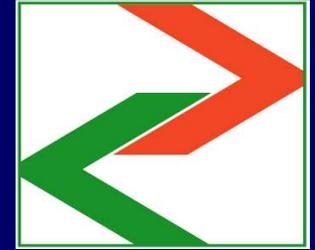


# **AEBR-AGEG-ARFE**

Association of European Border Regions

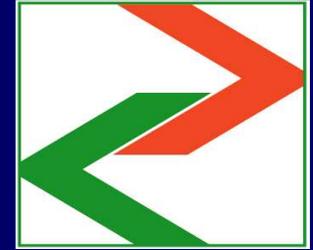


## **ULYSSES**

**Decentralised cross-border strategies going beyond INTERREG A exist only along a few borders (D/NL, FR/D, and S/DK).**

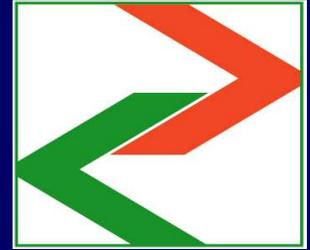
**Even if this is a difficult and therefore not often used instrument, the theme received great response in Europe.**

# Conclusions / Recommendations



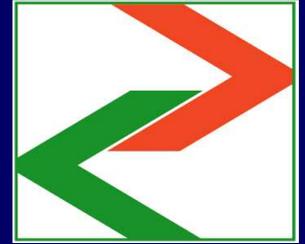
- **“Targeted Analysis” is requiring a new way of thinking, respectively a learning process of all participants:**
  - **Researchers are more accustomed with “applied research” and tending first to compare the stakeholders.**
  - **Stakeholders like border / cross-border regions are accustomed to think and act very much region-specific and within INTERREG A dimensions and less used to the larger European context.**

## **Conclusions / Recommendations**



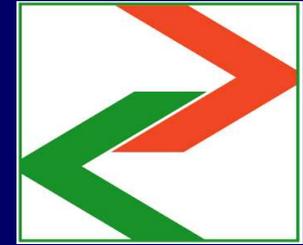
- **The researchers had to learn to focus from the beginning also on region-specific studies, tailored to the needs of the individual user, and taking into account the regional specifics.**
- **The stakeholders had to learn to look beyond their own area to allow for significant European conclusions.**
- **Good communication between researchers, ESPON, and the stakeholders turned out to be a key element for success.**

## Conclusions / Recommendations



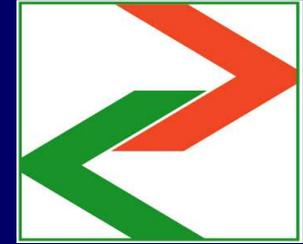
- It makes sense to arrange an “ex-ante” meeting of stakeholders and researchers to clarify in detail the objectives and contents of the project (targeted research).
- An “early warning system” to report difficulties or shortfalls / bottlenecks should be established. This could help to identify and solve problems at an early stage.

## **Conclusions / Recommendations**



- **Institutional aspects and quantified data that are priorities by the researchers are seen in a more differentiated way by the stakeholders, especially if it is about cross-border issues affecting two states.**
- **Besides the quantitative, the qualitative analysis based on indicators, seems to be of the same importance.**
- **In the mid-term, reliable ESPON data on NUTS III level are inevitably needed to bring the target research more forward for the benefit of the users.**

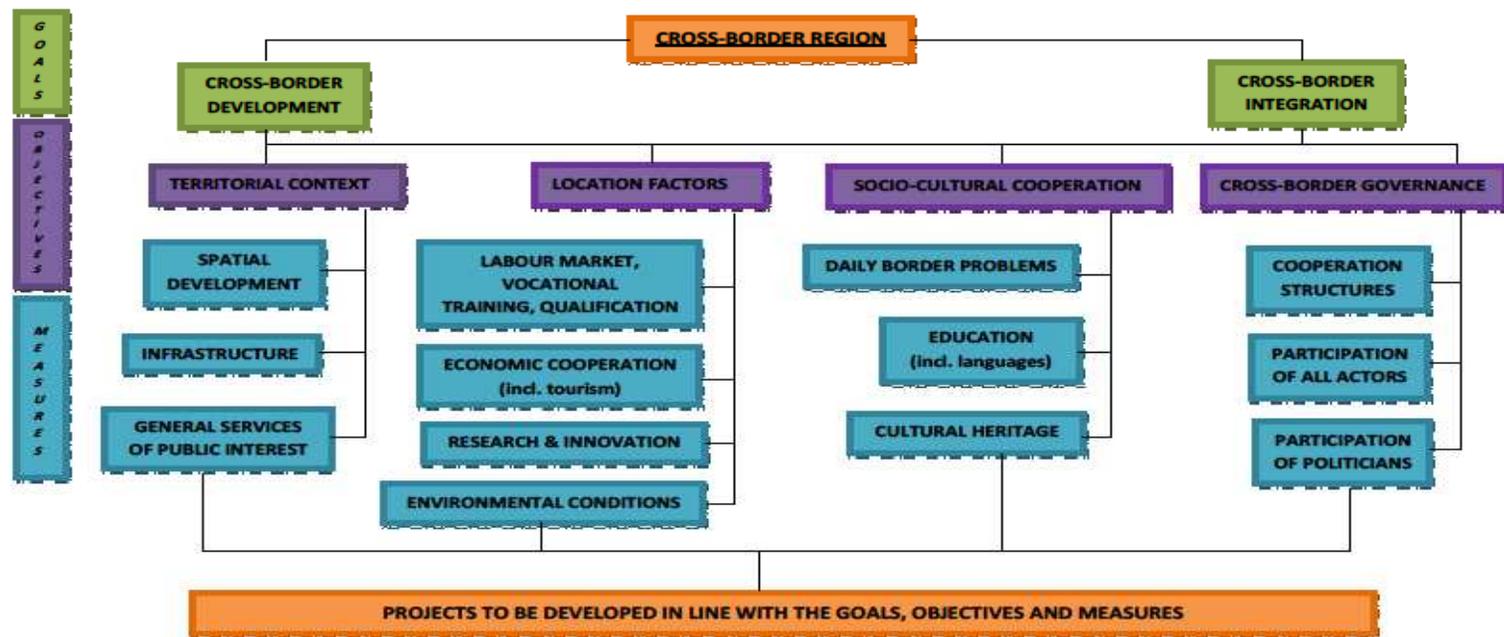
# Conclusions / Recommendations

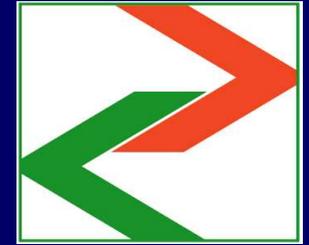


- To meet ESPON's ambitious objectives for targeted research, more funds per project have to be allocated. Because besides the studies that are important for the individual users, also results for the European level are requested. For this, different types of stakeholders have to get together to make representative statements (greater number of stakeholders needed).
- To mobilise the stakeholders to comprehensive cooperation over the whole project period, increased preparation is needed.
- Also, a "Letter of Commitment" that is usually requested in INTERREG B and C should have more effect as "Letter of Confirmation", as it secures the stakeholders feel more obliged.

# ULYSSES Schema

Decentralised cross-border development strategy at a glance  
(example)





***Thank you for your attention !***