

Complexities of data collection and analysis in a cross-border context

The availability of harmonised, accessible data for cross-border analysis remains a significant challenge for professional organisations and academic researchers. Issues such as data access rights, inconsistent national data collection methodologies, and the absence of key data make it difficult to monitor cross-border processes effectively. This constitutes a complex problem affecting various aspects of the lives of one-third of the EU's population living in border areas.

To fully understand border region dynamics, both harmonised national data and specific local data for border areas are required. By understanding and analysing the data we can get closer to simplifying the processes on the border and solving the difficulties in the border regions.

Currently, successful data collection and harmonisation initiatives exist across Europe, but they tend to cover limited geographic areas or operate with overly broad datasets, insufficient for local analysis. Potential solutions include establishing networks, developing comprehensive EU regulations, involving market actors, and encouraging civil engagement.

Consequently, to solve this complex issue the close cooperation of various actors such as national and local governments, statistical agencies, private transport and telecommunication companies, universities, EGTCs etc. on several levels is needed.