



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Workshop, Budapest, 21-22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022

#### CBC in Crisis: Does Institutionalized CBC contribute to Resilience and Innovation?

Since the establishment of Interreg in 1990, the CBC has been flourishing in Europe and after 30 years, the Corona pandemic was the first true testing for the CBC. On 21-22<sup>nd</sup> of October, Andrassy University in Budapest organized a joint workshop to discuss the outcomes of this CBC Corona test. The participants from academia, research institutions, and consultancy organizations from within the EU made the following conclusions:

Corona pandemic generally **proved the current CBC structures to be resilient** and in many cases, it can even be seen that the **pandemic gave the CBC a boost**. It also proved that an active or highly active **institutionalized CBC is essential for transboundary crisis management** as it can provide

- crisis managers but also the wider public with established information hubs and platforms where crisis measures and narratives can be communicated;
- a decision-support system that incorporates elements of vertical and horizontal coordination elements, i.e. institutionalized CBC has been shown to be able to clarify the situation by showing which actors could provide to the crisis management and what authority is the best actor to counter specific problems;
- crisis managers with additional organizational capacity in the form of existing network structures;
- for the resilience of cross-border public services.

However, it was also seen as a cause of the pandemic and border closures that even after 30 years of CBC, **interpersonal ties are determining the motivation for the CBC and its efficiency**. We saw that the greater part of the CBCs are still built on one or two persons whose leaving may terminate the CBC. It has been also proved that **CBC during the pandemic relied on trust and was mainly between individuals**, not organizations. The resilience of CBCs showed that the social basis for CBC in these regions is strong.

Coming from the above it must be emphasized that **CBC can be used for much more than just an information-sharing point** or a cross-border observatory. And yet it has been shown by the test of the pandemic that the **national governments still perceive CBC** not as an additional organizational capacity, but rather as a **threat to their sovereignty**.

Our discussions were also raising the question of how to measure the CBC if inter-personal relationships are the most important factor for the motivation and resilience of the CBC.

As the CBC is a subject that needs a multi-disciplinary approach as well as both academic and practical approach, our workshop aimed to facilitate in-depth discussion about CBC by involving both academics from various disciplines and semi-academics, i.e. academics who have also a strong experience in practice. We want to provide an alternative to the current conferences and workshops by facilitating more in-depth discussions and developments of the topics presented.

Considering the success of our first workshop, we are preparing to hold our workshop annually, the next will take place in October 2023. For further information please see our [webpage](#).

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Martina Eckardt, Andrassy University Budapest, Hungary

Dr. Annika Jaansoo, University of Twente, the Netherlands

Prof. Dr. Stefan Okruch, Andrassy University Budapest, Hungary