully address shared challenges in transport, public services and territorial development across national borders. [Read more here.](#)

BorderLabs CE Study Visit to Euregio Meuse-Rhine Highlights Cross-Border Integration

From 13-16 April 2026, the BorderLabs CE partnership participated in a study visit to the Euregio Meuse-Rhine EGTC, one of Europe's most advanced cross-border regions. Hosted by ITEM in Maastricht and Eurode Business Center in Kerkrade, the visit provided insights into how cross-border cooperation functions in practice across Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. Participants explored key areas such as healthcare, education, police cooperation, and public transport integration. [Read more here.](#)



BorderLabs CE Study Visit Highlights Cross-Border Everyday Life in the Öresund Region

On 12-13 May 2026, the BorderLabs CE partnership took part in a study visit to Copenhagen and Malmö, exploring the Öresund region—one of Europe's most advanced cross-border metropolitan areas. The programme examined how Danish-Swedish cooperation functions in practice, with a focus on labour mobility, governance structures, information services and the management of cross-border obstacles affecting everyday life. [Read more here.](#)



Looking Ahead:

Exciting BorderLabs CE Events on the Horizon

The BorderLabs CE project is entering its final phase, and the coming months will bring a series of inspiring events showcasing our achievements.



Save the Date: Final Partner Meeting and launching event of the Central European platform of BorderLabs CE

6-7 October 2026 | Budapest, Hungary

Partners will reflect on the project's achievements and explore how the developed solutions can continue supporting cross-border cooperation across Central Europe. On the second day, the Central European online platform and its human network will be launched.



Regional Closing Conferences of the Pilot Actions

Pilot 1: Integrated Cross-Border Strategy Development

Pilot 2: Participatory Governance for Transition Management in Cross-Border Twin Cities

Pilot 3: Cross-Border Development of Sustainable and Slow Tourism

Pilot 4: Cross-Border Marketing and Promotion of Local Products

Pilot 5: Facilitating the Joint Management of Border Obstacles



Coming Soon: Multimedia Learning Platform

A major milestone of BorderLabs CE is about to be unveiled! During the Final Partner Meeting in Budapest, we will officially launch the **BorderLabs CE Multimedia Learning Platform** - a knowledge hub designed to bring together spatial planners, public authorities, and cross-border cooperation stakeholders from across Central Europe.

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For more information visit <https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/borderlabs-ce/>.*