Setting the Context:
Setting the Compass

ICBAN Seminar: Future of Cross-Border Cooperation

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Resilience

Preparedness

Being competitive through pragmatic collaboration
Arbitrary Boundaries

Linguistic

Political

Official languages

Romanian (called Moldovan in Moldova)
Romanian (called Moldovan) & Russian
Romanian, Gagauz & Russian

Source: Academia Română

Rumänisch geschrieben with cursive script in the Transnistrian Moldovan Republic called Transnistria
Cross-Border Connectivity and Dis-connectivity

Standard Gauge vs 1540mm Gauge
A Contested Border

A ‘Hard’ Border
Yet, local actors ‘get on with’ pragmatic collaboration... for mutual benefit.
Collaboration: Local Authorities are to the fore

Mission: “to extend and improve relations between local communities and authorities in economic, cultural, scientific and civic fields, with the aim of ensuring sustainable and territorial balanced development of the Euroregion.”
Orienting our Compass – *in a changed and changing landscape*

- Collaboration is happening…despite political / macro challenges
- Importance of the EU Policy framework – neighbourhood policy
- It’s not just the formal…but the informal too!
- Role of EU funding especially, INTERREG
  - Facilitating local government involvement

**Proactive local authorities**

- Coming up with the ideas and making it happen

- Role of civil society – building capacity / institution building