The theme addresses the idea of increasing international competitiveness of the region of South Limburg. This is envisaged through the spatial strategy of cross – border partnerships and initiatives and creating a robust trans – boundary urban system which capitalizes on the region’s existing potentials. The region includes the cities of Maastricht in The Netherlands and surrounded by medium and small sized cities of Hasselt (Belgium), Aachen (Germany) and Liege (Belgium). It experiences cross – border movements for non – daily activities including shopping, culture and recreation. However, because of the cross – border resistance in housing and labor markets and education sectors, it does not operate as a Daily Urban System (DUS). By enhancing the potentials of the education and research sectors, it also needs to be a phased strategy to brand the region which is working in nature, industry or nature etc. There needs to be a conscious of the in – between to come up with appropriate strategies for a poly centric cross – border urban systems. Multi – use urban landscapes can give rise to new typologies for living, working and leisure. For example, living in the forest, working in nature, industry or nature etc. There also needs to be a phased strategy to brand the area by making it more attractive, increasing specialities and create an atmosphere which is unique to a border region.

The workshop emphasized on the idea of borderscapes. There needs to be a conscious of the in – between to come up with appropriate strategies for a poly centric cross – border urban systems. Multi – use urban landscapes can give rise to new typologies for living, working and leisure. For example, living in the forest, working in nature, industry or nature etc. There also needs to be a phased strategy to brand the area by making it more attractive, increasing specialities and create an atmosphere which is unique to a border region.

There should be a shift in national narratives and reimagining the borders. A strategy of urban management and strategic demand should serve as indicators for achieving functional and spatial coherences.