

Seminar on cross-border observation

"Observation is an indispensable preliminary to any political action" affirmed André Rossinot, former minister, mayor of Nancy¹, opening the first European seminar on the observation of cross-border territories. Organised by the MOT, the FNAU and the DATAR in Nancy on 10 December², it was attended by 180 participants in the presence of Karl-Heinz Lambertz, minister-president of the German-speaking Community of Belgium, president of the AEBR.

"How can we ignore the border territories?" asked Patrick Crézé, director, deputy head of the DATAR, "they account for 20% of French territory and have a population of ten million persons". In this context, the seminar was an opportunity to present the work done by the MOT and the FNAU for the DATAR over more than two years to set up long-

term knowledge management tools in order to understand cross-border processes. From 2013, the results of this work will be used to introduce a cross-border strand into the DATAR's "Observatoire des Territoires" (territorial observatory). In order to go further and clear the way for effective cross-border statistical monitoring at European level, the attending representatives of the various Member States want to set up a strategy committee on the observation of cross-border territories as a forum for dialogue between the countries on their national monitoring approaches.

[Further information](#) - See the article on page 3.

¹ Also president of the Grand Nancy urban community, the Lorraine Corridor, and vice-president of the MOT and the FNAU.

² At the invitation of Nancy city council and in partnership with the three urban development agencies of the Lorraine Corridor (ADUAN, AGAPE and AGURAM).



Metropolitan border regions

Cross-border regions with potential for growth and innovation play a special role in the network of European urban and metropolitan regions. The German "Cross-Border Metropolitan Regions" Initiative (IMeG) has recognised this fact and supports, together with its members¹, the

interests of metropolitan border regions within a Demonstration Project of Spatial Planning (MORO)². The significance of "metropolitan border regions"³ in Europe has been highlighted in various presentations and panel discussions on the IMeG's conference held in Luxembourg on 19th and 20th November 2012. Success factors for cross-border governance and good examples for territorial strategies and projects e.g. in the Öresund Region (DK/SE), Eurométropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai (FR/BE), Grand-Genève (FR/BE) and in the CENTROPE (AT/CZ/HU/SK) have revealed the added value of an active cross-border cooperation.

"Working together" has been the motto of the final discussion in which Jean Peyrony, director general of the MOT, invited the IMeG to continue its work and to reinforce the cooperation with other cross-border structures like CECICN⁴.

¹ The German parts of the Euregio Maas-Rhine, the Greater Region, the Trinational Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine and the Lake Constance region

² MORO is a research programme of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS), supervised by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) in the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR).

³ Metropolitan border regions are characterised by a polycentric spatial structure, cross-border linkages and governance structures as well as metropolitan locational factors.

⁴ www.cecicn.eu

www.metropolitane-grenzregionen.eu



EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MOT IN 2013

The **General Assembly of MOT** in 2013 will be held in Strasbourg on 24th and 25th April, at the invitation of the Urban Community of Strasbourg, member of the MOT network.

Other MOT events in 2013

Regional conference presenting the MOT study: "The benefits of cooperation with Italy for the PACA border territories", organised by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council 24 January 2013 in Marseille

Second seminar on renewable energies

MOT working group
First quarter of 2013

Seminar on "Businesses and cross-border economic development" (MOT)

First half of 2013

Seminars on cross-border operational arrangements (MOT)

Between May and October 2013
on the French borders

The Channel area: fair winds for maritime projects



Nearly 100 maritime organisations attended the conference of the European Interreg IVA France (Manche) - England programme on 21 and 22 November 2012 to hear about the results of more than 40 projects implemented in the Channel area.

The Channel is one of the busiest seas in the world. This places it at the heart of a number of challenges and opportunities, from management of risks relating to shipping traffic through protection of the natural heritage and development of marine renewable energies to the management of marine resources and coastal areas.

This vast arm of the sea is consequently the focus of a number of cross-border cooperation actions (Interreg IVA France (Manche) - England

and 2 Seas programmes), as well as transnational and inter-regional collaborations (Interreg IVB North-West Europe and Atlantic Area, Interreg IVC, Life + and FP7 programmes).

Practical cooperation

Soundly-based expertise on the Channel area has been developed by **CHARM3** and **MARINEXUS** through the sharing of mapping data and through inventories of data relating to the activities in the Channel. Solutions for the long-term management of dredging sediments are being studied with the collaboration of several ports within the **SETARMS** framework. The **CAMIS** (Channel Arc Manche Integrated Strategy) maritime portal, the **CHAIN** B-to-B meetings and the market opportunities offered by **DEEDS**

favour exchanges between businesses of the marine industry and are three practical responses to a difficult economic situation. Lastly, the **LICCO** and **MEDON** projects bring together the citizens of the Channel area and raise their awareness through exhibitions on sea bed monitoring and on the coastal impacts of climate change.

The conference "Maritime projects: Heading for results!" established a number of synergies between maritime projects and protagonists, with a view to capitalising on experiences for the 2014-2020 programming period.

www.interreg4a-manche.eu

To obtain the catalogue of the maritime projects implemented in the Channel area: [click here](#).

IN BRIEF

Lyon-Turin link

At the French-Italian summit in Lyon on 3 December, the French and Italian leaders confirmed the go-ahead for the high-speed railway line between Lyon and Turin. Gérard Collomb, president of Grand Lyon, remarked on this occasion "it's ecological to remove lorries from the Alpine valleys, and it's necessary to link the two major economic centres of Rhône-Alpes and Piedmont-Lombardy."

The Greater Region grows up

"How are we doing, after 40 years of cross-border cooperation?" That was the title of a conference organised in Luxembourg on 29 and 30 November by the Forum EUROPA foundation and the CEPS/INSTEAD. This meeting, attended by 150 participants, was placed under the patronage of MEP Nathalie Griesbeck and the Luxembourg minister of the Interior and for the Greater Region, Jean-Marie Halsdorf. Two topics were examined: the employment market and the institutional landscape.

Other presentations included several networks of cities and municipalities, the German-Luxembourg high school in Schengen, and the concept of a "cross-border polycentric metropolitan region", which is intended to bring more consistent development to the central area of the Greater Region. The results will be published in electronic form.

Further information:
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The Commission improves the EURES network

On 26 November, the Commission adopted a decision aiming to improve the EURES jobseeker mobility assistance network. The decision will increase the mobility of workers between the Member States and strengthen an integrated labour market at European level.

The more than 600,000 persons who live in one European Union country and work in another are confronted with different national practices and legal systems.

In this context, the EURES system plays a very important role in the cross-border regions, where the number of persons commuting across the border is considerable.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1262_fr.htm

Study on statistical observation of cross-border territories



For more than two years, the MOT and the FNAU have been working in partnership with the DATAR on the statistical observation of cross-border territories. A study covering ten cross-border sites* has been conducted within this framework.

This work has:

- identified priority topics for understanding the operation of cross-border areas, and expressed them in indicators,
- defined a methodology for acquiring and processing the statistical data, making them comparable and harmonising them (resulting in the production of a hundred maps),
- produced an overall analysis of the ten sites and an indicator-by-indicator analysis in order to compare their operation,
- used the indicators to analyse and understand the specific operation of these territories with substantial development issues,

- produced recommendations for networking the statistical institutes in the border areas,

- involved the states neighbouring France in the coordination of the structures concerned,

- raised the European Commission's awareness of this European issue for better knowledge of these areas where the Member States come together.

The study has established a sound baseline of data and geographical networks, as well as a permanent protocol for data acquisition, from the data producer up to national level. These elements constitute the baseline which will be available on the website of the DATAR "Observatoire des Territoires" from 2013.

The main observations

- a large diversity of integration of the territories according to the geographical characteristics of the border,

- territories whose territorial operation is in certain respects of a conventional kind, despite the presence of a border,

- areas which, in many fields, operate in the same way as the national territory of which they are part,

- cross-border territories that draw benefit from the border as much as they suffer from it, for example in economic terms,

- French demographic growth with many young job-seekers, whose training must be adapted to the labour needs on the other side of the border,

- cross-border metropolitanisation processes related to the presence of a major urban centre on one side of the border.

** Dunkirk-Western Flanders, Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai, Luxembourg, Lorraine Corridor, Strasbourg, Basle, Geneva, Nice, Catalan Area, Basque Country.*

Seminar documents at:
www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

Launch of a parliamentary group on cross-border issues

Gilles Pargneaux and Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, border territory MEPs, set up a networking group on cross-border issues on 27 November 2012 at the European Parliament. Jean Peyrony, MOT director-general and CECICN executive director, took part in this inaugural event.

The group will meet at regular intervals to discuss the major European affairs, such as the European transport networks, the Connecting Europe Facility and worker mobility, from a cross-border perspective.

"The border regions require particular attention. They must act as a magnifying glass for us to analyse the advances of the internal market and the progress of European integration," declared Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid.

"However, the Member States are threatening to reduce the credits allocated to European cross-border cooperation by 20%. This is a very bad signal! We are mobilising to maintain an ambitious budget," stressed the MEP at the launch meeting.



PRESS REVIEW

Property, transport, social work: the boom in cross-border work is shaking up the territories

Les Echos, 11 December

"350,000 French employees cross the border every day. A study shows the benefits and the perverse effects of these flows."

Marylise Lebranchu: 'The decentralisation of European funds is untouchable'

Euractiv, 6 December

"Promised by François Hollande, the transfer of the management of structural funds to the regions is encountering a number of obstacles. Involved in this dossier, the minister with responsibility for decentralisation assures that the commitment remains intact."

In Alsace and in the Basque Country, the elected representatives vote for the establishment of authorities with special status

Localtis, 26 November

"On 24 November, Alsace's elected representatives voted for the proposed merger of the region and the two departments, while the Basque representatives voted unanimously for a department authority with special status granted 'additional powers'."

Train without borders

DNA, 9 December

"After an interruption of nearly thirty years, passenger traffic resumed this morning on the railway line between Mulhouse and Freiburg im Breisgau. The ribbon cut yesterday in Bantzenheim station by Philippe Richert, Alsace region president, and Silke Krebs, minister of the Land of Baden-Württemberg, wasn't in the red, white and blue of France, but in the colours of Europe."

Trinational energy

Le Monde, 7 December

"Set up at the end of October within the Basle Trinational Eurodistrict, an Energy and Environment working group is to spend a year preparing a cross-border project on the topic of energy. At the level of the municipalities, the elected representatives want to 'supplement the existing mechanisms of trinational cooperation in this field in the Upper Rhine'."

Bonifacio: the international park is taking shape

Le Marin, 7 December

"The Bouches de Bonifacio international marine park has found its legal form: it will be a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). The Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers has validated the commitment of the La Maddalena archipelago national park to take part in it..."

Nursing care: the first institute

Nice Matin, 8 December

"It was by inaugurating the cross-border nursing care training institute (IFSI) that the director of the La Palmosa hospital centre, Catherine Romanens, yesterday morning chose to celebrate ten years of partnership with Imperia's local health agency no.1. A partnership which in 2003 gave birth to the cross-border local perinatal centre..."

The VHV tunnel under the Alpera completed in March 2013

La Clau - Actualité et Société en Catalogne Nord et Sud, 29 November

"The tunnel for the Very High Voltage line between France and Spain through the Alpera massif will be completed in March 2013, with inauguration of the line scheduled in 2014."

The crisis is bringing Balkan neighbours together

Courrier International, 6 December

"Partying in Serbia, shopping in Bulgaria or buying a holiday home in Greece? It's possible despite the crisis, or rather thanks to it. 'For New Year's Eve, the restaurants on the other side of the border with Serbia are already fully booked. And all the customers are Bulgarian', writes the popular daily Standart in Sofia."

The European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation in the Nord-Pas de Calais region

The Nord-Pas-de-Calais Regional Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESER), in plenary session on Tuesday, 13 November, adopted an opinion on "The EGTCs in the Nord-Pas de Calais region: instruments of a new impetus for cross-border cooperation".

Consult:

- the press release:

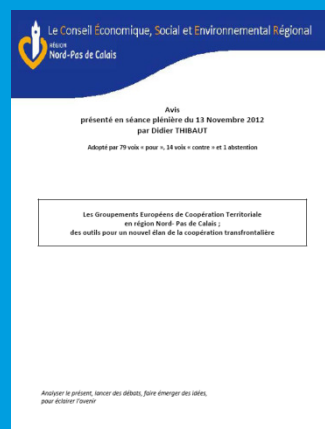
http://www.lenordpasdecalsais.fr/ceser/articles/ART000749/ceser-12-11-13_-_communique_de_presse_du_ceser_-_avis_les_gect_en_region_npdcc.pdf

- the text of the opinion:

http://www.lenordpasdecalsais.fr/ceser/docsCESR/0000104/2012.11.13_avis_gect_.pdf

- the complete report:

http://www.lenordpasdecalsais.fr/ceser/articles/ART000753/ceser-2012.11.13_-_rapport_gect.pdf



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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Director of publication: Jean Peyrony
Production: Domitille Ayral

Photos: page 1: Ville de Nancy; IMeG -
Page 2: Région Haute-Normandie.

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