

# Introduction

Eduardo Medeiros

This book is focused on territorial development processes associated with border cities. In this light, the 12 chapters cut across not only economic, but also governance and cross-border planning processes and innovation, in both European and North American border cities, thus providing the reader with a holistic and territorial panorama of their importance to the development of the surrounding regions.

In essence, this book is concerned with the analysis of the role of border cities to promote territorial development processes in border regions across the world. It embraces not only the fields of regional and urban studies, but also addresses territorial (urban, local, regional) development and planning theories, as well as the effects of development policies applied to border regions in both Europe and North America. In this light, this book offers a full toolkit of territorial development knowledge for border regions, and advances a range of policy development proposals aiming to provide a comprehensive introduction to contemporary thinking about border cities.

Its main themes are centred in analysing urban and regional development, as well as planning processes and policies, and their effects in border regions. In short, the following main objectives are to:

- Highlight the potential role border cities have in the territorial development processes of border regions across the world;
- Provide academics, students and policymakers with a thorough understanding of current debates around territorial development processes in border regions;
- Offer a roadmap for territorial development theories and strategic policy guidelines, by providing evidence-based narratives of how border regions have been promoting territorial development and how these processes can be enhanced;
- Introduce academics, students and policymakers, to a range of policy strategies essential to promote positive territorial development trends in border regions;
- Fill a gap in the existing literature on how urban areas located in border regions have contributed to their positive territorial development process;
- Provide a wealth of updated analysis of border cities, based on several case-studies covering north, south, west and eastern European borders (Denmark, Germany, Portugal, Spain, United

Kingdom, Ireland, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Hungary, and Slovakia) and the two North American borders (USA, Canada and Mexico).

- Set the agenda for future work on border cities and their roles in border regional development;
- Provide an update on what has been going on in key border regions, and show the value of multidisciplinary approaches to this subject matter.

Considering these goals, this book fills a gap in available literature on urban and regional studies as well as border regions. Following from the main conclusions of the EU ‘Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions’ initiative, border regions are mainly peripheral and lagging areas within a national context. However, they have the potential to be transformed into areas of growth and opportunities. Such territorial development is generically understood as positive change in economic competitiveness, social cohesion, environmental sustainability, territorial governance and spatial planning processes, during a certain period, in a given territory. This requires not only a systematic reduction of all sorts of border barriers, but also a harmonization of legal-administrative procedures to increase trade, freedom of movement and, ultimately, local cross-border interaction.

Being the anchors of territorial development, cities and, in this case, border cities, play a vital role in stimulating economic activity, institutional cooperation, cross-border planning processes, and access to public services (e.g. hospitals, universities) for inhabitants living on both sides of the border. In this context, this book provides the reader an almost complete set of case-studies from Europe and North America on how border cities have been implementing cross-border cooperation processes, with a view to developing their border region. From a policymaking perspective, the evidence can serve as a pool of best practice which could be replicated elsewhere.

The book is divided into three main sections. The first section presents a theoretical framework on the role of border cities to promote territorial development and planning in border regions. Comprised of three chapters, the first is written by Eduardo Medeiros (the editor) and Martín Guillermo Ramírez (the secretary general of the Association of European Border Regions – AEBR). It introduces a theoretical discussion on the concept of territorial development as well as the main role that border cities can have to support and implement positive territorial development processes. It concludes with an analysis of the territorial trends of 67 identified border cities located in European Union (EU) internal and external border regions. Following from this theoretical introduction, the second chapter is presented by Bjørnar Sæther, whose analysis of the economic development and innovation processes in border regions is based on the ground work he has done on the border cities located in the Inner Scandinavia Sweden-Norwegian Interreg-A sub-programme cross-border area. In the end, the analysis addresses the following fundamental question: how can a national border

move from being a barrier to innovation to a source of innovation? This section is concluded with a theoretical proposal on how to analyse cross-border planning processes promoted by the collaboration between border cities. Written by Antoine Decouville, Frédéric Durand and Christophe Sohn, the analysis is developed in view of the increasingly reinforced role of certain cross-border agglomerations in the territorial development processes of several cross-border regions in which they are located. The authors take the case-study of Luxembourg to conclude their analysis.

The second section debates current mainstream policies focusing in supporting border regions and specifically border cities in the EU, North America and the UK, each one with a dedicated chapter. The first (chapter 4) is written by Bernard Reitel, Pauline Pupier, and Birte Wassenberg, and reviews past and current European policies for border cities. In this context, the authors address European territorial cooperation policies and programmes mainly implemented via the support from EU Cohesion Policy (Interreg-A programmes). The analysis is complemented with the presentation of the case-studies of Strasbourg-Kehl and the Upper Rhine cross-border region. The following chapter (5), written by Francisco Lara-Valencia and Lawrence A. Herzog, presents a reflection on the United States (US) cross-border policies supporting border cities, as well as their space and identity. Again, it concludes with the presentation of an overall panorama of the US-Mexico border cities. The last (6) chapter of this section considers a novel EU external border area: the UK-Ireland border, as a direct result of the Brexit process. Here, the author (Anthony Soares - Director at the Centre for Cross Border Studies - CCBS), provides a critical review of the pre-Brexit policy context for cross-border cooperation, which is complemented with a more detailed analysis of the cross-border cooperation processes between border cities on the island of Ireland.

Finally, a third section presents a wealth of updated knowledge, based on the analysis of six concrete case studies: border cities from both Europe (north, south, east and west), and North America. These chapters follow a similar structure. They start by presenting an historical and geographical overview of the analysed border cities and the respective cross-border area(s). This is followed by the examination of the cross-border processes and territorial development trends of the analysed case-studies. With this in mind, chapter 7 is written by Jean Peyrony (Director General of Mission Operationnelle Transfrontaliere – MOT) and his colleagues, Aurélien Biscuit, Thibault Devillard and Jean Rubio. It provides concrete examples of French border cities and their contribution to territorial development trends in French cross-border regions. Chapter 8, written by Martin Klatt, examines the territorial development trends in German-Danish border cities. Chapter 9 then deals with eastern European border regions, by reviewing the territorial development trends in Hungarian border cities. Again, the chapter is written by X, the Secretary General of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI), and two colleagues, Mátyás Jaschitz and James Scott.

Chapter 10 introduces the analysis of border cities to a south European cross-border region: Portugal-Spain. In addition, the authors (Eduardo Medeiros and Pedro Neto) add the case-study of the Eurocity Elvas-Badajoz. The last two chapters (11 and 12) conclude the third section by respectively presenting the case-studies of the USA-Canada border cities (written by Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly) and the USA-Mexico border cities (written by Sergio Peña).

As seen, the book chapters are written by some of the most renowned authors in this field, scholars from several European and North America countries, as well as the secretary generals/directors of four border regions entities (AEBR, MOT, CESCO and CCBS). As a result, the book will thoroughly prepare students and provide knowledge to academics and policymakers in the fields of urban and regional planning and development studies, human geography, economic development, border regions and EU policies and policy impacts. As far as we know, there is no similar book in the market with the proposed approach, although there are several books with a general overview of border regions and cross-border cooperation processes and policies. Moreover, this book is unique in covering case-studies of border cities on two continents (Europe and North America), thus providing a comparable analysis and policy practices which can be replicated on both sides of the Atlantic.