

Announcement No. 1

International Academic and Practitioner Conference

„Cross-border cooperation in the era of challenges and transformation – space, energy, climate, culture”

Wrocław, 4 March 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

the organisers are honoured to invite you to participate in a scientific conference on cross-border cooperation – economic, social, cultural, and spatial – with particular emphasis on the challenges facing border regions in the context of the **European Union’s cohesion policy, the energy transition, climate protection, and a just transition.**

Cross-border cooperation, as one of the pillars of European integration, is gaining new significance today in the face of global climate, energy and social changes. Discussion about the future of this cooperation requires combining **scientific reflection with the experience of practitioners and local government officials, and also taking into account the role of spatial planning, regional development management and natural and cultural heritage as well as cultural cooperation and the shaping of the identity of cross-border societies.**

The conference is being organised as a forum for the exchange of views and experiences among representatives of academic environments, public administration, institutions of cross-border cooperation, non-governmental organisations, and practitioners engaged in the development of border regions.

Its main objective is to create a space that informs development policy and steers further scientific research towards the implementation of innovative, effective solutions in cross-border cooperation.

See you in Wrocław!

Maciej Zathey PhD, Institute for Territorial Development

prof. UPWr, dr hab. Piotr Krajewski, Institute of Spatial Management, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences

Miroslav Vlasák, European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation NOVUM

Iga Kołodyńska PhD, Institute of Spatial Management, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences

Organizers:

Institute for Territorial Development – an organisational unit of the Self-Government of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship; partner in the BorderLabs CE project under the Interreg Central Europe programme

Institute of Spatial Management, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences

European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation NOVUM – partner in the BorderLabs CE project under the Interreg Central Europe programme

Thematic areas:

- cross-border cooperation in the context of EU cohesion policy and new financial instruments,
- energy transition and a just transition in border regions,
- adaptation to climate change and environmental protection in cross-border cooperation,
- spatial planning and integrated territorial management in border areas,
- culture, sense of place, local identity and landscape as factors in building cross-border cooperation,
- new technologies, innovations, and smart specializations in border region development,
- social and economic aspects of cross-border cooperation in the post-pandemic era and in the context of geopolitical changes,
- management (identifying and overcoming) of cross-border obstacles, i.e. a legal, administrative, technical or socio-economic problem resulting from differences in the application, interpretation or lack of alignment of regulations and procedures.

Target audience:

The conference is addressed to:

- academic community (researchers, PhD students, students),
- representatives of public administration and local governments,
- experts and practitioners engaged in cross-border cooperation,
- non-governmental organizations and cultural institutions.

Conference papers and posters:

We cordially invite researchers, practitioners, and representatives of public institutions to actively participate in the conference and to submit abstracts for conference papers and posters. The abstracts may address theoretical analyses, case studies, evaluations of public policies, or innovative practices related to cross-border cooperation, cohesion policy, energy transition, social and economic phenomena, spatial planning, cultural cooperation, etc.

Papers accepted for presentation or poster presentation will be eligible for publication as an article in a special issue of an international scientific journal *European Spatial Research and Policy*, provided they receive a positive review.

The process of accepting articles for publication will be subject to standard procedures (plagiarism check and double review). Submitted articles should comply with the guidelines contained in the [instructions for authors](#). The planned publication date for accepted articles is issue 1/2027.

Venue and dates:

Conference date: **March 4, 2026**

Venue: Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences. Details of the conference location and travel information will be provided to the registered participants in announcement no. 2.

Deadline for submitting **paper and poster abstracts:** by **December 15, 2025.**

A maximum of 250 words in English (submission via the registration form).

(Posters should be prepared independently in vertical A1 format on a rigid backing.)

Deadline for registration without presentation: **until 15th of January**

Conference language: English

Registration form:

Please fill in the registration form by December 15, 2025 [Registration form](#)

The conference is free, but registration is required.

The conference is organized as part of the [BorderLabs CE](#) project, in collaboration between the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences and the BorderLabs CE project partners, implemented under the Interreg Central Europe program.

Organizing Committee:

Maciej Zathey PhD (Chairman),
prof. UPWr, dr hab. Piotr Krajewski (Deputy),
Iga Kołodyńska PhD (Secretary),
prof. UPWr, dr hab. Zbigniew Piepiora,
prof. UPWr, dr hab. Magdalena Raftowicz,
prof. UPWr, dr hab. Marian Kachniarz,
prof. UPWr, dr hab. Marek Furmankiewicz,
Małgorzata Rojek, MSc Eng.
Katarzyna Acedońska, MSc Eng.
Miroslav Vlasák,
prof. UEW, dr hab. Bartosz Bartniczak
Aneta Eibin.