

# XBORDER – WORK: tackling administrative issues that hinder free movement of workers

*Partners: Regione autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, Zavod Republike Slovenije za zaposlovanje*

## The Territory

The Italy – Slovenia border area goes from the border with Austria to the North until the Adriatic Sea in the South, with the border extending for 232km. Conventionally, the area encompasses the provinces of Trieste, Gorizia, Udine and Pordenone in Italy and the entire Western part of Slovenia, counting approximately 2 million inhabitants in total. The area belongs to the wealthiest regions of both countries, with a combined GDP per capita of €27.000.



## The Identified Obstacle

The area sees an increasing amount of cross border workers who are residents in one country but live in another. This phenomenon has increased since Slovenia's accession in the EU on the 1st of May 2004, and even more after Slovenia's access into the Schengen Area on the 21st of December 2007. Although the legislation concerning double taxation, residency etc. is straightforward, its practical implementation is far from optimal. This sometimes leads to over taxation of individuals, limitations to the access of social security benefits by cross-border workers, and implies cumbersome bureaucratic procedures to avoid double taxation.

## The Proposed Solution

The *b-solutions* project XBORDER WORK aims at creating a bilingual form through which the cross-border worker can share data concerning his/her income in one country and report it to the tax authorities and social security services in the other. The form shall be agreed upon by the relevant authorities in both countries. This solution will be relatively easy to implement in the area, with a low cost for its introduction. The introduction of a paper form will avoid difficulties related to amending governments' IT systems, requires minimum training and by being completely bilingual it eliminates the language barriers.