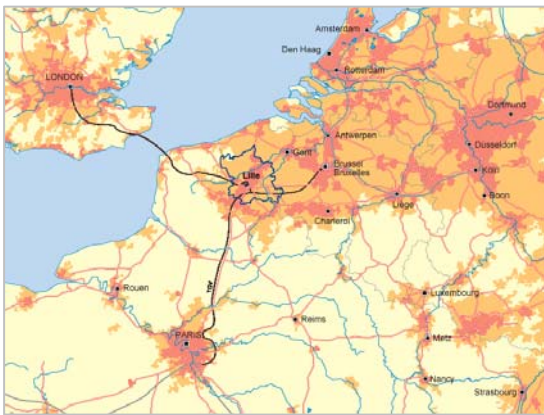


The Eurometropole : a territory with many assets

The creation of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurométropole constitutes an additional stage in the fruitful cross-border cooperation between France and Belgium.

Aware of the common objectives and interests of this territory characterised by a continuity of conurbations polarised around city centres, the stakeholders of the Franco-Belgian urban region have worked together with conviction to develop an area in which the common interest is taken into account for the benefit of the territory's citizen and to promote the European integration through the local cooperation.

In order to respond to the questions posed by the big number of local authorities, the specific nature of the national policies in terms of development and spatial planning, and with the strong will of giving an impulse to a common territory dynamic and implementing a cross-border strategy, the 14 partners have discussed and worked together to define and set up a form of governance adapted to a polycentric, tri-cultural and bi-national urban area.



Located in the heart of North West Europe, in the Brussels-Paris-London triangle, the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropole has over two million inhabitants, living in the Lille Métropole urban area, Southern Flanders and Picardy-Wallonia.

Wishing to go beyond the territorial or language boundaries which, without curbing the rich exchanges – for a long time very strong between the French and the Belgians - constituted brakes on development, the local players decided to turn these brakes into the source of fresh opportunities. It was this strong conviction which gave birth to the Eurométropole project.

Under the impetus of Mr Pierre Mauroy, the former President of Lille Métropole Communauté urbaine, this cross-border space covering an area of 3,550 km² has displayed great determination and dynamism in forming the biggest uninterrupted cross-border conurbation in Europe.

This territory comprises 4 Flemish districts, 3 Walloon districts and a French local authority, Lille Métropole, which gathers 87 municipalities. Thus, the benchmark territory of the Eurometropole is, in France, Lille Métropole Communauté Urbaine and in Belgium, the districts of Mouscron, Tournai and Ath as well as the communes of Lessines, Silly and Enghien in Wallonia, and the districts of Courtrai, Ieper, Roeselare and Tielt in Flanders. A total of 145 communes decided to come together in this ambitious project.

With more than 10 motorways, 2 TGV lines and 2 airports, the Lille-Kortrijk - Tournai Eurométropole is firmly anchored in the heart of the great European and global decision-making centres that are London, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, Luxembourg or Cologne which are linked up to it. That being the case, it can legitimately be considered as a top grade, attractive and innovating place within the European Union.



Many actors and skills brought together within the Eurométropole.

Fourteen players in the territory decided to join forces in the Eurométropole :



On the French side: the State, the Region Nord-Pas-de-Calais, the Département du Nord, Lille Métropole Communauté Urbaine,

On the Belgian side: the federal State, the Flemish Region and Community, the Province of Western Flanders, the Leiedal intercommunal association on behalf of the communes of the District of Courtrai, the wvi, intercommunal association on behalf of the communes of the Districts of Roeselare, Ieper and Tielt, the Walloon Region, the French Community of Belgium, the Province of Hainaut, the Ideta intercommunal association on behalf of the municipalities of the District of Tournai, and the District of Ath and the communes of Lessines, Silly and Enghien, the leg intercommunal association on behalf of the municipalities of the District of Mouscron and the commune of Estaimpuis.

These partners have enabled virtually all the competences possible to be regrouped together within the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurométropole thus facilitating concertation, developing projects or the resolving of any disputes that arise. This diversity of skills constitutes a major strength for Lille Métropole and its partners, both from the standpoint of its legitimacy and the effectiveness of the actions decided.

An effective Eurométropole at the service of its inhabitants.

The Lille-Kortrijk -Tournai Eurométropole is defined as a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), a legal entity created by the European regulation dated 5 July 2006 in order to facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation between its members. This new form of governance thus enables the obstacles to cross-border cooperation to be overcome.



Fortified by its two main assets: its location and its dynamism, the Eurométropole intends to promote and support effective, consistent cross-border cooperation within its territory. As Pierre Mauroy emphasised, « *With the backing of the cohesion policy of the EU, the Eurométropole wants to become an exemplary laboratory and territory for European integration* », the objective of the Eurométropole also being to strengthen the links between the various European conurbations, particularly in the fields of employment, transport, spatial planning, sewage and culture.

To this end it has set itself the following priority assignments:

- ensuring concertation, dialogue and promoting political debate, by bringing together all the competent authorities
- producing cross-border consistency throughout the entire territory
- facilitating, managing and realising projects giving embodiment to the development strategy worked out together
- facilitating the daily life of the inhabitants of the Franco-Belgian metropolis.

Conscious of the cultural particularity of the region, the Lille-Kortrijk -Tournai Eurométropole has adopted two main operating principles:

- observance of the dual parity between France et Belgium then, in Belgium, between French-speaking people and Dutch-speaking people,
- guaranteeing of the application of the French/Dutch bilingualism.

An operational-oriented organisation

The 14 partners of the Eurométropole decided together on a method of operational organisation that will enable effective development of ambitious projects. It was with this objective in mind that they have created a limited number of organs which, thanks to clearly identified competences, will lead to an optimum operation of the whole:

- the Assembly is the deliberating and control body that enables meetings and exchanges within the Franco-Belgian metropolis. It is empowered to approve the annual budget, amend the statutes, appoint the Board and choose the topics for de cooperation. All the levels of responsibility involved in the development of the metropolis are present within the Assembly. Each participating institution appoints its representative(s) within the Assembly, in accordance within the internal rules that govern it.
- The Board is the executive authority, which aims to ensure the direct piloting of the Eurométropole. Operating like a board of directors, the Board constitutes the place of concertation, exchange and deliberation regarding the projects to be implemented. The composition of the Board - restricted to a limited number of members in the interests of efficiency – will respect the criteria of dual parity, presence of all the levels of political responsibility and significant representation of the local political levels.
- the Executive Management Committee, composed of the President and three Vice-President, will also respect the criteria of dual parity, notably through a rotating chairmanship. Since September 2008, Martine Aubry has been elected as President of the Eurometropole. Gilles Pargneaux, Stefaan De Clerck and Rudy Demotte are the three Vice-Presidents.
- Committees or working groups, designated by the Assembly and the Board, will be responsible for studying major topics in order to carry out preparatory work and define a multi-annual action programme.
- A Conference of Mayors will bring together all the mayors and burgomasters of the Eurometropole. Its purpose is to inform the Mayors and Burgomasters of the works and projects of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropole and enable discussion of them at the communal level.
- The Cross-Border Agency is the administrative and technical tool in charge of the programming and follow-up of a multi-annual action plan decided on by the Assembly, the chairing of thematic committees and the technical assistance for the projects decided upon by the Eurométropole. Furthermore, its role is vital in the strategy building process of the cross-border metropolis.

The organisation set up by the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropole is achieved without any transfer of competence in as far as the various organs created cannot take the place of the already existing national components. This being the case, each member will see to it, within their own institution, that the decisions taken are implemented.

The headquarters of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropole are in Lille whereas the operational departments are located in Belgium.

The projected budget comes to approximately one million euros per year, it being understood that the funding of the Eurometropole is shared equally between France and Belgium then between Flanders and Wallonia, and that it is assured by the various participating levels of political responsibility.

The Eurométropole, fruit of intense cross-border cooperation.

The fruit of over fifteen years of cooperation between the various partner entities, the creation of the Lille-Kortrijk -Tournai Eurométropole was made possible by the determination of the players to provide themselves with an original form of governance tailored to their needs.

A wide range of projects realised or to be launch :

- *transport, mobility, town and urban planning*

13 cross-border buslines, cross-border concertation on mobility, cross-border network of cycle tracks and green tracks, new cross-border roads, crossborder survey, etc...



- *employment, economy, enterprising*

exchange of experience in terms of business park quality, economic promotion, cross-border competitiveness centres, cross-border economic observatory, cross-border mapping, etc...



- *water and environment,*

Making the canal Deûle-Escaut navigable once more, Pont Rouge cross-border footbridge, flood expansion zone of the Espierre river, concerted management of the Roubaix Canal and the Espierre, etc...

- *communication, learning, culture, health*

cross-border television, extension of the swimming pool at Comines, cooperation for a cross-border public cremation service, cooperation between the Lille Metropolis Museum of Modern Art and the Grand Hornu Museum of Contemporary Arts, Tourist and cultural promotion of the Eurometropole, etc...

