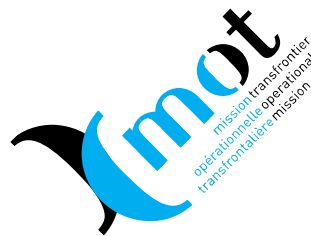


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# CROSS BORDER NEWS



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## The MOT workshop at the Open Days



The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Open Days, the European week of Regions and Cities, took place from 8 to 11 October 2012 in Brussels, bringing together more than 5600 persons from all over Europe. José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission, declared that the cohesion policy is needed more than ever. A number of workshops\* covered European territorial cooperation and the European groupings of territorial cooperation (EGTC), for example the Committee of the Regions EGTC Platform workshop on "New groupings, better performances". The MOT had a strong presence throughout the week. In particular, it organised a workshop on "Building cross-border territories by using tools for integrated local development: good practices and future developments in the 2014-2020 period". Agata Kotkowska of the European Commission presented the new instruments for integrated territorial investment (ITI) and

community-led local development (CLLD)\*\*. The representatives of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis (FR-BE), the Espace Mont Blanc (FR-CH-IT) and the Pons Danubii EGTC (HU-SK) presented their experiences and welcomed the new instruments, which still need fine-tuning. The European Commission announced that it is preparing a guide to their implementation and that it is encouraging their incorporation into cross-border cooperation programmes. Synergies between cooperation programmes and regional programmes are expected. According to Jean Peyrony, general director of MOT, many cross-border territories could benefit from these instruments, and everyone involved is invited to take action at their level to implement them. He was pleased that the European Union is now clearly taking territorial cohesion into account in the programming of the regional policy.

\* The workshop presentations: [www.opendays.eu](http://www.opendays.eu) -> Library  
\*\* See article on page 3

## First European Cooperation Day

The week of 21 September 2012 was a milestone in the communication of European Territorial Cooperation. For the first time ever European Cooperation Day was celebrated with more than 280 events taking place in 35 European countries. Almost all cross-border programmes participated in the campaign which had the motto "Sharing borders, growing closer". The initiative was coordinated by the INTERACT Programme in collaboration with the European Commission, and was supported by the Committee of the Regions and the European Parliament. Directed at a broad audience,

the events reflected great diversity and creativity including cross-border races, children's theatre, photography contests, nature hikes, or a cross-border underground concert to name but a few. "The development of cross-border cooperation is very important in times of crisis. I am therefore very happy that the achievements of cooperation between European regions have been honoured through this campaign," said MEP Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid at European Cooperation Day's kick-off at the European Parliament.

[www.ecday.eu](http://www.ecday.eu)



Regional Policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn, with MEPs Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid and Riikka Manner, at the Cooperation Day kick-off event.

# EVENTS

## OCTOBER

- **Conference: "Cross-border territories, regional and national policies: what coordination for 2014-2020?"**  
Final conference of the MOT Europ'act project, 24 October 2012 in Paris

## NOVEMBER

- **AEBR annual conference - Cross-border labour market mobility**, 8 and 9 November 2012 in Berlin
- **European conference on "Metropolitan border regions in Europe"**, 19 and 20 November 2012 in Luxembourg-City
- **33<sup>rd</sup> national conference of urban planning agencies**, 19 to 21 November 2012 in Bordeaux
- **Channel Forum 2012: "Longing to learn about the results of maritime projects implemented within the Channel area?"**, 21 and 22 November 2012 in Southampton
- **Scientific and practice-sharing forum: Cross-border mobilisation and participation in health promotion**, 22 and 23 November 2012 in Laon

## DECEMBER

- **European seminar on observation of cross-border territories**  
MOT-FNAU-DATAR-ADUAN  
10 December 2012 in Nancy

Further information and other events at <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu>.

## The NOSTRA project, for cross-border governance of Europe's straits



Cap du Blanc-Nez on the Dover Strait

Because straits, at once links between two seas and borders between two territories, are specific spaces, the Pas-de-Calais department council and Kent County Council launched the European Straits Initiative. This partnership, formalised on 23 November 2010 by the signature of a memorandum of understanding bringing together the local authorities on the shores of eight straits in Europe, has a dual aim: gaining recognition of the particular characteristics of straits by the European institutions, and encouraging the development of cooperation projects.

NOSTRA (Network Of STRAits) is the first project resulting from this initiative. Fifteen local authorities on the shores of eight straits in Europe\* and a Rumanian research institute are participants in the project.

NOSTRA aims to analyse the methods of cross-border governance for managing these binational territories so as to preserve their natural heritage. Preservation of biodiversity has been identified as the nodal point of all the issues that the partners have to deal with.

Straits concentrate several issues that have to be tackled in a cross-border context: transport and maritime safety, tourism, economic development, environment. Nevertheless, each strait is trying to face up to these issues with its own tools. Three straits have set up binational entities; others have signed conventions or

agreements. A series of meetings, workshops and seminars is to take place on each of the straits between now and 2014 for sharing good practices.

The project, with the Pas-de-Calais department as lead partner, receives 75% of its funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INTERREG IVC programme:

"The project is intended to contribute to developing better management of the Dover Strait", explains Dominique Dupilet, president of the Pas-de-Calais department council, "in particular regarding environmental aspects. It

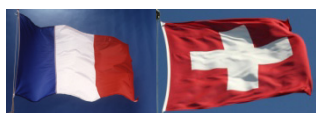
should highlight existing initiatives on the coast and enable them to benefit from the examples of the project partners, confronted with similar issues."

\* Kvarken (Finland-Sweden), Strait of Otranto (Italy-Albania), Fehmarn Belt (Germany-Denmark), Gulf of Finland (Finland-Estonia), Strait of Bonifacio (France-Italy), Strait of Sicily (Italy-Tunisia), Strait of Messina (Italy) and Dover Strait (France-England).



[www.nostraproject.eu](http://www.nostraproject.eu)

## French-Swiss border workers and free choice of health insurance



On the French-Swiss border, some 137,000 persons living in France travel every day to the other side of the border to work in Switzerland. Since 2002, these border workers have been able to choose the system of either of the two countries for their health insurance. However, an article in the press on 21 September

announced that "border workers who work in Switzerland and who have opted for private insurance in France will have to contribute to the French national health insurance scheme (CMU) from 2013", instead of from 31 May 2014 as initially stipulated by the Bilateral Agreements. This measure was intended to contribute 400 million euros to the French budget for 2013. In the face of the outcry the announcement caused, the government has finally extended the deadline to the initial date of

31 May 2014. Analysis by the GTE\*: "In principle, European community law stipulates that workers must receive health care in their country of work, which means that border workers in Switzerland should all be affiliated to the LaMal scheme. However, when the European regulation between the EU and Switzerland came into effect in 2002, Switzerland had negotiated with the EU the introduction of the right of option between the Swiss and French systems, which was

accepted by France at the request of the border workers. These workers have no wish to contribute in Switzerland, as in most cases this choice is disadvantageous for them. At the time, and again at the request of the border workers, France introduced an internal derogation allowing border workers to choose between affiliation to the CMU and to private insurance schemes."

\* Groupement transfrontalier européen  
[www.frontalier.org](http://www.frontalier.org)



## Two new instruments for the cohesion policy

**In the new cohesion policy 2014-2020, local development and territorial integration of projects are raised to the rank of priorities.**

The regulations proposed by the Commission put forward two implementation instruments which go beyond the logic of single projects in order to support integrated territorial development and generate linkage with the thematic objectives of European programmes. These developments are particularly positive in that the regulations provide for application of these new instruments to cross-border cooperation.

The two instruments are integrated territorial investment (ITI) and community-led local development (CLLD). These integrated territorial development tools can be used to group several individual actions implemented according to a single territorial strategy, and can be funded by several European programmes and funds

at a time. Furthermore, use of these tools demands greater involvement by participants in the field, thereby promoting the local level.

**The ITI** is a new instrument which is neither an individual project nor a sub-priority of an operational programme. It is a tool for implementing a multi-thematic territorial development strategy in a relevant area (neighbourhoods, cities, metropolitan regions, peri-urban areas, inter-regional areas, functional areas including cross-border territories), which is incorporated into the programmes and management of which may be delegated to intermediary bodies.

**The CLLD** is a bottom-up approach, based on LEADER experience, which funds integrated and multi-sectoral local development strategies. These strategies, taking into consideration local potential and needs, are implemented by local action groups (LAG), composed



of local communities and public and private local stakeholders, on sub-regional territories.

The ETC regulation stipulates that, in the cross-border context, these two instruments can be managed by EGTCs or equivalent bodies.

The two tools, ITI and CLLD, have substantial potential for improving the impact of cooperation programmes in cross-border territories.

.....  
**On the Info regio website:**

**The ITI factsheet:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/iti\\_fr.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/iti_fr.pdf)

**The CLLD factsheet:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/od2012/doc/community\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2012/doc/community_en.pdf)

## Networking of border statistics institutes



On 2 October the DATAR hosted the first technical meeting between national, regional and federal statistics institutes and services from the countries bordering France. It was the occasion to present the results of the FNAU-MOT study on the observation of cross-border territories, to lay the foundations of a working group on the topic and to prepare the seminar in Nancy (see below). The seminar is planned to produce a declaration signed by the attending states on the observation of cross-border territories as a vector of European territorial cohesion.

### **Save the date:**

The MOT, the DATAR and the FNAU, in partnership with the Grand Nancy urban community, are organising the first European seminar on observation of cross-border territories, on 10 December 2012 in Nancy.

## Continuation of the article from page 1 ... a networking event at the Open Days

The workshops of the MOT and the Committee of the Regions EGTC Platform were followed by a joint networking event attended by approximately a hundred persons. The informal event was an opportunity to continue the discussions initiated during the respective workshops. The Hungarian EGTCs and the CESCO (Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives) highlighted their activities around a buffet of Hungarian specialties. The MOT presented the EGTCs on the French borders. A new photograph of the

representatives of the European EGTCs was taken on this occasion.



The representatives of the EGTCs in Europe

## Conference in Oradea

An international conference on "Cross-border cooperation: tools for a new dynamic" was organised in Oradea, Rumania, by the CESCO, Oradea city council, INFH and the French ministry of foreign affairs, with support from the MOT. Highlighting the need to move from an approach based on individual projects to an approach based on institutionalised cooperation, the event brought together a large number of Hungarian, Rumanian and French stakeholders to share experiences and encourage this change. The MOT presented contributions at two plenary sessions.

# PRESS REVIEW

## ▲ Cohesion policy - Structural funds: The CoR president issues a warning

Europe Information Service, 27 September

"We cannot ignore solidarity", commented Committee of the Regions (CoR) president Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, regarding the expenditure for the structural funds, following his meeting with regional policy commissioner Johannes Hahn on 25 September."

## ▲ Michel Barnier presents four drivers of growth for the Single Market Act II

Euractiv, 4 October

"On Wednesday (3 October), the European Commission presented the Single Market Act II to improve the functioning of the single market and to support growth and job creation in Europe."

## ▲ STRASBOURG-ORTENAU

DNA, 28 September

"Interview of Eurodistrict president Frank Scherer: 'We must involve the citizens' - Elected in March to the head of the Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau, Frank Scherer is working towards an objective: make it a less abstract entity."

## ▲ New: Guide on cross-border cultural cooperation

<http://www.eurodistrict-regio-pamina.com>, October

"The EURODISTRICT REGIO PAMINA has published a new guide on cross-border cultural cooperation."

## ▲ The future of the Rhine takes shape

Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace, 27 September

"At the confluence of the three countries, the Rhine is taking on a new look. While the German, Swiss and French authorities have confirmed the 3land urban project, a cycle trail along the Rhine is taking shape at the foot of the Campus Novartis. An excursion by boat for the elected representatives and works for a cycle trail: the transformation of the banks of the Rhine, between Basle, Huningue and Weil am Rhein, is off to a low-key start."

## ▲ Meeting of Upper Rhine spatial and urban planners

DNA, 29 September

"ADEUS, the Strasbourg conurbation development and urban planning agency, is organising a meeting of Upper Rhine spatial and urban planners on Tuesday, 16 October. This meeting is a contribution to the construction of a larger-scale vision of the cross-border territories."

## ▲ "It's in the interest of the Genevans to build housing"

Le Messenger, 4 October

"Geneva State councillor David Hiler has admitted that the canton will not be able to build the promised 2,500 housing units per year. According to Antoine Vielliard, general councillor with responsibility for cross-border matters, this imperils all French-Swiss cooperation. Does the admission surprise you? Yes, because this undertaking was given three months ago and it is a demand made by the Genevans themselves, who can no longer find a place to live in their own canton."

## ▲ Interreg: The Perla project for a more accessible town

Corse Matin, 28 September

"Started in April 2010, the Interreg Perla project aiming to improve access to public places for persons with handicaps and reduced mobility is nearing its end."

## ▲ Cooperation: a chance for businesses

Réussir le Périgord, 28 September

"Expand beyond your home ground, develop cross-border alliances to acquire skills and boost exports: discussion topics covered during the Aquitaine economy day on 20 September in Gradignan. Since 2004, the three chambers of the Aquitaine region (commerce and industry, craft, agriculture) spend a day discussing the opportunities opening up for their businesses."

## EGTCs with Hungarian participation

Since the European community regulation on the EGTC came into effect, 29 EGTCs have been formed in Europe, 10 of them involving Hungary.

The CESCO (Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives) in Hungary has published a brochure presenting these 10 EGTCs and giving a brief analysis of the work they have accomplished.

The CESCO was established in Hungary in 2009, modelled on the MOT. They are both partners in the Budapest Platform\*, which networks national support structures for cross-border cooperation in Europe.

Download the brochure in English: [click here](#). Further information: [www.cesci-net.eu](http://www.cesci-net.eu)

\* Alongside the Netherlands Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Galicia/North Portugal and Castile-and-León/North Portugal working communities (Spain/Portugal border).

[www.budapestplatform.eu](http://www.budapestplatform.eu)

## Snapshot

of EGTCs with Hungarian participation



(2012)

## CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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