

# **The Role of Euroregions in CBC**

Report “The possible role of  
Euroregions in the implementation of  
territorial cooperation policy in Latvia  
2007-2013”, COWI, 2006

# Why Euroregions?

- They are only type of real cross-border institutions, which are established specifically for the purpose of cross-border cooperation.
- They express joint opinion of elected representatives from local and regional on both sides of the border;
- Broad specter of activities;
- Long term cooperation.

# Role of Euroregions, experience in Europe

- Create strategies for development of border regions;
- Coordinate different actors in the border areas;
- Advisory support for its members in project applications;
- Project applicants;
- Takes part in program management (certain function);
- Are fully responsible for CBC programs or sub-programs.

# Euroregions in Latvia

- 1996 – CCBR (in 2003-Euregio *Pskov-Livonia*);
- 1998 – Euroregion *Baltic*;
- 1998 – Euroregion *Country of Lakes*;
- 1999 – Euroregion *Saule*;
- 2000 – Micro-Euroregion *Bartava*;

# Main problems of Euroregions in Latvia- I

- Unsolved question of legal status (European problem);
- Lack of regional identity;
- Changing territory and membership;
- No permanent strong institutions, no international permanent secretariats - small institutional capacity, “one man-show”;
- Small own financing from members – project dependence;

# Main problems of Euroregions in Latvia-II

- Unstable activities;
  - Lack of good strategies, which are followed;
  - Small role in regional development and planning – too much attention for “project production”;
- = after 10 years still small institutions with small political-lobbying influence fighting for their “place under the sun”.**

# Recommendations

- Euroregions by definition are the most advanced form for CBC and should be supported;
- None of 5 Euroregions in Latvia have capacity to carry management of a program at the moment.
- Involvement of Euroregions in implementation of CBC programs would strengthen them;
- Euroregions (their members) have to decide what do they need Euroregion for – to prepare projects for them or to coordinate development of region;
- Euroregions have to establish permanent dialog with all other actors – NGOs, universities; RDAs etc.
- Forum on clear distribution of functions between all actors in CBC – who does what?

# Possible solutions for involvement of Euroregions

- Specific thematic measure (Euroregions are cross-thematic);
- Specific territorial measures (territories of Euroregions do not correspond to territories of programs);
- Management of Small Project Funds;
- Technical assistance to secretariats of Euroregions;

# Challenges

- Competition between Euroregions and other CBC actors in the area;
- How to guarantee equal treatment of members and non-members of Euroregions?
- Who will finance any additional functions?