



Role of NEEBOR

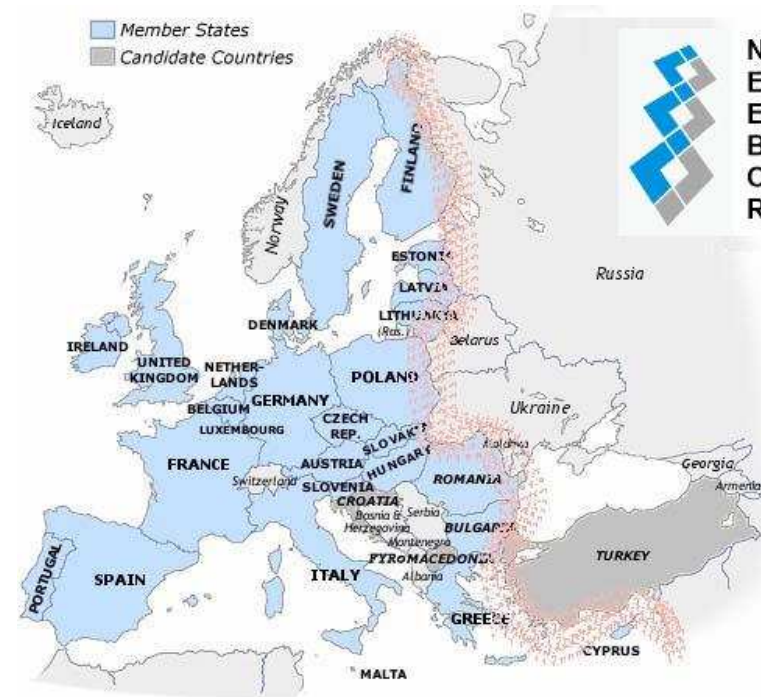
Network of Eastern External
Border Regions, NEEBOR
Open Days going local,
Debrecen, 27.10.2009

Riikka Railimo
Director, East Finland EU Office

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

- Joensuu Declaration

- Eastern external borderline is the 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

■ Joensuu Declaration

- 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 levels: regional, national and EU
- Think about the future role of NEEBOR in Eastern Partnership
- Don't take it for granted - Keep up the excellent NEEBOR cooperation!



Thank you for your attention !

Kiitos & Közsönöm.