

# Cross-border co-operation approach and phenomenon



17 March 2022

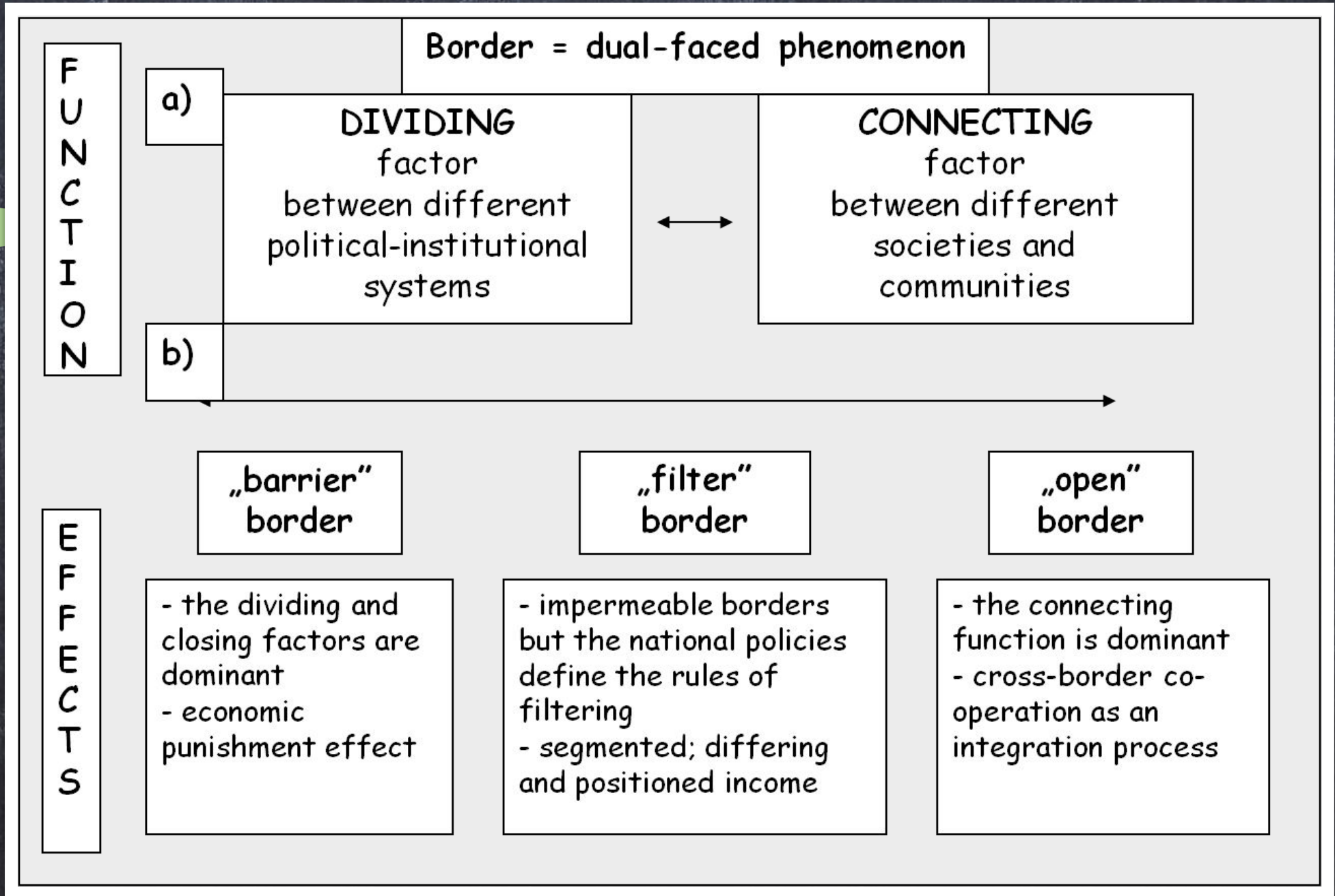
# The cross-border phenomenon



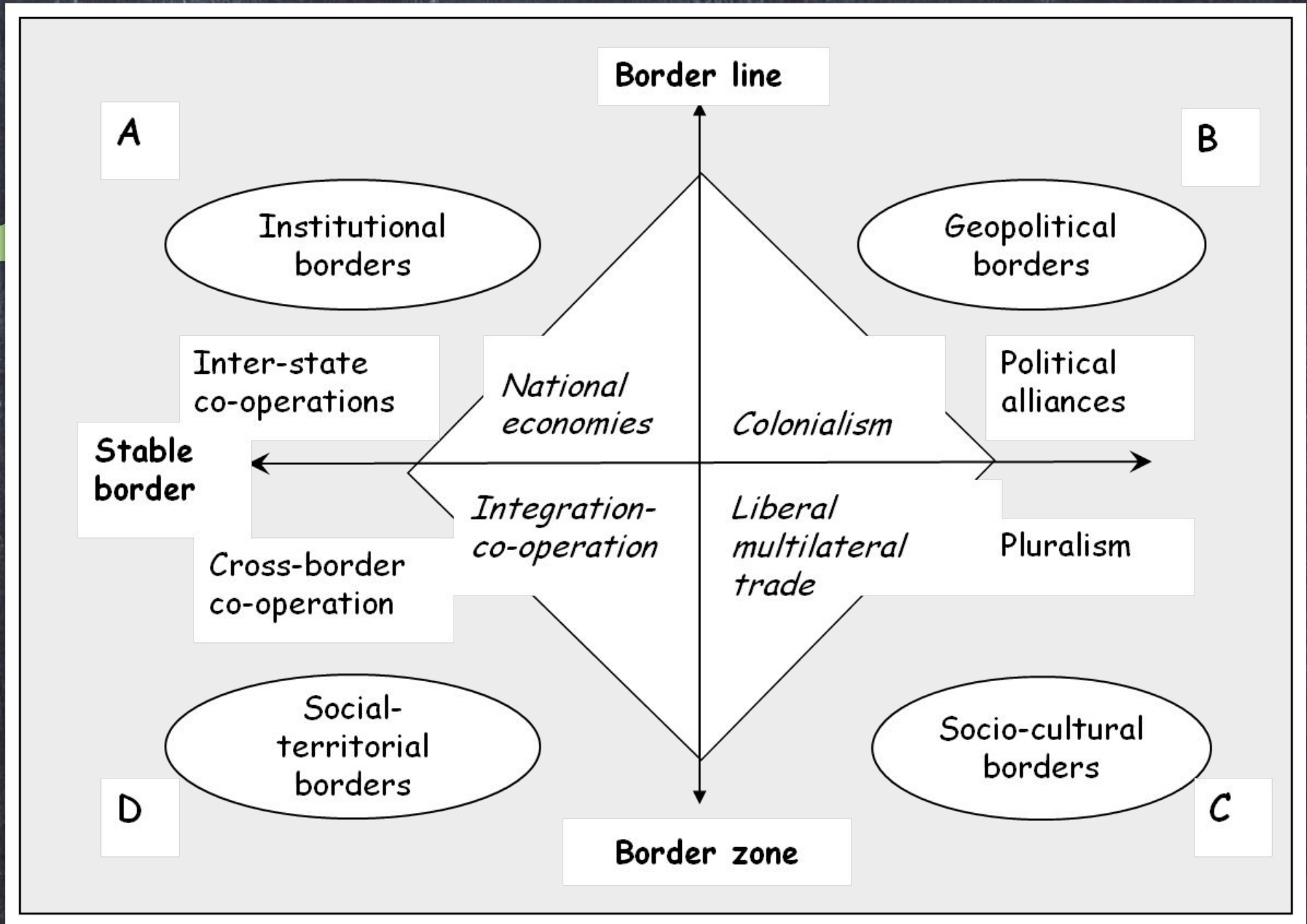
Cross-border co-operations may be found on all fields and levels of the economic, social, political, etc. as well as everyday life.

- (1) Remigio Ratti (1993)
- (2) Oscar Martinez (1994)
- (3) József Tóth (1996)

Remigio Ratti (1993)



Remigio Ratti (1993)



A

B

D

C

Border line

Border zone

Institutional borders

Geopolitical borders

Social-territorial borders

Socio-cultural borders

National economies

Colonialism

Liberal multilateral trade

Inter-state co-operations

Political alliances

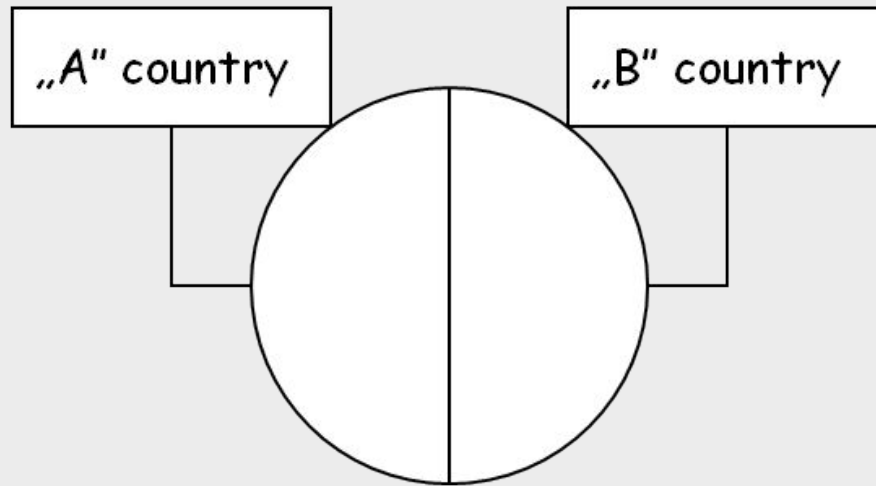
Stable border

Pluralism

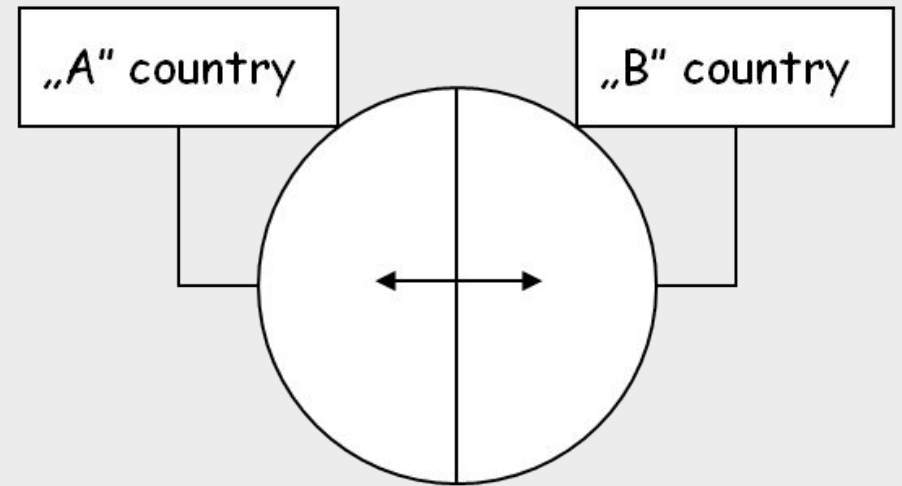
Cross-border co-operation

Integration-co-operation

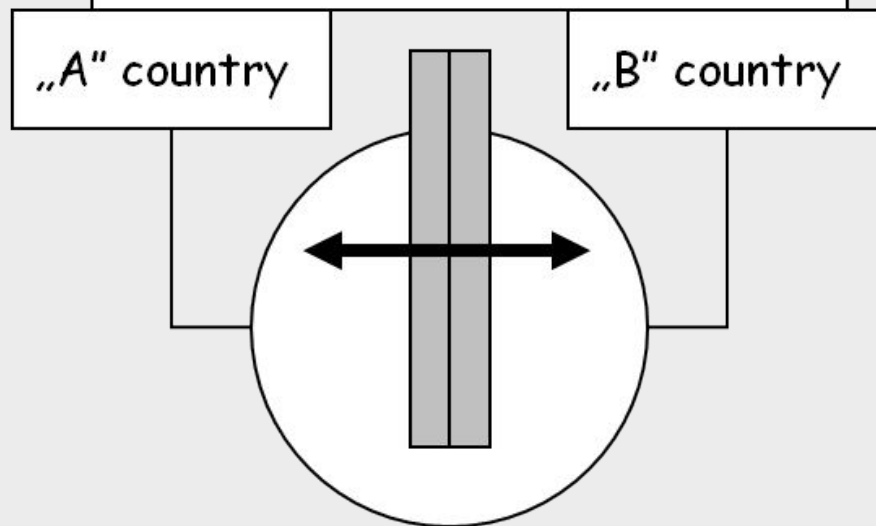
Oscar  
Martinez  
(1994)



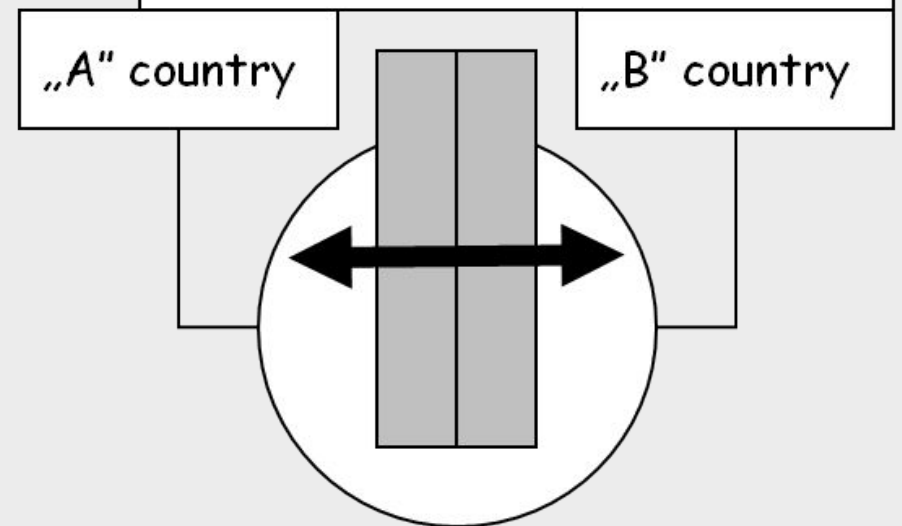
a) alienated border regions



b) co-existent border regions



c) independent border regions



d) integrated border regions

# Cross-border co-operation approach



- there is not one event, process or phenomenon in geography which has no cross-border relevance
  - e.g. Carpathian Mountains, River Danube, Pyrenees: located or flow on the area of several countries
    - these require harmonised actions which can be reached through interregional, transnational and cross-border co-operations
- "Europe without borders"
- "border regions as key areas and experimental laboratories in the European integration process"
- "borders as active participants and key areas in the formation of cross-border regional policy"

# A new discipline or a new approach?

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- cross-border researches do not constitute a new discipline but an **approach** applied by the disciplines

cross-border approach

# The added value of cross-border co-operations

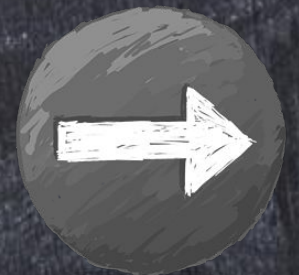
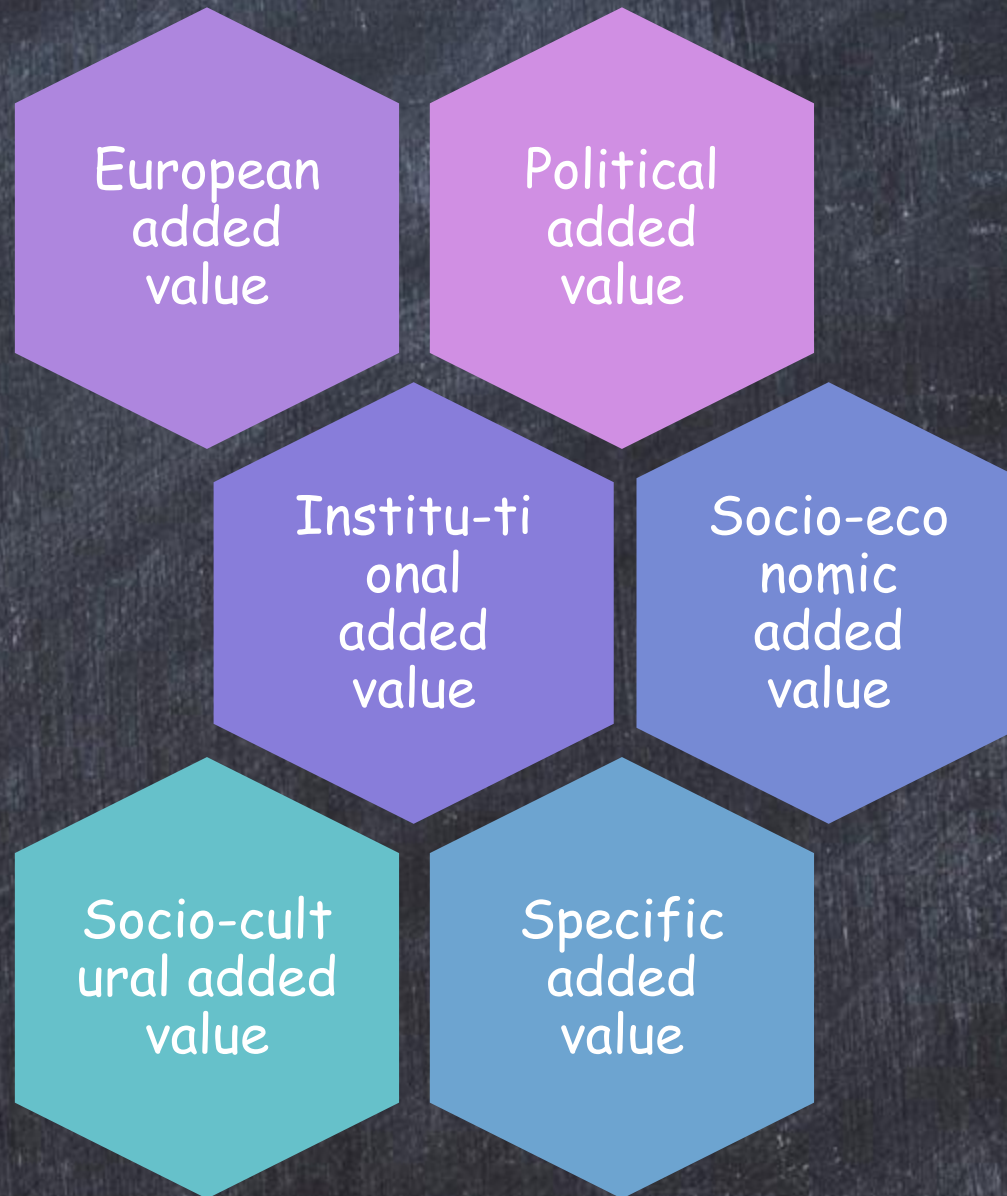


- the analysis and measuring of **added value**: one of the best ways of understanding the cross-border phenomenon and approach
- this implies that all **activities, actions and processes are seen from a cross-border perspective** and actually reveals that these activities and processes in border regions always have a cross-border effect and relevance
- added value is an **important element also in the integration processes of the European Union**



# Added value of cross-border co-operations

(based on AEBR's *White Paper on European border regions, 2006*)



*a tile to get more information about the certain added value. When you finished with the slide, click on the*

# European added value

In the case of cross-border co-operations European added value stems in the fact that that people who live together in neighbouring border regions most often have the will and intention to cooperate. This results in a valuable contribution to the promotion of peace, freedom, security and the observance of human rights.



*Click on the picture to return to the previous slide (Added value of cross-border co-operations).*

It involves a substantial contribution with respect to

- “the development of Europe and European integration;
- getting to know each other, getting on together, understanding each other and building trust;
- the implementation of subsidiarity and partnership;
- increased economic and social cohesion and cooperation;
- preparing for the accession of new members;
- using EU funding to secure cross-border cooperation via multiannual programmes, and ensuring that the necessary national and regional co-financing is committed in the long term.”

## Political added value

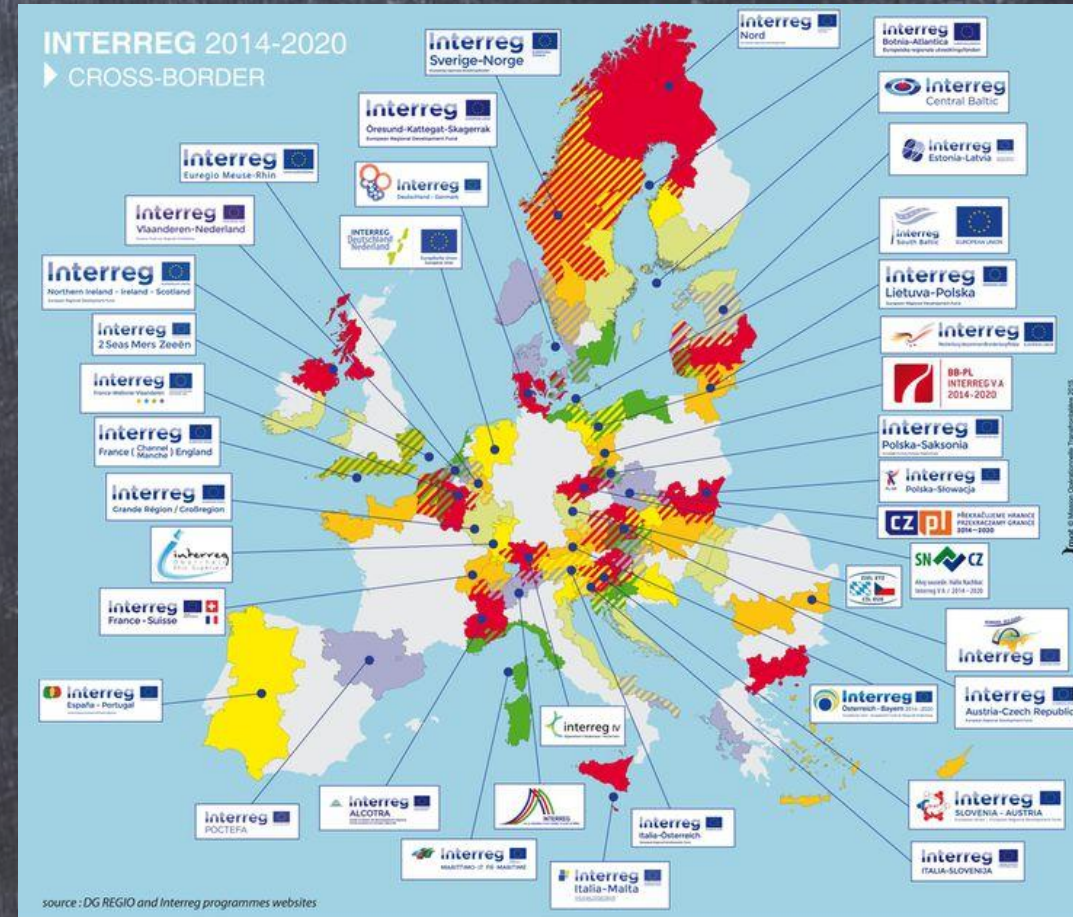


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## Institutional added value is the result of the

- active involvement of all levels (citizens, authorities, political and social groups) on both sides of the border;
- secure knowledge about one's neighbour (regional authorities, social partners, etc.);
- long term cross-border cooperation in structures that are capable of working efficiently:
  - as a vertically and horizontally functioning partnership, despite having different structures and areas of responsibility;
  - as a legally accepted target of aid and a working partner, receiving and administering funds;
- joint drafting, implementation and financing of cross-border programmes and projects

## Institutional added value



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# Socio-economic added value



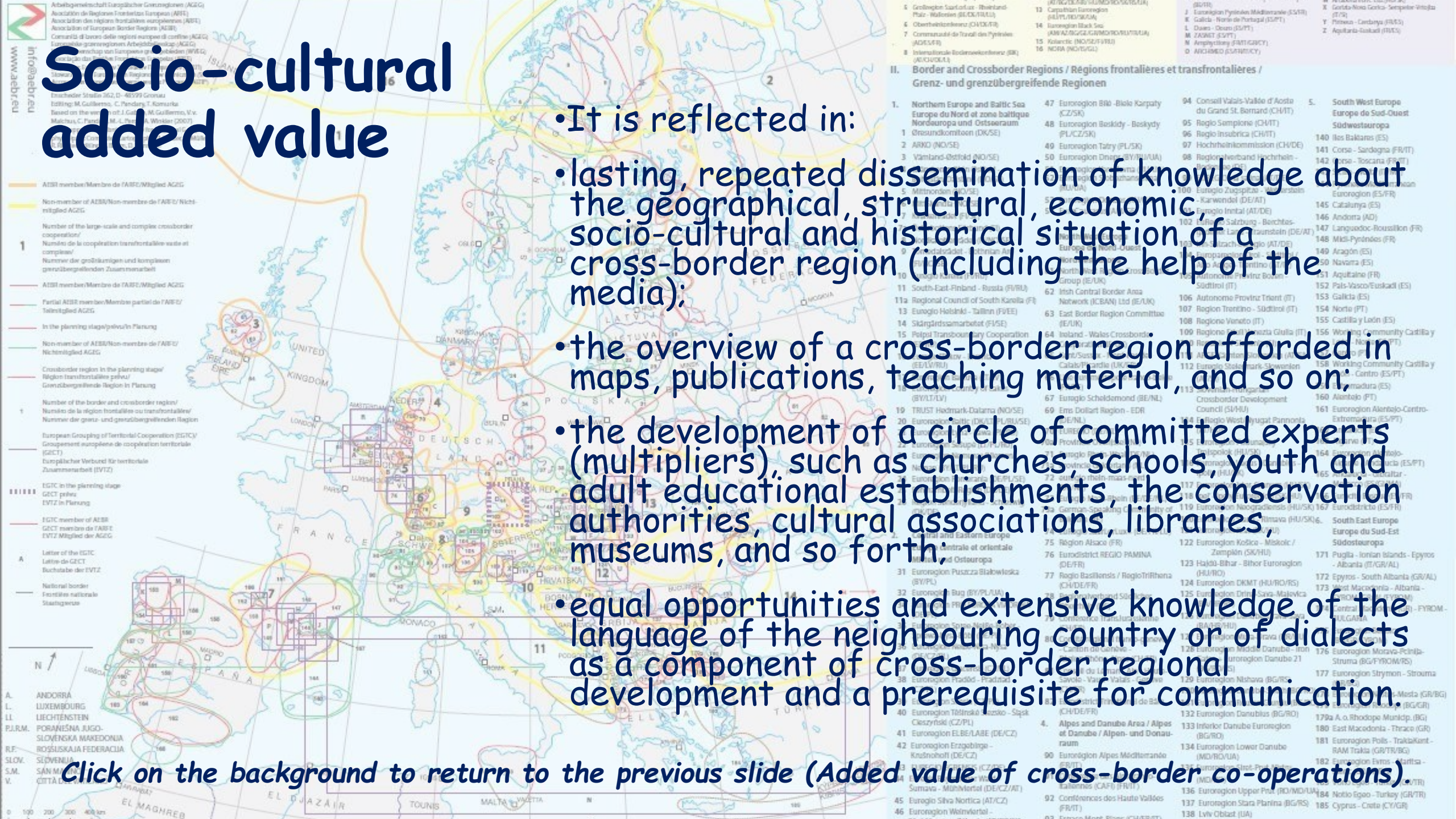
The socio-economic added value is apparent in all respective regions, albeit in different ways, through:

- “the mobilisation of endogenous potential by strengthening the regional and local levels as partners for and initiators of cross-border cooperation;
- the participation of actors from the economic and social sectors (for example, chambers of commerce, associations, companies, trade unions, cultural and social institutions, environmental organisations and tourism agencies);
- the opening up of the labour market and harmonisation of professional qualifications;
- additional development, for example, in the fields of infrastructure, transport, tourism, environment, education, research and cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises, and also the creation of more jobs in these areas;
- lasting improvements in the planning of spatial development and regional policy (including the environment);
- the improvement of cross-border transport infrastructure.

# Socio-cultural added value

- It is reflected in:
- lasting, repeated dissemination of knowledge about the geographical, structural, economic and socio-cultural and historical situation of a cross-border region (including the help of the media);
- the overview of a cross-border region afforded in maps, publications, teaching material, and so on;
- the development of a circle of committed experts (multipliers), such as churches, schools, youth and adult educational establishments, the conservation authorities, cultural associations, libraries, museums, and so forth;
- equal opportunities and extensive knowledge of the language of the neighbouring country or of dialects as a component of cross-border regional development and a prerequisite for communication.

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# Specific added value

• The specific added value of cross-border co-operations to implementing the Lisbon Strategy derives from the fact that **cross-border cooperation always adds value** to national measures. This added value results from

- additionality of cross-border programmes and projects
- synergies through cross-border cooperation
- joint research and innovation
- cross-border networking
- exchange of best practice and know-how
- spin-off effects by overcoming borders
- efficient cross-border resource management

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# Interpretability and applicability of the theories and (cross-)border models in 21st century Europe

- Aspects to keep in mind when researching border regions and cross-border co-operations
  - multidimensional nature/character
  - spatial dimension
  - multiculturalism
  - dynamic phenomenon
- The most ideal and most functional regions from the point of view of cross-border co-operations
  - subsequent boundaries - Haggett
  - open, connecting borders; field D in the typology - Ratti
  - integrated and independent border regions - Martinez