



STABILITY PACT
FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE



EASTWEST INSTITUTE
NEW YORK PRAGUE MOSCOW KYIV BRUSSELS BELGRADE



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Cross-border Cooperation in South Eastern Europe: Obstacles and Opportunities for Euroregional Cooperation

Osijek and Bizovac, Croatia
18-19 November, 2002

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE STABILITY PACT FOR SEE

Co-organized by:

The DANUBE-DRAVA-SAVA EUROREGIONAL CO-OPERATION,
The Council of Europe
and
The EastWest Institute

DRAFT AGENDA

18 November 2002, Monday

8.30 – 9.30 : Registration of participants

9.00 – 10.30 Opening Plenary Session: Promoting Euroregions and Cross-border Co-operation in SEE

Welcoming addresses by representatives of the Stability Pact, the host country, the DDS Euroregion and the co-organisers.

10.30 – 11.30 The role and status of CBC in Europe: Euroregions, “working communities”, EU CBC Programmes

Speakers will include representatives of the European Commission, the Council of Europe, selected European countries and major ONG having a record of co-operation in the setting up and promotion of cross-border co-operation at European level.

11.30 – 12.00 Break

12.00 – 13.00 Euroregions and cross-border co-operation in Europe: legal frameworks and bilateral treaties

Speakers will include representatives of the Council of Europe and selected European states.

Discussion

13.00 – 15.00 Lunch

15.00 – 17.00 Region-wide facilitation of cross-border co-operation: the policy context

Obstacles to CBC by local or regional actors (territorial communities or authorities, economic actors, educational institutions, etc.) across state borders

Speakers will include specialists on local self-government issues, border-crossing related issues, local elected representatives.

Learning from experience: measures taken by the national governments to facilitate the development of CBC by local or regional authorities

The potential for bilateral or multilateral agreements

Representatives of International/European organisations and European countries will present the experience of their respective institutions and administrations in promoting an “open attitude” towards cross-border co-operation and the potential for regional agreements on transfrontier co-operation in the SEE area.

Discussion

17.00 – 17.30 Break

17.30 –19.30 Aspects of Managing Euroregions and other Transfrontier Institutions: sharing lessons learned (panel discussion of selected issues of legal, financial, project management/implementation and other operational aspects)

Under the co-ordination of an experienced manager of a Euroregion, representatives of co-operation bodies will explore specific aspects related to the establishment and functioning of Euroregions, with a view to sharing experiences and promoting a better understanding of the task of running a Euroregion.

Discussion

20.00 Dinner

19 November 2002, Tuesday

9.00 – 11.00 Presentations by SEE Euroregions

Euroregions will be invited to submit a presentation of 15' each based on the information supplied through the questionnaire.

Discussion

11.00-11.30 Break

11.30 – 12.30 Presentations by SEE triangles of cross-border cooperation

Personalities from the areas where co-operation takes a loose format will also have the opportunity to introduce their initiatives on the basis of the information supplied through the questionnaire (15' each)

Discussion

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Transfrontier Cooperation and Euroregions in South-Eastern Europe: a tool for enhanced stability?

Presentation of the report "Rethinking Cross-Border Co-operation in the Balkans/Danube area: five strategies for enhancing TFC"

The authors of the study (an analysis of the "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats" of cross-border co-operation in SEE) will make a presentation of the report.

The strategic and operational role of TFC and Euroregions in SEE

Speakers will include representative of major agencies implementing TFC projects in the region.

Open Discussion on the strategic development of CBC in SEE

15.30-16.00 Break

16.30 – 17.30 Adoption of Conclusions – End of the conference

Adoption of a statement on the role of TFC and Euroregions in the consolidation of democratic stability and the potential for a regional agreement to strengthen TFC in the SEE area.

17.30 Departure of Participants