1. Why this Communication?
2. Persisting issues – unused potential
3. What can be done?
1. Why this Communication?

- Importance of border regions: 40% EU territory; 30% EU population (150 million), 40% EU GDP

- **BUT** less economically developed, lower access to public services

- Navigating different legal and administrative systems is still complex, long and costly
2. Persisting issues – unused potential

- Costs of cross-border formalities 60% higher than domestic ones
- Complex tax, social security and recognition hampers cross-border labour mobility
- Local public transport across the border insufficient, too expensive, not integrated
- Health care provision across borders not fully exploited
3. What can be done?

10-point Action Plan
European institutions – MS- regions
Stakeholders

Border Focal Point in EC (REGIO)
3. What can be done?

- Deepen cooperation and exchanges
- Improve the legislative process
- Support cross-border employment
- Promote border multilingualism
- Facilitate cross-border accessibility
- E-government to enable cross-border public administration
- Provide reliable and understandable information and assistance
- Promote greater pooling of health care facilities
- Consider the legal and financial framework for cooperation
- Build evidence for better decision-making
3. What can be done?

1. Deepening cooperation and exchange
   - EC will establish an **EU-wide online professional network**
   - EC will launch a call for **pilot projects**
   - MS are encouraged to make greater use of mutual recognition, alignment of rules and procedures, bi-lateral agreements

2. Improving the legislative process
   - EC will step up examination of **border effects**
   - MS encouraged to **increase coordination** when transposing EU law (EC ready to support with expertise)
3. **Enabling cross-border public administration**
   - EC to promote *eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020*
   - EC to engage border regions more in *e-government projects*
   - MS encouraged to make full use of smart *e-solutions & principles*

4. **Providing reliable and understandable information and assistance**
   - EC to reflect border dimension in 'Single Digital Gateway'
   - EC to improve SOLVIT network
   - MS – regions to promote *border information services*
5. Supporting cross-border employment
• MS to step up cooperation between public employment services
• EC to continue support via EURES, EaSI and future network

6. Promoting border multi-linguism
• EC to continue support via Erasmus+, Interreg
• MS – regions to promote language learning
7. Facilitating cross-border accessibility
   • EC mapping missing rail links along border regions + dissemination and follow-up with stakeholders
   • MS – regions to step up better & more integrated local public transport across the borders

8. Promoting greater pooling of health care facilities
   • EC mapping cross-border health care cooperation
   • EC conference to promote CB healthcare [REGIO+SANTE]
9. **Legal and financial framework for cross-border cooperation**
   - EC to consider MS proposal for European Cross-Border Convention
   - EC-MS-regions to engage early on funding programmes post 2020

10. **Building evidence to inform decision making**
    - EC finances statistical pilot project
    - EC working with ESPON/JRC/H2020 to promote border regions research
    - MS to step up efforts in data and research
More Information

InfoRegio:

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https://www.facebook.com/InterregA/