

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Conference of European Cross-border and interregional City Networks – CECICN was born in 2010. Its objective is to boost territorial cooperation among border cities in Europe and to reinforce the message concerning the importance of territorial cooperation. CECICN is comprised of six cooperating networks that represent more than 500 cities in border regions and 37% of European population.

Europe is at a crucial moment for future territorial cooperation. In a context of crisis Europe is now working on the budget for the next seven years (2014-2020) and new regulations on Cohesion Policy. Therefore, it is of major importance to reinforce what the benefits of cooperation are, what opportunities it represents and how, through cooperation, Europe can overcome the challenges it faces in the near future. Cooperation is the key to achieve Europe2020 goals.

Based on this CECICN has worked out a strategic document: “Cities and Regions cooperating among borders as an opportunity to overcome crisis”. In this strategic document CECICN members describe the benefits of territorial cooperation for the development of border regions. It shows challenges and opportunities created through cooperation. Moreover, the document demonstrates with concrete examples how territorial cooperation is a key issue to achieve Europe 2020 and Single Market goals.

Now we should communicate our message.

CECICN is organizing the **1<sup>st</sup> Congress on Smart Cooperation**. I will be in **A Coruna (Spain) on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2012**. The Congress will be a European event where all European Institutions and CECICN networks will be strongly represented.

In the coming months we will send you the program and a link where you can register yourself for the congress. Until then, we would kindly ask you to save the date in your calendar. It will be an exceptional opportunity to talk about the importance of cooperation and highlight the worries and thoughts of the actors at the basis . In this debate, we would be very pleased to know about the position of your institution and more importantly, to give you the opportunity to explain it to the representatives of the European Institution attending to the congress.

I sincerely hope to see you in A Coruña in June.

Yours faithfully



José Sánchez Bugallo  
President of CECICN

