



# Joensuu Declaration

Network of Eastern External  
Border Regions, NEEBOR  
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# THE EASTERN EXTERNAL BORDERLINE OF THE EU:

- from the Barents Sea to the Mediterranean
- 5500 km
- 12 EU member states
- 63 regions

Unique and special area



# NEEBOR- Network of Eastern External Border Regions

## The network:

- An interregional bottom-up initiative
- 10 countries, 33 regions with regions having similar challenges
- Founded in 2005, 4th Annual Conference
- Relative young, but has developed rapidly

## Objectives:

- Aims at increasing cooperation between its member countries and regions
- More visibility and understanding on eastern external border issues in EU level
- Active dialogue with EU institutions
- Acting as "bridges" of Europe with its neighbours
- Offering new possibilities for border regions and countries
- Added value to EU and its regional policy
- to co-operate and prevent the emergence of new dividing lines

# Joensuu Declaration

- Highlights the great potentials, challenges and threats the regions are facing
- Is a tool to gather common views and influence policy-making in regional, national and EU level
- Three parts
  1. Safety and Security byt the EU External Borderline
  2. Economic Cooperation for Future Growth and prosperity
  3. The importance of the EU's role

# Safety and Security by the EU Eastern External Borderline

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- Eastern external borderline is only actual long land border with other countries
- EU should develop its police and border guard cooperation even further
- Preventing external organized crime
- New challenges: rising amount of refugees, illegal migrants, terrorism etc.

# Economic Cooperation Ensures Future Growth and Prosperity

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- Innovation and creativity must be promoted and should be encouraged to be exploited among border-regions
- Acknowledge the vitality of SME's to regional development
- EU's programs and financial support for cross-border cooperation essential
- Better resources, more tools – less bureaucracy

## Joensuu declaration – summary I

With Joensuu declaration NEEBOR network

- Sees that long –term solutions contributing to the safety and security can only be achieved by close cooperation
- Emphasizes that EU should reserve sufficient resources and develop especially cross-border cooperation
- Welcomes the EU's initiative of Eastern Partnership

## Joensuu declaration – summary II

With Joensuu declaration NEEBOR network

- States that SME's should be given better resources and tools for crossborder cooperation
- Aims to reduce SME's bureaucracy
- Sees that different visa procedures should be reviewed and developed
- Underlines the accessibility of the for SME's development across the EU's eastern borderline (Olsztyn declaration)

## What next?

- Bring the news and experiences to both NEEBOR regions and Brussels
- Prepare for the dialogue about the future of regional policy in all – regional, national and EU – level
- Keep up the excellent NEEBOR cooperation.
- See you in Open Days in Brussels!