



## The AER

(ARE, VRE)

- Founded 1985 - Western Europe
- Since 1989 - Central and Eastern Europe
- About 250 regions
- Geographical Europe



## AER members today

<b>EU 15 + Switzerland +Norway</b>	<b>States joining 2004 &amp; 2007</b>	<b>The other European Countries</b>
France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, UK, Ireland, Portugal, Austria, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland	Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Cyprus, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Serbia, Albania, Turkey



## **AER objectives**

- Strengthen the Regions
  - In the European Union
  - In the national states
- Regions should be strong through
  - Elected Politicians
  - Competences
  - Financial Resources and Budget
  - Solidarity
  - International Relations
- Support for interregional cooperation,
  - Interreg programmes
  - EGTC



## **AER & EGTC**

- Strong AER support during the decision-making process
  - For widening the scope to all regional coop.
  - Opening it for third countries
  - More competencies for Regions, less possibilities for MS to block it
- Use of EGTC
  - Two events in Brussels in support of EGTC
  - Participation in the INTERACT project
  - Monitoring of the implementation process



## **The main obstacles today**

1. Implementation by the Member States:
  - reluctance of some Member States
  - lack of clarity among regions how it should be done
  - delays in implementation process
2. Regions are unsure how and why they should use it
  - different levels of regional competences
  - crossborder/transnational/international EGTCs?
3. Critical mass of pilot projects



## **Needs for the regions**

- Legal Context - How is it implemented in the MS?
- Motivation - How will EGTC improve our work?
- Guidance - What steps should be undertaken?
- Experience - What works and which problems do we have to solve?



## **Solutions**

- Guidelines
- Best Practice Examples for each national context
- Creation of political momentum for EGTC in the regions