



# doing democracy

connecting academia and civil society across borders

**Dr. Peter Ulrich, University of Potsdam,  
Institute of Local Government Studies**

## Political Participation | Community Building

*Delete the topic(s) that are non-applicable to your organization.*



### Short (Research) Profile & Mission

Abstract of book: This policy analysis examines geopolitical and sociocultural bordering practices in Europe's cross-border regions and their impact on civil society participation and governance in state peripheries. The normative hope of democratisation and the legitimisation of European politics in European Union border regions are connected with a greater degree of cross-border citizen engagement in Euroregional institutions and politics. Using the example of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, this study analyses and compares four cross-border Euroregional case studies: Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino, Galicia-North Portugal, SaarMoselle and the planned German-Polish TransOderana EGTC.

### Current (Research) Project

- Project Title: "Cross-Border Public Services Berlin-Szczecin. Governance Network in the Areas of Health and Mobility Along the Upgraded Railway Line"
- Team: BTU Cottbus (Chair of Regional Planning); University of Potsdam (Institute of Local Government Studies)
- Project duration: 2022-2024, follow-up project in 2025

### Current (Research) Project

- Project Title: "Innovative Municipality: Co-creative, Cross-Border, and Participatory Approaches to Improving the Quality of Life for Seniors"
- Team: University of Potsdam (Institute of Local Government Studies)
- Planned project start: 2027

### Questions to Academia

- How can civil society and citizen engagement in peripheral regions and municipalities be theoretically enhanced and empirically „measured“ in cross-border territories?
- Which effects does citizen and civil society participation in cross-border governance in EU transborder regions achieve?

### Questions to Civil Society

- How can citizens and civil society be actively engaged in cross-border governance within EU transborder regions?
- Which are - from the perspective of the civil society - the best formats and instruments to engage citizens and civil society in a short- and long-term range in cross-border governance?
- What can be improved?

### Questions to (Political) Decision-Makers

- Which kind of instruments or formats work best to involve citizens and civil society in EU cross-border governance?
- What are the effects of citizen and civil society participation?
- What can be improved?

### Contact

Dr. Peter Ulrich

University of Potsdam

Institute of Local Government Studies

[peter.ulrich@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:peter.ulrich@uni-potsdam.de)

