

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Included in the 20th APDR (Portuguese Association for Regional Development) Congress 2014, which will take place at University of Évora, Portugal, July 10-11 (<http://www.apdr.pt/congresso/2014/index.html>) we are organizing a Special Session (SS04) focused on the “25 years of cross-border cooperation between Portugal and Spain (1989-2014) (Using past experiences to improve future mutual collaborations)”.

When Portugal and Spain entered the present European Union (UE), in 1986, a new paradigm of territorial cooperation between both Iberian countries began to take place. In simple terms, the long-term historical institutional separation led to the consolidation of the barrier effect along the Portuguese-Spanish border area, in all its dimensions (institutional, economic, sociocultural, infra-structural, environmental, etc.) with minor exceptions. However, from that moment on (1986), this barrier has been significantly reduced, mainly due to the EU financial support to cross-border cooperation projects (INTERREG and Territorial Cooperation programmes). But the question remains: are these results sustainable over time, or a sudden cut in the EU allocations to cross-border cooperation in ‘Raia Ibérica’ could provoke an undesirable setback in the achievements made so far?

The aim of this session is to assess the cross-border cooperation process in the Portuguese-Spanish border area, in a wide set of collaboration dimensions (e.g. political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, etc.), and to discuss the key-steps needed to deepen this cooperation, in the context of the next EU Cohesion Policy financial framework (for more information, please access: <http://www.apdr.pt/congresso/2014/abstractpaper-submission.html>).

We invite academics, researchers, politicians and practitioners to submit an abstract (max. 400 words indicating title, author(s) and the corresponding author, affiliations and emails, four keywords) to this Special Session. The deadline is March 30, 2014. Abstracts are accepted in Portuguese, Spanish or English. Authors will receive the notification of acceptance until April 14, 2014.

We are looking for options to publish a special number of an academic journal or a book with selected papers presented at the conference.

Please send your contributions to the organizers, Iva Pires (CEG, U. Lisboa e Cesnova, UNL) [im.pires@fcsh.unl.pt](mailto:im.pires@fcsh.unl.pt) and Eduardo Medeiros (CEG-IGOT, U. Lisboa) [emedeiros@campus.ul.pt](mailto:emedeiros@campus.ul.pt), or to [apdr.evora.ct@gmail.com](mailto:apdr.evora.ct@gmail.com).

Kind regards,

Iva Pires & Eduardo Medeiros

Special Session Organizers