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- Website of the Swiss Confederation:  
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European Regional Policy website:  
[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/index_en.htm)



INTERREG III A  
Upper Rhine Centre-South



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European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

# INTERREG

Transcending borders  
with every project



**INTERREG**  
**in the Upper Rhine area**

The community initiative which  
supports crossborder projects



INTERREG III A  
Upper Rhine Centre-South



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# INTERREG

## Preface

Since its inception some fifteen years ago, the INTERREG community initiative has been supporting measures that promote crossborder cooperation in the Upper Rhine area between France, Germany and Switzerland.

The third programming phase (2000-2006) has shown highly positive results for the Upper Rhine. The INTERREG PAMINA and Upper Rhine Centre-South programmes have led to the successful completion of some 300 crossborder projects since 1989.

This brochure sets out to give an idea of the diversity, quality and intensity of crossborder contacts and cooperation, which have now become an ongoing process that extends beyond the borders.

The main objectives of the initiative are to achieve a balanced, sustainable development of the region, stimulate discussion on environmental issues, promote mutual understanding and bilingualism, boost economic development and actively involve citizens in the projects.

"With the INTERREG programme, Europe is moving closer to its regions and at the same time to its citizens. The concreate nature of the projects contributes to bring the inhabitants together and reveal the very real benefits of crossborder cooperation."

**Dr. Sven von UNGERN-STERNBERG**

Chairperson of the Upper Rhine Centre-South Monitoring and Steering Committee,  
Regierungspräsident Freiburg im Breisgau

"INTERREG has given a large number of partners in the Upper Rhine area the chance to take a decisive step forward by launching jointly-run, sustainable projects, which will continue to function even when they are no longer financed by European funds."

**Jean-Paul HEIDER**

Chairperson of the Upper Rhine Centre-South Working Group,  
Vice-Président du Conseil Régional d'Alsace

"The hundreds of projects driven by the INTERREG initiative have brought crossborder cooperation to the notice of all the inhabitants of the Upper Rhine. Participation in this programme is of considerable importance, especially for Switzerland, as a country outside the European Union, and North West Switzerland, as an economic and cultural area within the Upper Rhine."

**Urs WÜTHRICH-PELLOLI**

Regierungsrat Kanton Basel-Landschaft

INTERREG programmes have significantly contributed to make the Upper Rhine area a model for Europe, and a region where there a large number of possibilities for crossborder cooperation still exists.

In order to ensure the ability of this Franco-German-Swiss area to continue its joint development, we have to renew the same convictions which drove the successful conclusion of the first three generations of INTERREG programmes, and benefit from this experience to extend the cooperation networks to embrace an even wider scope.

Although the partners within the Upper Rhine area remain separated by national borders, they are united around a common aim: keep on providing backing for new initiatives that will be the driving forces of our future.

"The success of the INTERREG programmes for PAMINA has shown that, with the support of the European Union and through cooperation based on innovative projects, it has been possible to achieve a new height in crossborder cooperation."

**Philippe RICHERT**

Chairperson of the PAMINA Monitoring and Steering Committee,  
Président du Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin

"INTERREG is an exceptional programme for fostering crossborder contacts between citizens and driving investments within the PAMINA region that are of great benefit for the infrastructures."

**Theresia RIEDMAIER**

Chairperson of the PAMINA Working Group,  
Landrätin Landkreis Südliche Weinstrasse



# INTERREG, a European Commission initiative

## Fostering crossborder cooperation in Europe

In the context of the process of European integration, borders should no longer be a hindrance to free circulation or work, to travel or consumption or to education and leisure activities. The European Union set up the INTERREG initiative specifically to promote crossborder cooperation and thereby achieve these aims. INTERREG sets out to provide financial backing for projects designed to draw regions together and facilitate contacts between them.

Within this perspective, border regions are ideally placed to be the drivers for European integration. The projects they develop in cooperation with neighbouring regions and with INTERREG support are significant factors in completing the creation of the internal market, by helping provide economic and social cohesion within the Union and by bringing the notion of the European ideal to all their citizens.



A successful regional project -  
helps move Europe forward !

## INTERREG I, II and III finance projects that turn borders into links

The INTERREG community initiative was launched in the 1980s by the European Commission, under the responsibility of the Regional Policy Directorate General. Regional Policy enjoys the second biggest budget in the European Union, after the Common Agricultural Policy.

Following a pilot phase (1989-90), the programme was extended to cover the whole of the European Union, with INTERREG I (1990-93), followed by INTERREG II (1994-99) and INTERREG III (2000-06). Allocated funds have increased regularly and the latest programming phase has been given 4.9 billion euros by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The visible success of the initiative is the main reason why it has been so willingly pursued.



Credit photo : Martin Bernhart

## INTERREG A, B and C: the three strands for integration

Since 2000, INTERREG has been made up of three strands: INTERREG III A, which has the largest funding, involves crossborder cooperation, both inside and outside the EU. INTERREG III B promotes transnational cooperation between large groups of EU regions while INTERREG III C aims to increase interregional cooperation between non-border regions.

### INTERREG A, crossborder actions close to citizens

In INTERREG strand A, the European Commission provides support for crossborder projects in over 70 programming areas along all European Union borders. These projects offer concrete solutions to local or regional issues and help drive the balanced development of the areas.

Strand A is based on a pragmatic approach, with locally-based, decentralised management and organisation, with substantial involvement of local authorities, which play a crucial role in partnership with the Member State representatives in monitoring and running the programme. This partnership has given rise to a new form of local government.

In the Upper Rhine area, crossborder strand A of INTERREG programmes I, II and III will have received community funding of 97.6 million euros.



INTERREG III A (2004-2006)

- INTERREG III A regions
- Others regions

INTERREG III A encourages crossborder cooperation between Member State regions and also with countries bordering the EU.

# INTERREG in the Upper Rhine area

## A trinational area in the heart of Europe

The Upper Rhine area, where France, Germany and Switzerland share common borders, is of central importance for Europe, in terms of history, culture and economy. Crossborder cooperation, which involves over five million inhabitants, began in the 1960s and has accelerated under the INTERREG initiative.

Over the last fifteen years, the rising number of projects and players involved in crossborder cooperation has demonstrated the immediate and very real impact of the INTERREG initiative in the Upper Rhine.

Within the two programming areas, PAMINA and Upper Rhine Centre-South, INTERREG has provided the backing for some 300 projects to develop within a genuine spirit of partnership.



The Upper Rhine area is in the centre of the "blue banana belt", the backbone of Europe, which contains the EU's highest population and urban concentrations. It also benefits from its geographical homogeneity and its situation as an area where two Member States (France and Germany) share borders with a non-Member State region (Switzerland). Although Switzerland is not part of the European Union, it has been involved in the INTERREG programme since its launching, firstly through the participation of a number of Cantons and, since 1994, through the whole of the Swiss Confederation.



- Borders of the Upper Rhine Centre-South area
- National borders
- Département (F) - Regierungsbezirk (D) - Kanton (CH)
- Arrondissement (F) - Landkreis/Kreisfreie Stadt (D)



## A fundamentally European area

With Eastern France, South-West Germany and North-East Switzerland, the Upper Rhine contains national territories that are central to Europe. Based on a skilled, often bilingual workforce, a balanced economic structure, good communication and transport facilities and attractive cultural and tourist features mean, the potential of the Upper Rhine area has to be pointed up.

- 5.8 million inhabitants
- 270 inhabitants / km<sup>2</sup>
- 2 million active workers
- 94 000 crossborder workers
- 21 500 km<sup>2</sup> surface area

### The Upper Rhine area

The Upper Rhine, an area surrounded by the Vosges to the West, the Black Forest to the East and the Jura to the South, has been actively involved in crossborder cooperation for over 40 years, a process that has been boosted by the three INTERREG programmes.

Source: UPPER RHINE Statistical data 2004



SIG-ESP-1512

Réalisation: Région Alsace / SIG

Données: Région Alsace

Fond de carte: Région Alsace

Mai 2004

The following pages concern only INTERREG strand A (crossborder cooperation).

## Leading the way in crossborder cooperation

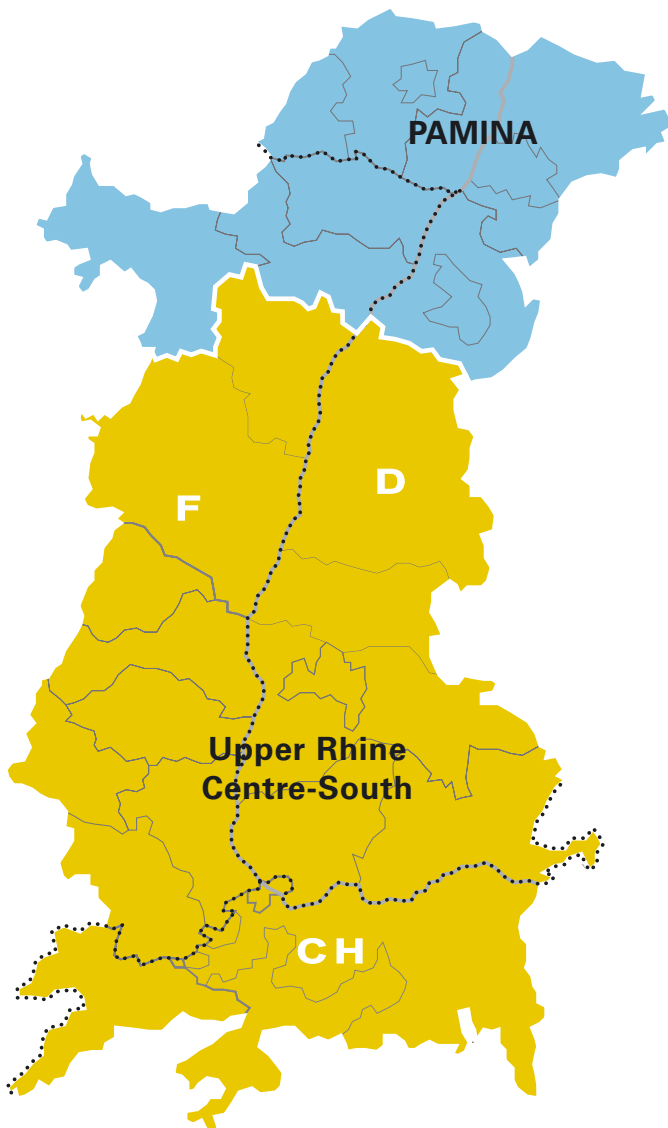
Crossborder cooperation took root in the Upper Rhine area less than twenty years after the end of the Second World War. From initiatives related to the opening of the binational Basel-Mulhouse airport to the launching of the European Commission's INTERREG community initiative, cooperation has steadily developed to reach today a level that reflects its effectiveness. INTERREG has provided the impetus for raising cooperation to new levels.

## Milestones in crossborder cooperation in the Upper Rhine area



## Two programming areas: PAMINA and Upper Rhine Centre-South

The Upper Rhine area is involved in two INTERREG programmes: PAMINA and Upper Rhine Centre-South. Each of the programmes brings locally-tailored strategies to provide solutions to a variety of issues, while maintaining the required cohesiveness and coordination, especially when joint projects are undertaken for the whole of the Upper Rhine area.



### PAMINA

**Rhine-Palatinate / Southern Palatinate:** Landkreise Germersheim and Südliche Weinstraße, Landau kreisfreie Stadt and Landkreis Südwestpfalz with the Verbandsgemeinden Dahner Felsenland and Hauenstein • **Bade-Wurtemberg / Mittlerer Oberrhein:** Karlsruhe Landkreise and Rastatt, Stadtkreise Baden-Baden and Karlsruhe • **Alsace:** districts of Haguenau, Wissembourg and Saverne.

### Upper Rhine Centre-South

**Bade-Wurtemberg:** Landkreise Ortenaukreis, Emmendingen, Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald, Lörrach, Waldshut and Stadtkreis Freiburg • **Alsace:** Haut-Rhin department and in the Bas-Rhin department, the districts of Strasbourg-Ville, Strasbourg-Campagne, Molsheim and Sélestat-Erstein • **Switzerland:** Cantons of Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft, Aargau, Solothurn and Jura.

INTERREG is managed directly through the crossborder regions and is a programme close to citizens, a model of subsidiarity.



## From pilot projects to INTERREG III A: fifteen successful years

Since their initiation some fifteen years ago, the INTERREG PAMINA and Upper Rhine Centre-South programmes have followed a consistent set of guidelines: aim always for greater operationality, give priority to innovative, concrete solutions and provide strong impetus for actions and projects to ensure their sustained development. These guidelines have offered a firm basis for successful integration, actively involving increasingly large numbers of local representatives, students, businessmen, members of associations, young people, researchers, artists and other citizens in the projects.

### PAMINA (1989-1990): successful pilot projects

When the European Community first decided to help bring border zones out of isolation by developing crossborder cooperation, several pilot programmes were set up. The PAMINA region was created in 1988 by the Wissembourg Declaration of Intent and is one of the European pioneer regions to have taken part in the 1989-90 pilot phase.

Eight projects were implemented, with overall funding amounting to around one million euros: INFOBEST, based in Lauterbourg and providing information and guidance on crossborder issues; Crossborder technological network; Crossborder cycle-track network; tourist telematics information system; Nature preserve and Ecomuseum; Development and conservation of the Lauter valley; Promotion of bilingualism; Franco-German tourist route.

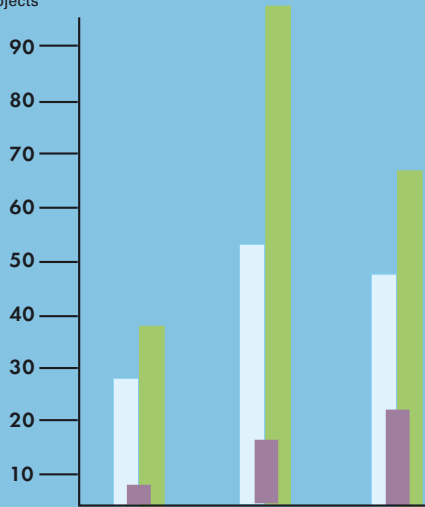
### INTERREG I (1990-1993): step by step, cooperation becomes an integral part of regional culture

The PAMINA and Upper Rhine Centre-South INTERREG I programmes continued where the successful pilot phase left off, with the principal aim of fostering the sharing of knowledge and experiences. A large number of crossborder studies were carried out to examine crossborder issues, such as territorial development and the conservation of the environment, and ultimately to come up with joint solutions.

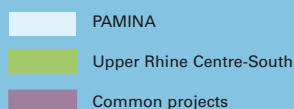
These actions provided the opportunity for the players from the three countries to get to know each other better, to jointly examine issues concerning the whole of the Upper Rhine area and to pool their efforts. One of the key factors in the undeniably successful conclusion of the first INTERREG phase was the implementation of stakeholder-based and close-to-citizens delegated programme management. INTERREG II was set up to maintain the impetus of these first four years and was given community funding twice as much as that of the previous phase.

The European Union's financial leverage, the resources of local authorities and the commitment of local representatives at regional level meant that a number of projects were successfully achieved, which would never have got off the ground otherwise. The concrete, visible results of the project for the economic fabric, job creation, the development of territories and regional heritage have demonstrated the importance of continuing crossborder cooperation.

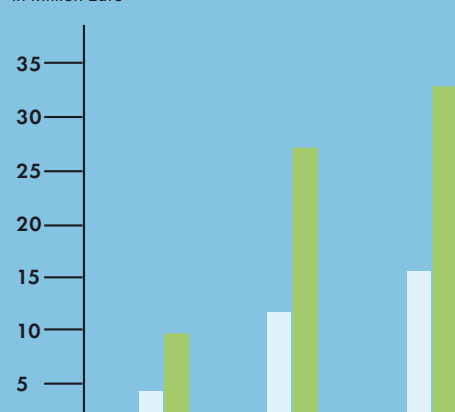
Number of financed projects



INTERREG I INTERREG II INTERREG III



Community contribution in Million Euro

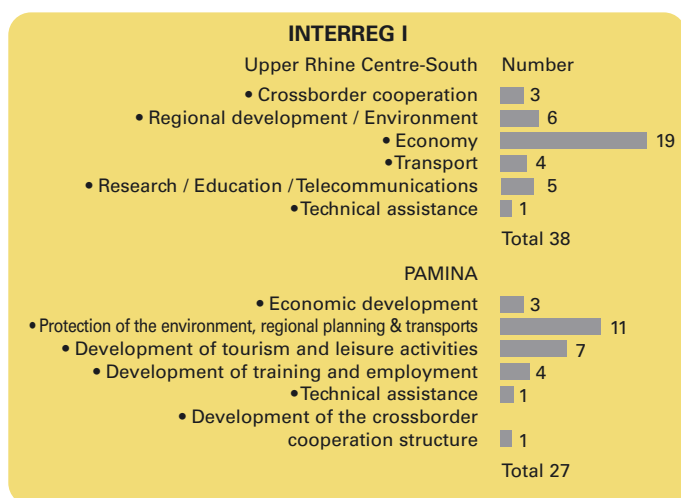


INTERREG I INTERREG II INTERREG III



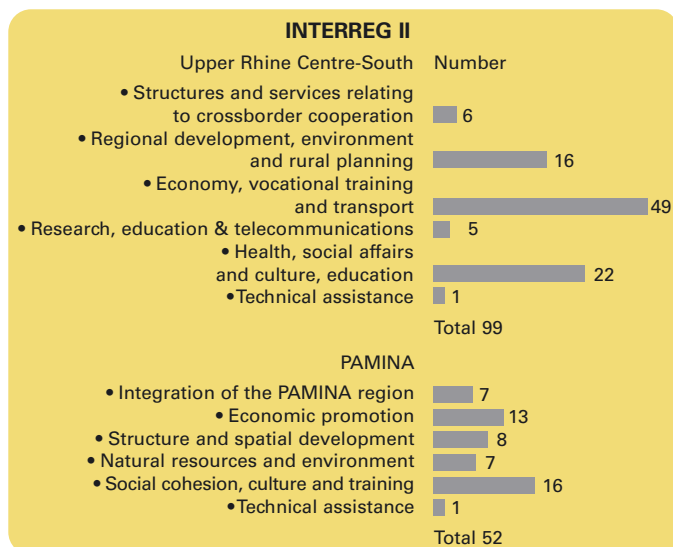
## INTERREG I:

Projects according to theme



The level of invested INTERREG funds is particularly high in the Upper Rhine area, demonstrating the substantial needs and involvement of the various actors within the region, and the efficiency of the programme.

## INTERREG II (1994-1999): cooperation creates its networks



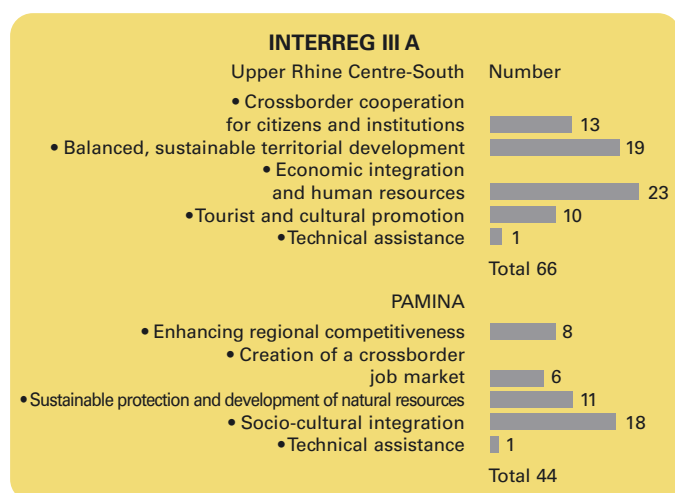
Studies carried out under INTERREG I showed the needs and efficiency to adopt a joint approach for managing issues concerning the Upper Rhine. The process was successfully carried over into INTERREG II, from 1994 onwards. At the same time, INTERREG cooperation began to reach out to new players and innovative new projects, introducing an ever larger population to a genuine culture of cooperation.

A large number of cooperation-centred bodies were set up and organised in networks to offer tailored solutions to inhabitants' concerns over mobility, training and crossborder cooperation. Examples include the Euro-Institute, Euro-Info-consumers and the new Strasbourg/Kehl,

Vogelgrun/Breisach and PALMRAIN INFOBEST offices, all projects dealing with issues that are part and parcel of crossborder life. These projects also contribute significantly to the local, regional and European integration of the Upper Rhine, while remaining close to its inhabitants' interests.

INTERREG II set out to develop lasting crossborder cooperation, with projects which would, over time, progressively reveal the genuine benefits of intensifying crossborder relations.

## INTERREG III A (2000-2006): towards a strong crossborder identity



The previous programmes had allowed local and regional representatives to work together and move on from the consultation stage to concrete cooperation. INTERREG III A has brought genuine benefits to Upper Rhine citizens, with a substantial number of projects that provide effective solutions to some of their major concerns. The "People-to-People - Upper Rhine Meetings" (2002-2004) and "Upper Rhine Meetings II" (2004-2006) projects are ideal illustrations of this approach, resulting in over a hundred smaller-scale projects bringing considerable crossborder benefits.

INTERREG III A actions focus on key notions, including integrated, sustainable regional development of the territory, the preservation of ecosystems, the reinforcement of social cohesion and the emergence of a lasting, collective crossborder awareness.

Transcending borders, learning to work together and strengthening cohesion within the Upper Rhine area: these are the main objectives that the PAMINA and Upper Rhine Centre-South programmes have successfully achieved over the last fifteen years.

# INTERREG projects in the Upper Rhine area

## INTERREG, the project booster

Since their inception in 1990, INTERREG programmes have given fresh impetus to cooperation within the Upper Rhine, giving rise to some 300 new projects covering a wide scope of issues and activities. Every inhabitant of the area, whether as a citizen, an employee, a businessman, a consumer, an end-user, an association member or a student, has felt the effects of one or other of the schemes, which have provided many of the foundations for building the identity of the Upper Rhine area.

Europe and your project.  
How can a project obtain INTERREG community funding? Answer on page 30.



## Nearly 300 projects, based on four themes

1. Mutual knowledge
2. Tourism and Leisure Activities
3. Economic development
4. Balanced and sustainable spatial development

To facilitate comprehension, INTERREG projects are grouped together in four themes, which are given below along with some examples.



Crédit photo : Martin Bernhart

### 1. Mutual knowledge

#### The Upper Rhine area: a Citizens' space

*How can you develop crossborder cooperation within the Upper Rhine area without knowing the way your neighbours think and behave? It is crucial to gain a good understanding of how things are done across the border, and this can be achieved in several ways: professional exchanges, cultural outings, health, safety, and socially-oriented projects, each designed to increase our mutual knowledge.*

#### 1/1 • Informing citizens

Finding out about how neighbouring countries live and work is of prime importance in a region with a large number of crossborder workers. This is the job of the INFOBEST offices, which provide citizens within the area with information and guidance for crossborder questions.

#### 1/2 • Exchanges, Bilingualism and Education

The book "Living Together in the Upper Rhine" (published in French and German) is given out to all primary and secondary schools and educational establishments in the three countries within the area and covers fifteen themes. It sets out to give pupils a clear idea of the traditions, values and culture that bind the inhabitants of the Upper Rhine.

In the education field, "Tandem" regional partnerships also adopt an approach based on bilingualism and exchanges. The "PAMINA Programme for Young People" is a project which fosters Franco-German meetings by providing support for projects initiated and developed by young people, in a wide variety of areas.

#### 1/3 • Culture

The "Passport for the museums of The Upper Rhine area" is an ambitious, innovative project, based on a Swiss idea, which gives admission to permanent and temporary exhibitions in over 150 museums in France, Germany and Switzerland. The passport opens up the door to "the biggest museum in the world", a world of culture without barriers or borders.

#### 1/4 • Health/Social Cohesion/ Solidarity

The "Trinational Holiday Passport" offers a wide choice of summer leisure activities throughout the Three-Border Region. It is aimed primarily at those 7 - 16-year-olds who would otherwise not be able to go on holiday.

## 2. Tourism and Leisure activities

### The Upper Rhine: exploration and discovery

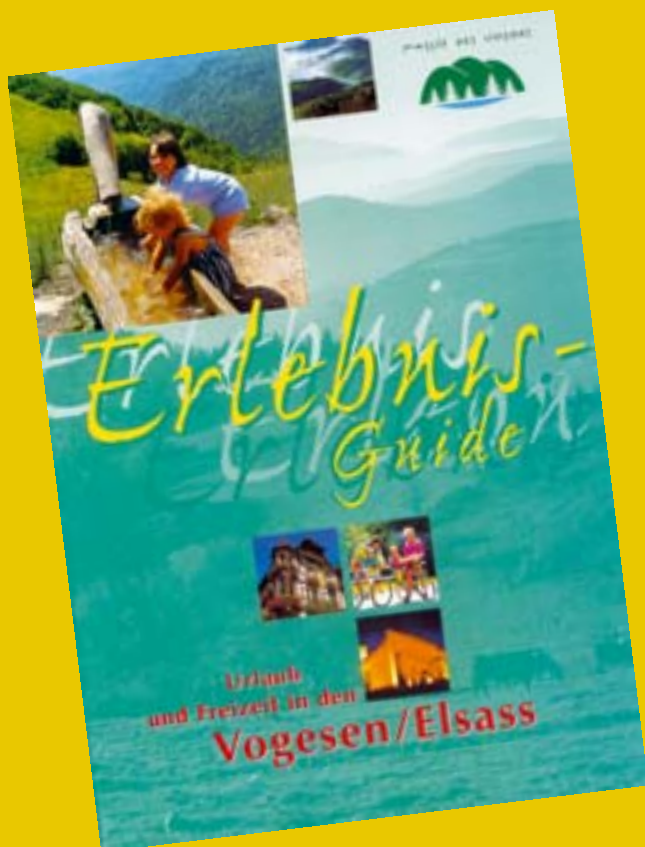
*In the Upper Rhine area there is a vast range of historical and natural attractions. One of the major ambitions of the theme is to open up and reveal this shared heritage to one and all by creating attractive facilities for tourism.*

#### 2/1 • Heritage and Leisure activities

The "Guide to Leisure Activities in the Vosges, Rhine and Black Forest" details all the leisure facilities available in the region, while the "Tourist Development of the Lembach-Dan fortresses" offers visitors a trip into the mediaeval past. The "Fleckstein Centre for Future Generations" provides a departure point for exploring the natural and cultural heritage of the Vallée de la Sauer and the Dahner Felsenland.

#### 2/2 • Tourist Promotion

The "Four Cities, Three Countries, a Single Destination" project sets out to provide a joint operation to promote the Basel, Freiburg im Breisgau, Mulhouse and Colmar grouping as a single, border-free holiday destination.



## 3. Economic development

### The Upper Rhine : boosting the economy

*The projects which come under this theme aim to contribute to the economic development of the Upper Rhine area by driving initiatives in fields such as training, employment, research, technologies and intercompany cooperation. The projects are wide-ranging and help boost the territory's competitiveness.*

#### 3/1 • Training and Employment

Three universities, Karlsruhe, Muttentz (Basel) and Strasbourg, have, in partnership, created a "Trinational Engineer Training" graduate course, that is the only one of its kind in Europe. The course is designed to produce the mobile, multilingual engineers we will be needing in the future. The "Euregio Certificate", another flagship project, encourages the placement of young people based on exchanges during their school education and vocational training in companies in neighbouring countries. The students are given a Euregio Certificate upon completion of their course. "PAMINA Park - a crossborder project for vocational training", sets out to develop the crossborder employment market by creating a network based on joint training courses in pilot fields.

#### 3/2 • Research and Technologies

The region enjoys a high concentration of universities, research laboratories and scientific companies. INTERREG provides the links between them, facilitating the creation of synergies and boosting the region to a European or even worldwide level of competitiveness in the scientific field. "Biovalley" is one of these projects, bringing together players from the Life and Health sector of the Upper Rhine area within a trinational network. The project encompasses companies, universities, private and public research laboratories, centres for technology transfer and economic development and financial organisations. The "Neurex: Trinational neuroscience network" project sets out to develop a network for brain sciences within the Upper Rhine.

#### 3/3 • Intercompany cooperation

The idea for another key project, "PEP, Promotion of the Espace PAMINA" came out of the Developers' Club, a crossborder economic think-tank. The aim of PEP is to develop the economic appeal of PAMINA to attract new companies to the region through an operation jointly run by the three territories.

## 4. Balanced and sustainable spatial development

### The Upper Rhine: development and the environment

*Balanced and sustainable spatial development is a prime focus of the INTERREG programmes in the Upper Rhine, and involves urban and rural planning schemes and the development of transport networks, while ensuring the continued protection of the environment. Sustainable development, currently a highly topical issue, is at the heart of a number of projects co-financed by the programmes.*

#### 4/1 • Rural and urban development

The “Policy Framework for the Development and Planning of the Upper Rhine area” study and the “Planning Scheme for the PAMINA Region” both emphasize the importance of driving the joint development of the territory, using a comprehensive database. They will provide the grounding for other projects to further the spatial development of the Upper Rhine area.

#### 4/2 • Transport

The “Preliminary Draft Project Study for Reintroducing the Mulhouse-Freiburg Railway Link” project sets out to assess the potential public for the line, while analysing the technical feasibility and producing track and station models prior to starting work on organising the future Mulhouse - Freiburg line, which was destroyed in the last war.

“The Fessenheim (F) - Hartheim (D) bridge” and the “Mimram footbridge between Kehl and Strasbourg” for linking up the two sides of the Two-Shores Garden are symbolic of the cooperation and should facilitate lasting relations between the people on either side of the river.

#### 4/3 • Preservation of the environment

The effects of environmental damage in the Upper Rhine area, whether with regard to air quality or the Rhine water table, the largest in Europe, do not stop at the borders. The “Analysis of Air Quality in the Upper Rhine area” gives an overview of crossborder atmospheric pollution. The study provides the basis for a database, the starting point for a policy for protecting air quality in the region. There are a large number of projects within this theme setting out to provide a sustainable, jointly-managed future for the environment in the Upper Rhine area.

- The next few pages give detailed examples of projects, to show the wealth and diversity of projects supported by INTERREG programmes in the Upper Rhine area.
- An appendix to this document gives the full list of all the projects





1991

1993

2000

>...

2006

### Development of the office for information and guidance on crossborder questions in Lauterbourg

Funding:  
Pilot phase: **270 000 €\***  
INTERREG I: **25 391 €**  
Field:  
**Informing citizens**  
Project leader:  
**Département du Bas-Rhin (France)**



\* Funding - PAMINA action programme (1989-90)

This project holds a special place in crossborder cooperation in the Upper Rhine area as it was one of the very first to have been launched, during the 1989-90 pilot phase.

This project is also highly symbolic, not only for its crossborder orientation, but because it focuses firmly on issues close to citizens - answering enquiries on crossborder questions and helping them live and work without border constraints in the three territories of the PAMINA region.

How do you go about buying a car in Germany? What kind of pension scheme do crossborder workers have? What are the formalities when a French person marries a German? These are the kinds of questions the INFOBEST staff are trained to answer - questions about how borders affect daily life. Symbolically, the first dedicated crossborder information bureau was set up in a building previously used by French Customs, in Lauterbourg (Bas Rhin).

The creation of a permanent crossborder body was a particularly bold and innovative initiative. It was the perfect illustration of the PAMINA region's ambition in a number of fields, prominent among which was the need to reduce the obstacles put in the way of citizens by national borders. The PAMINA crossborder body showed its partners' determination to provide an easily accessible information bureau to offer answers and guidance for everyday crossborder-related problems of citizens and which would also be a driving force for the territory, of benefit to everyone.

The project started in 1989 and received a co-funding grant of 270,000 € from the European Community. It continued under INTERREG I, with the completion of the offices and was inaugurated on 10 January 1991. The PAMINA bureau quickly became a crossborder resource centre, giving out information on living and working conditions on the other side of the border. The Lauterbourg bureau was the first of the INTERREG-financed INFOBEST network of information and guidance bureaux, which now has offices in Kehl/Strasbourg, PALMRain (Franco-German-Swiss body) and Vogelgrun-Breisach.

"The PAMINA crossborder body has played a lead role ever since it started in 1991 and was the first link in the INFOBEST network of information and guidance bureaux in the Upper Rhine area. The network answers citizens' queries on all those crossborder issues that affect their daily lives."

Patrice Harster,  
Head of the REGIO PAMINA local group



Credit photo : Martin Bernhart

## Upper Rhine Meetings

INTERREG grant:

**2002-2004: 240 111 €**

**2004-2006: 240 500 €**

Field:

**Exchanges, Bilingualism,  
Education**

Project leader:

**Région Alsace**



### One large project for 123 small ones!

While INTERREG funds are mainly used for financing medium and large-scale projects, "People-to-People - Upper Rhine Meetings" (2002-2004) and "Upper Rhine Meetings II" (2004-2006) are framework projects offering funding for a large number of smaller projects. Out of the 200 projects put forward over the last 30 months, 123 have been selected and awarded funding for amounts varying from 1 500 € to 45 000 €. Examples include founding a binational ice-hockey team, bilingual shows, crossborder concerts and information for tourists. The common theme is instilling the notion of crossborder cooperation into both the hearts and the daily life of the region's citizens.

The "Upper Rhine Meetings" is a financial instrument with a light administrative structure and simplified procedures. The project provides backing for a number of small-scale projects designed by citizens for other citizens within the Upper Rhine area and covering a wide range of subjects including meetings and leisure activities, sport, culture, the environment, young people, etc. The "Meetings" had only been in existence a few months before a multitude of projects applied for funding, which proves that the initiative meets a considerable demand and should be sustained beyond 2006.

Out of a total budget of 1,163,320 €, including 480,611 € provided by INTERREG III A, 562,767 € have been allocated to 123 projects, thereby bringing European programmes within the scope of a number of new participants, such as clubs, associations, tourist offices, museums, theatre and music groups, etc.

"With the development of initiatives within the framework of Upper Rhine Meetings, small, local organisations have been able to form networks of partners and have shown their ability to manage financial commitments."

Lisa Jeanmaire,  
(Technical Secretariat of the Upper Rhine Meetings)

"The Upper Rhine Meetings II also showed the willingness of citizens to spend time and energy on projects with visible, short-time results."



### An example of a project financed by "People-to-People The Upper Rhine Meetings" Bilingual street-theatre creative workshops

Bilingual classes open culture up to people at a very early age. This was eloquently demonstrated in Lingolsheim, France, with a German-language street theatre workshop set up by the YOYO BILINGO ! association, which led to a street-theatre show. This was a local initiative with a small budget, for the local population, but which showed the determination of cultural associations to move forward towards a crossborder future.

"These workshops were the opportunity for children to experience the performing arts, while acquiring a new vocabulary and speaking German within a new context"

Murielle Famy for the "YOYO BILINGO!" association

### The project's origin

"The project dates back to the 8<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Congress, "Living together within the Upper Rhine area", organised by the Région Alsace in cooperation with its partners, the Haut Rhin and Bas Rhin départements, the Land Baden-Württemberg and the Land Rheinland-Pfalz, the cantons of Bâle-Ville and Bâle-Campagne, the canton and Republic of the Jura and the Swiss Confederation. The driving principle of the first framework project, "People-to-People - The Upper Rhine Meetings" was to put citizens in the forefront of crossborder cooperation, by encouraging them to develop joint projects with the aim of facilitating daily life within the crossborder area and of bringing people on either side of the border closer together. The success of this project led to the second stage, "The Upper Rhine Meetings II" and the extension of the programme up to 123 new projects."

Pierre Meyer,  
Directory of International Relations Région Alsace

## Crossborder cooperation in adult education

INTERREG grant:

**153 846 €**

Field:

**Culture**

Project leader:

**Kreisvolkshochschule**

**Südwestpfalz**



### From the idea to reality

The idea of crossborder adult education dates back to 1994. With the backing of the Land Rhine-Palatinate, the South-West Palatinate adult education centre sets up a crossborder cooperation system with French vocational training institutes on the other side of the border. Vocational training has also played a role in driving European integration, by bringing the inhabitants of the Franco-German border area closer together. 1997 saw the 18 adult education centres within the PAMINA region join forces to launch a common project for the area. When grants came to an end, an association was set up which successfully continued the projects, which are now extending their activities without any help from Brussels.

#### The prelude to successful cooperation

From its inception (INTERREG grants) and right up to the present day, the project has always aimed at the long term and is a vivid example of the interest German and French citizens alike show in crossborder themes and meetings. The adult education centres within the PAMINA regions have entered into a sustainable cooperation agreement, which has resulted in the successful completion of a number of other joint projects outside the UP PAMINA VHS programme, the official name of the adult education crossborder organization since 2004.

#### Breaking the mould

A large number of other training centres, associations and institutions within the PAMINA region have been put into contact with each other through UP PAMINA VHS and offer joint educational programmes. UP PAMINA VHS has become a key driver for crossborder vocational training projects in the PAMINA region.

The organization is the only one of its kind in European education. The number of registered students has been rising steadily since 2000, to reach record levels in 2004!

The whole of the programme is bilingual, with translators available if needed for the events, to allow everyone to take part. Each programme is drawn up jointly by the German and French partners before publication, and also provides an ideal opportunity for developing mutual contacts.

The programme is a significant step towards the fulfilment of Alsatian poet René Schickele's vision of the Vosges and the Black Forest as two pages of an open book: "I could clearly see before me how the Rhine was not a barrier between the two countries, but a unifying force binding them together."

"The aim of the project was and still is bringing people together from the whole of the PAMINA region, as part of cultural events and crossborder education."

Dr. Stefan Woltersdorff

#### Key figures

Total budget 1998/99: (50% from INTERREG grants)	308 000
Number of participants 1998/99:	4 804
Number of events 1998/99:	203
Number of lessons:	2 843



**regioartline.org**

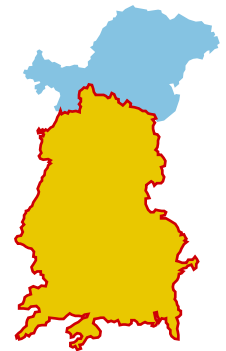
INTERREG grant:

**182 268 €**

Field:

**Culture**

Project leader:

**Artforum 3 e. V.****Communication in art and culture**

Encourage, present, document and create a network for contemporary art. These are the aims of online multimedia art magazine *regioartline.org*. The magazine is a joint project involving artistic initiatives artforum3 (Freiburg), plug.in (Basel) and RARweb (Strasbourg), and is the first and only medium offering a wide-ranging, close-up look into contemporary art in the Triborder region, regardless of national borders, languages or cultural policies.

**“What's new, artist ?”**

The success of this ambitious project depends on active cooperation between all the players involved. Over 30 reports and reviews are published on line each month in French and German, on exhibitions, artistic events and cultural policy. The magazine also aims to set up networks for local artistic organisations within the region and to present new-media-related artistic projects in the three countries.

*regioartline.org* sets out to provide its readership with reviews, information and other services. It makes maximum use of the Internet as a rapid, affordable and democratic system for providing information. The site offers articles in classic format, with texts and photos, along with audio and video documents, useful links to other web sites and chat-rooms to allow artists and internet users to meet virtually and hold open discussions on art.

**And the future...?**

The second part of the project, alongside the internet magazine, is the promotion of the artistic and media arts scene within the region, with Franco-German cooperation involving artforum3 and RARweb, who are currently developing a crossborder artistic portal aimed at young people with an interest in media arts, and young media artists. The idea of an on-line auction service for artworks is also being considered, to help artists market their work.

An artists directory is currently being prepared to help give an overview of the current artistic scene and news. The 1000 or so artists in the Triborder region will be included in a data base, with searches possible by name and by place. The project will offer an essential contribution for strengthening the cultural fabric of the Upper Rhine area and will provide a rich source of on-line information on regional galleries, new media, new artists and new publications.

“This triregional network for journalists, artists, art merchants, creators and art-lovers is not a conventional art magazine, but a model for the integration of European culture.”

Dietrich Roeschmann, Journalist



## Crossborder hospital cooperation

INTERREG II grant: **75 000 €**  
INTERREG III grant: **75 000 €**

Field:  
**Health/Social Cohesion/Solidarity**  
Project leader:  
**St. Josefsklinik Offenburg**



### Health without borders

Exchanges between healthcare professionals are of the utmost importance in medicine for ensuring patients receive the best possible care, regardless of origin or nationality. The project, set up between the hospitals of Selestat and Offenburg, set out to foster these exchanges and made a rapid impact. It has now been extended to include a whole group of healthcare centres and institutions on both sides of the Rhine and has proved to be an excellent example of how cooperation can be of benefit to all of us.

Everyone should be able to benefit from high quality medical care as a matter of course. However, to get this to happen it was necessary to ignore the presence of national borders and optimise communication between healthcare professions in both countries. This was indeed the prime aim of the project leaders, who set out to forge contacts between the people involved, to enable them to get to know each other better and benefit from shared knowledge. The initial project, rolled out under INTERREG II, resulted in stronger links between the Centre Hospitalier de Sélestat and Offenburg's St. Josef Clinic. The project leaders have set new objectives for INTERREG III A and have extended the project to include new partners: the Centre Hospitalier Général de Wissembourg, the Union Régionale des Caisses d'Assurance Maladie, Freiburg Regionalverbund kirchlicher Krankenhäuser, the Bad Krozingen Herzzentrum and the Offenburg Allgemeine Ortskrankenkasse Südlicher Oberrhein, Marienhaus.

With backing from the INTERREG programme, the French and German healthcare centres involved in the projects have implemented a number of highly concrete cooperation measures:

- Language lessons before and during the exchanges
- Vocational training courses
- Exchange of knowledge and experience for staff at various levels
- Elaboration of specialist glossaries
- Organisation of conferences
- Documentation for activities of general interest
- Discussion of economic constraints

**The crossborder benefits are considerable**, not only in terms of regular individual exchanges both at professional and personal levels, but also with the alignment of healthcare practices, the implementation of financial, medical and social standards and joint coordination, decision-taking and analysis. The results have proved to be highly useful for many healthcare professionals, student nurses, orderlies and administrative staff, not to mention physicians, training staff, management and related staff within the different sectors.

"Our cooperation within the INTERREG programme developed on the basis of friendship and mutual confidence."

Dr. Franz Hahn



## PAMINA Rhine Park

INTERREG I grant: **1 473 706 €**  
 INTERREG II grant: **1 500 000 €**  
 INTERREG III grant: **765 050 €**  
 Field:  
**Heritage and leisure activities**  
 Project leader:  
**Verein PAMINA-Rheinpark e.V**



### A Region as a museum

The original idea behind the PAMINA Rhine Park was to create a museum region. The Park is neither a natural reserve nor an ecomuseum - its exhibits are the expanses of the Rhine alluvial plains, the only ones of their kind. The natural attractions are supplemented by eight museums on either side of the Rhine, forming a theme-based Park which includes two centres for natural conservation and a trail with some 40 information and observation points.

The underlying concept of the Park is the Rhine, illustrating its relationship with the local populations and its influence on the cultural landscape. The area is criss-crossed by a vast network of cycle tracks allowing visitors to explore the Park in separate steps. The project's immediate vocation is ecology-oriented leisure activity, aimed at exploring nature and culture within an area stretching over 520 km<sup>2</sup>, on both sides of the Rhine.

The Rhine Park project dates back to the eight pilot projects at beginning of the INTERREG funding programme in the early 1990s. Further funding has been forthcoming under the INTERREG II and INTERREG III programmes and the scene is now set for sustainable development.

### A huge inexhaustible potential:

- an original "museum region" concept, covering the natural areas along the Rhine, their culture and their theme museums
- a highly varied habitat, with a number of specific features, including the Rhine alluvial plains, the only ones of their kind
- a wide range of leisure activities
- the "crossborder atmosphere" and its culture, its traditional festivals and gastronomic specialities...
- an ideal area for cycling, with attractive cycle tracks and stop-offs all along the trail

### Extensive exchanges for the benefit of the whole population

The project deals with a subject that interests a large proportion of the local population and has received full local support and backing. It has made a substantial contribution to developing communication between countries, regions and partner communities, on political, professional and scientific levels.

"The project has been warmly welcomed, both by the inhabitants of the regions and by visitors looking for leisure and relaxation."

Claus Haberecht,  
member of the Rhine Park steering committee



The economic benefits of the Rhine Park for the region:

- Investment in infrastructure-related facilities
- Improved exploitation of the region's tourist potential
- Job creation

## Development of cooperation in the PAMINA tourist sector

INTERREG grant:

**95 000 €**

Field:

**Tourist promotion**

Project leader:

**Touristik-Gemeinschaft**

**Baden-Elsass-Pfalz e.V.**



Crossborder cooperation in the PAMINA region, between the partners of the Rhine-Palatinate, Bade-Wurtemberg and Alsace dates back to some fifteen years. Initial impetus was given by co-financing of crossborder projects, with funds provided as part of the INTERREG community initiative.

The PAMINA region covers an area of about 6,000 km<sup>2</sup>, with a population of nearly one and a half million. Outside the main cities, the region offers a rich variety of rural scenery, which has often managed to retain its original character. The two mountain ranges on either side of the Rhine enclose an area of boundless charm, with alluvial plains and splendid vineyards, dotted with castles and other fortresses that serve as a reminder of its often turbulent past. A tourist's paradise!

The tourist promotion project sets out to promote the area as efficiently as possible by leveraging crossborder cooperation within the PAMINA region to drive Bade-Alsace-Palatinate as a crossborder tourist destination. To help with the task, the Vis-à-Vis information centre was set up within the old French customs house of Lauterbourg/Scheibenhart to provide support and guidance for crossborder projects. The centre has become a highly active focal point for crossborder meetings and a prime example of Europe in action.

Programme features:

- preparation and implementation of tourist projects in the PAMINA region
- increased coordination for other tourist projects
- communication between the various tourist organisations in the PAMINA region
- possibilities of offering joint tourist programmes
- support in offering theme-based tourist initiatives

The range of possibilities extends, however, well beyond this list. The conference room of the Vis-à-Vis centre, for example has become a much-used facility, staging meetings of the Bade-Alsace-Palatinate tourist association commissions, board, advisory committee and other work meetings, as well as meetings involving the PAMINA network.

Other regions have followed the example, such as the POMERANIA Euroregion (Szezin, Slovakia, the Atlantic and Upper Silesia), which has sent representatives to find out about the practical aspects of crossborder cooperation.

"Thanks to this project, a new brand image of the region PAMINA has been achieved. Thus, it contributes to giving this tourist crossborder region a long-term marketing positioning."

Dietrich Schmidt,  
General Secretary of the association  
Touristik-Gemeinschaft Baden-Elsass-Pfalz e.V.



Crédit photo : Martin Bernhart

### Project timeline

1996: inception of the project for crossborder tourism

1998: opening of an independent information centre in the old French customs house in Lauterbourg

2000: successful completion of the project

When no more INTERREG grants were available for the project, the PAMINA region offered to provide funding for the information centre and its staff.

## Eucor Virtuale

INTERREG grant:

**529 680 €**

Field:

**Training and employment**

Project leader:

**Albert-Ludwigs-Universität  
Freiburg, Koordinierungsstelle  
für Neue Medien**



### Seven universities commit to crossborder and European mobility

This project is the logical step forward from the European reform of higher education, better known in France as LMD and in Germany and Switzerland as the Bologna Process. The project involves promoting both the trinational potential for training and research in the seven universities within the Upper Rhine area and the new graduate courses that have arisen as a result of the reform. One of the main features of the project is the creation of an internet portal. The project aims to go beyond regional confines to have a national and international impact, reflecting its ambition as a model for European integration in higher education and research.

Seven universities, 12,500 teachers and researchers and 100,000 students are a vivid illustration of the scope and diversity of the Upper Rhine's university potential. The problem, however, has up to now been the lack of unity and transparency. The EUCOR VIRTUAL portal will allow students to gain easy access to information on the hundreds of different courses available in the Upper Rhine.

"This portal will offer students clear, easily accessible information on the various possibilities that exist to follow international courses, recognised throughout Europe, within the trinational Upper Rhine area."

Jacques Sparfel, General Secretary of EUCOR /  
Reiner Fuest, Head of the EUCOR VIRTUALE project

EUCOR VIRTUALE sets out to encourage crossborder mobility among students, teachers and researchers, promote bi- and tri-lingual courses and help remove language barriers in skills acquisition.

The project, managed by Freiburg University, was initiated in 2003 and is the first of its kind in Europe. Over 70 people, including teachers, researchers and education-oriented administrative staff have been working on the project, which entered its development phase in 2005, with roll-out planned for late 2006. It will initially be based on 4 subjects; information technology, e-business, Scandinavian studies and mathematics. This approach allows the project sponsors to present joint didactic concepts and courses, which will subsequently be used for other subjects, to be progressively included in EUCOR VIRTUALE, once they in line with the format required by the Bologna process.



EUCOR VIRTUALE, the portal of the 7 universities in the Upper Rhine

Universität Karlsruhe (TH)

Université Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg I)

Université Marc Bloch (Strasbourg II)

Universität Robert Schuman (Strasbourg III)

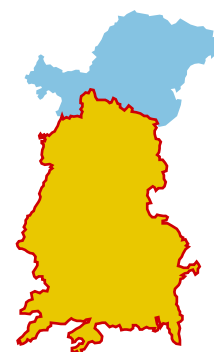
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Université de Haute-Alsace Mulhouse

Universität Basel

## Microzoning of the southern region of the Upper Rhine

INTERREG II grant: **187 800 €**  
 INTERREG III grant: **341 015 €**  
 Field:  
**Research and Technologies**  
 Project leader:  
**Institut de Physique du Globe de  
 Strasbourg**  
**Strasbourg (INTERREG III A)**



### An important step for regional development and civil safety

The southern part of the Upper Rhine area is exposed to a number of natural risks, such as flooding and earth tremors, and also the related technological risks arising from the concentration of industry, especially chemical and nuclear plants, within the region.

This projects sets out to map, on a precise zone-by-zone basis, the impact of a natural catastrophe on industry and on the population. The initiative provides a joint assessment of the natural and technological risks and is therefore a focal-point of interest for political decision-takers as well as regional development authorities and the scientific community.

The last few years have seen a large number of unused zones unsuitable for housing development (areas liable to flooding, valley bottoms, riverside zones) taken over for industrial use. However, the geomechanical features of the sedimentary soils in these areas mean they actually amplify natural motions of the ground: in an extreme case, soft ground can magnify the strength of an earth tremor tenfold, compared to a rock-based subsoil.

Increasing urbanisation and industrialisation have increased the seismic risk in a number of countries. The problem has to be tackled at a highly local level, by carrying out a large number of measurements of seismic activity to obtain a precise risk map.

“This is a scientific approach which will produce decision-support tools for regional developers and local authorities in case of a crisis.”

Michel Granet,  
Head of the Microzoning project

The microzoning maps, based on site-response modelling, will be used to compute ground movements. All measurements carried out will be included within a Geographic Information System which will be able to factor in the seismic and technological risks.



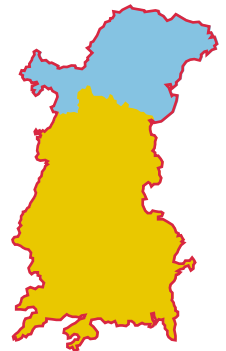
Project scientific partners

Earth tremors do not recognise national borders and so microzoning is necessarily a crossborder project. It involves a number of high-level scientific organisations.

- Institut de Physique du Globe de Strasbourg, project leader
- Laboratoire Image et Ville (LIV) - Strasbourg
- Bureau de Recherche Géologique et Minière - Orléans
- Institut für Geowissenschaftliche Gemeinschaftsaufgaben - Hannover
- Landesamt für Geologie, Rohstoffe und Bergbau Baden Württemberg, Freiburg i. Br.
- Service Sismologique Suisse, Zürich
- Uni Basel, Geologisches Institut Angewandte und Umweltgeologie, Basel

## Crossborder information network for handicraft

INTERREG II grant: **409 625 €**  
 INTERREG III A grant: **533 959 €**  
 Field:  
**Intercompany cooperation**  
 Project leader:  
**Chambre de Métiers d'Alsace (INTERREG II)**  
**Handwerkskammer Freiburg (INTERREG III)**



### An answer for each question

What kind of authorization is needed to work in Switzerland? How does VAT work in Germany? Who can answer enquiries about qualification rules and regulations? It can often be difficult for business people who spend all their time with customers, on the premises to find the time to find out the information they require. This means that it becomes difficult to carry out jobs on the other side of the border. Now, however, the answers can all be supplied by the Crossborder information network for handicraft.

Over the past dozen or so years, the number of building and service companies working over the border in a neighbouring country has significantly increased. The local guilds associations have found themselves having to handle new forms of members requests. The logical solution for providing an efficient way of dealing with crossborder questions was to form partnerships with organizations in those neighbouring countries. In 1996, the guilds associations of Alsace (France), Freiburg, Karlsruhe and the Palatinate (Germany) decided to set up a crossborder information and guidance network for handicraft to help these small companies. In 2001, the network was enlarged to include the Chambre Economique de Bâle Campagne (Switzerland).

"The Network has an excellent reputation, as it manages every day to reduce the administrative burden weighing on micro-companies and almost completely eliminate the element of chance in the application of regulations."

Yannick Henry, Chambre de Métiers d'Alsace

The network reputation has spread well beyond the Upper Rhine area, especially as the Network advisors play a key role in the transmission of information both on a domestic and international level. They give feedback to the European Commission, notably with regard to difficulties met in the field and, when needed, they suggest simplifications.



2,000 individual enquiries answered each year

The members of the Network contribute on a daily basis to gathering, processing and giving out the kind of information needed by companies in their crossborder operations. Each guilds association helps companies from its own country, but enjoys privileged contacts with its partners.

- Help with completing crossborder formalities
- Specialist advice
- Awareness and information meetings
- Publication of guides, creation of the URL [www.transinfonet.org](http://www.transinfonet.org)
- Publication of a crossborder news-sheet
- Help for companies in settling specific issues
- Prospection missions

## Key projects for the TAB (Trinational Agglomeration of Basel)

INTERREG II grant: **106 666 €**  
INTERREG III A grant: **666 666 €**  
Field:

**Urban and rural development**

Project leader:

**Ville Saint-Louis (INTERREG II)**  
**"Association pour le développement durable du territoire de l'Agglomération Trinationale de Bâle" (INTERREG III)**



### A trinational approach for the future

Increasing urbanisation over the last few decades has created a vast, trinational agglomeration around Basel, a development that can easily be seen on satellite photos or through an analysis of the inhabitants' way of life. The three different towns that make up the agglomeration are closely interlinked and their future development needs to be based on a joint approach, while removing the negative aspects of the national borders. This is the aim of the TAB (Trinational Agglomeration of Basel) association.

### With INTERREG backing, TAB has carried out project studies in both town-planning and public transport.

This project is of considerable significance for the 18 local authorities and their 758,000 inhabitants, involving as it does the enhancement of daily living conditions, traffic improvement and the improved availability of services, and also the development of the major assets of the agglomeration to boost its economic competitiveness in relation to the other major European metropolitan areas.

The Swiss, French and German representatives within the TAB association have decided to take a joint approach to the future, by considering the Basel agglomeration as a single functional area. This type of development concept is one of the key drivers of the INTERREG II and III programmes, which have provided the funding for around ten studies, concerning highly concrete subjects:

- the development of the town centres of the two Rheinfeldens
- the extension of the Basel tram system beyond the border into France and Germany
- the construction of a railway line between Germany and France to link up the towns of Lörrach, Weil am Rhein, Huningue and Saint-Louis to the EuroAirport

- the territorial development of the various parts of the agglomeration, such as the project for the new "Saint-Louis Ouest" district

"All the major strategic issues for developing the trinational agglomeration will in future be decided by mutual agreement between the three countries. The aim will be to have a three-way decision-making process that will move forward in the general interest of all the inhabitants of the agglomeration."

Dr. Frédéric Duvinage, General Coordinator of the TAB

### Cooperation creating closer links

The TAB's work has raised public awareness of the existence and mutual benefit of the idea of a trinational agglomeration. It has also driven a large number of regular contacts between elected representatives and specialists of the three countries. This ongoing cooperation process has allowed the area's political, economic and cultural players to extend their networks within three different cultures. It is an excellent driver for communication within an intercultural context, bringing new insights into different ways of life.

### Project timeline

- 1995: initial symposium on "a trinational future"
- 1996: first studies under the INTERREG II programme
- 2001: draft of the development concept of the Trinational Agglomeration of Basel
- 2002: foundation of the TAB association
- 2003: creation of the development office and roll-out of studies, under INTERREG III





## Construction of a bridge for pedestrians and cyclists over the Rhine, between Weil am Rhein and Huningue

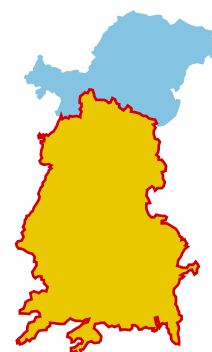
INTERREG II grant: **178 952 €**  
INTERREG III grant: **1 680 000 €**

Field:

**Transport**

Project leader:

**Stadt Weil am Rhein**



### A crossborder bridge for the future

When a bridge is built, it establishes a link and a contact point, driving communication and bringing people closer together. The town of Weil am Rhein (Germany) and the Communauté de Communes des Trois Frontières (headquarters in Saint-Louis, France) have drawn up a joint project to achieve these aims by constructing a bridge for pedestrians and cyclists across the Rhine, between Weil am Rhein and Huningue (France). An asset for whole of the region!

“We do not need bridge-heads, but heads that build bridges” declared ex-German President Johannes Rau during his visit to Weil am Rhein in 2001, when he was told about the project for a pedestrian and cyclist bridge between the twinned towns of Weil am Rhein and Huningue.

The project started in 2002, after being selected for INTERREG funding in the same year. A team of Franco-German engineers was chosen to carry out the technical assessment of the project. The study was completed in July 2004 and the bridge is due to be built between October 2005 and March 2007.

#### The project offers a number of concrete benefits:

- An excellent location in the heart of the tri-border region
- The link-up between local and regional cycle tracks on either side of the Rhine and in Switzerland
- A joint approach to town-planning and architecture for an innovative new bridge
- An asset for promoting tourism in the three countries.

#### A highly symbolic bridge

The bridge provides a lasting link between the people on either side of the Rhine and is fully in tune with the long-term European integration project. The construction will leave a permanent and beneficial imprint on the future of the Communauté de Communes des Trois Frontières and the town of Weil am Rhein.

The bridge is a highly attractive, multi-use structure, and has been warmly welcomed by the inhabitants of the tri-border region. It provides additional impetus for Franco-German friendship and for the unification process within Europe, as well as bringing the partner towns closer together and offering a driving force for the twinning concept.

“The bridge will stretch over the Rhine like a rainbow, a symbol of peace and reconciliation.”

Wolfgang Dietz,  
Mayor of Weil am Rhein

Image PostScript  
(Br\237ckeModellx.EPS)

## Introduction of vegetable oil technology in the PAMINA region

INTERREG grant:

**320 000 €**

Field:

**Preservation of the environment**

Project leader:

**Verbandsgemeinde Bad Bergzabern**



### The environment concerns all of us

The whole thing started off somewhat modestly with the upgrading of the heating system of the Bad Bergzabern school and sports centre. The idea of using biofuel for one of the two power plant units rapidly caught on and has since become a considerable asset for the PAMINA region as a whole. The project has seen the creation of a regionally-based self-contained economic system involving the production and transport of oilseed, the production of rapeseed oil, heat production and oilcakes for animal feed. A project with a genuine future!

#### “Rapeseed oil offers obvious advantages”

claims Hermann Bohrer, the mayor of the group of local communities and he is convinced that the project has a sustainable future, especially with the rise in oil prices. The use of rapeseed oil brings down pollution and protects against the risk of further rises in oil prices. Rapeseed crops and processing also give the region a new resource which can offer farmers a fresh source of revenue for a period of around fifteen years, thereby contributing to maintaining a stable, sustainable agricultural sector.

Apart from opening up new markets, creating new jobs and reducing pollution, the project also encourages crossborder innovation and raises environmental awareness within the population as a whole.

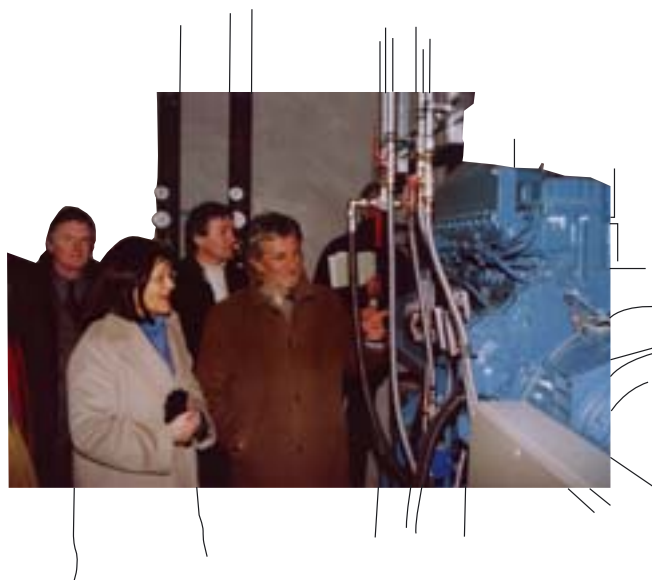
“Crossborder environment and energy-related issues require the sustainable promotion of raw materials of vegetable origin beyond national borders”

Hermann Bohrer,

Mayor of the Bad Bergzabern group of local communities

The Bad Bergzabern group of communities, the project leader, is also working with its partners to drive the use of alternative energies. Events and visits have been organised with the local population, including school trips for German and French children.

The project also includes product development and the opening up of new markets. Rapeseed oil can also be used as fuel for vehicles and chainsaws, as well as for household consumption and cosmetics. The solid residue remaining after extraction of the oil can subsequently be used for high-quality animal feed.





## INTERREG projects in the Upper Rhine area

### A management close to the citizen

The PAMINA and Upper Rhine Centre-South INTERREG III A programmes each have their own management and operations organisation. To ensure balance and facilitate working in partnership, all the decision-making levels are integrated within the organisation, thereby mirroring the spirit of cooperation that is a driving force within the Upper Rhine area. The selection process is the same for each programme and is carried out as far as possible at local level, where the projects are drawn up and run. This efficiency-based approach has resulted in funding being granted for a number of projects jointly run by the two programmes.

#### Monitoring and Steering Committee

The members of the Monitoring and Steering Committee include notably the partners of the programmes. The role of the Committee is to allocate European credits for project applications submitted by the Working Group. It is also responsible for the administrative part of the programme, for monitoring its implementation and, when required, for suggesting modifications. The Committee meets at least twice a year.

#### Working Group

The Working Group meets twice-monthly to consider project applications from a technical perspective. It passes its opinion on to the Monitoring and Steering Committee.

#### Joint Technical Secretariat

The Secretariat provides technical support to potential project promoters for their funding application. It also checks that the expenditure is eligible and it passes the completed application on to the Working Group.

PAMINA: Local grouping of crossborder cooperation REGIO PAMINA  
Upper Rhine Centre-South: Région Alsace

#### Managing Authority

The Managing Authority liaises with the Member States and the European Commission. It is responsible for implementing the programme, for ensuring its efficient management and for handling financial aspects. The Managing Authority is also in charge of assessing the programme.

PAMINA: Local grouping of crossborder cooperation REGIO PAMINA  
Upper Rhine Centre-South: Région Alsace

#### Paying Authority

The Paying Authority pays the European funds to the project leader, after the Managing Authority has checked the financial documents.

PAMINA: Local grouping of crossborder cooperation REGIO PAMINA  
Upper Rhine Centre-South: Caisse des Dépôts Strasbourg



Credit photo: Martin Bernhart

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## From the idea to the euro: the keys to build up your project

- The project initiator can be a local authority, an association, a company or another body, seeking crossborder partners and co-financing to present a joint concept. The next step is to form a project group, the chairperson of which will be the project leader, responsible for coordinating project work.
- The project group will give precise details of project content and financing and will then complete the community application form, in French and in German. To stand the best chance of success, the project group should get in contact with the INTERREG programme Secretariat as early as possible.
- The project leader liaises with the INTERREG Secretariat, the managing authority, the Working Group and the Monitoring and Steering Committee on behalf of all the other partners.
- The Working Group meets to consider the application and then meets a second time to express a technical opinion.
- The opinion is passed on to the Monitoring and Steering Committee, which decides whether or not to select the project.
- Should the project be selected, a funding agreement is signed between the project leader, the Managing Authority and the co-financers.
- The project leader is subsequently responsible for the successful completion of the project, in compliance with specific European Union rules (call for tender, communication, etc.) and the obligations with regard to objectives, reports and the presentation of accounts.

### Project eligibility criteria

A successful project must meet the following criteria:

- crossborder nature
- sustainable
- innovative
- impact on the citizen

### Projects with Swiss participation

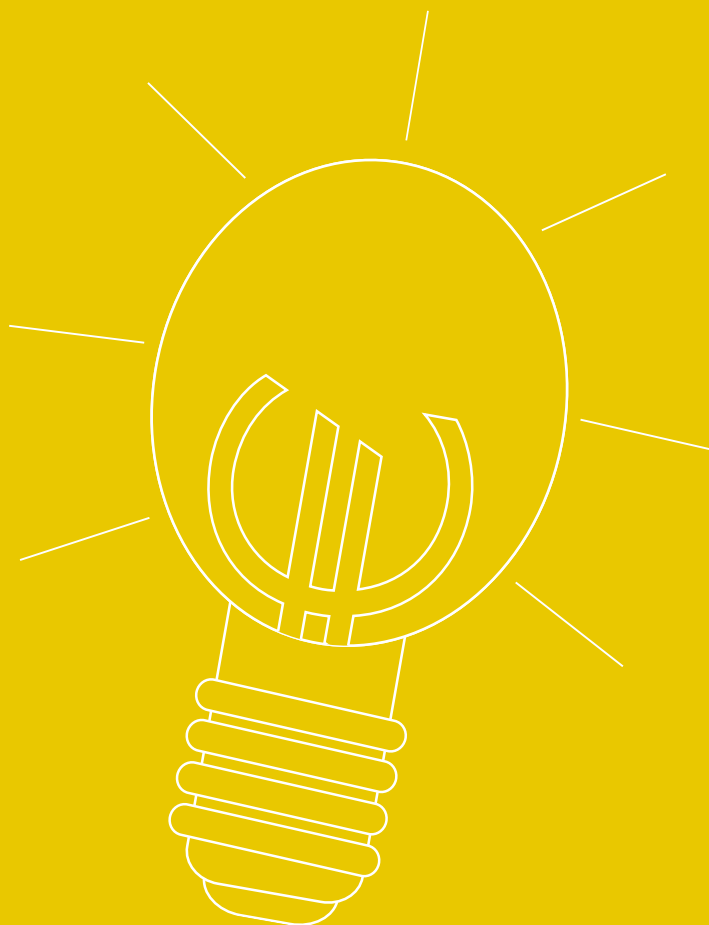
Co-financing may not go over the total contribution made by the French and German partners. Swiss participants can apply for funding to the Swiss Confederation.

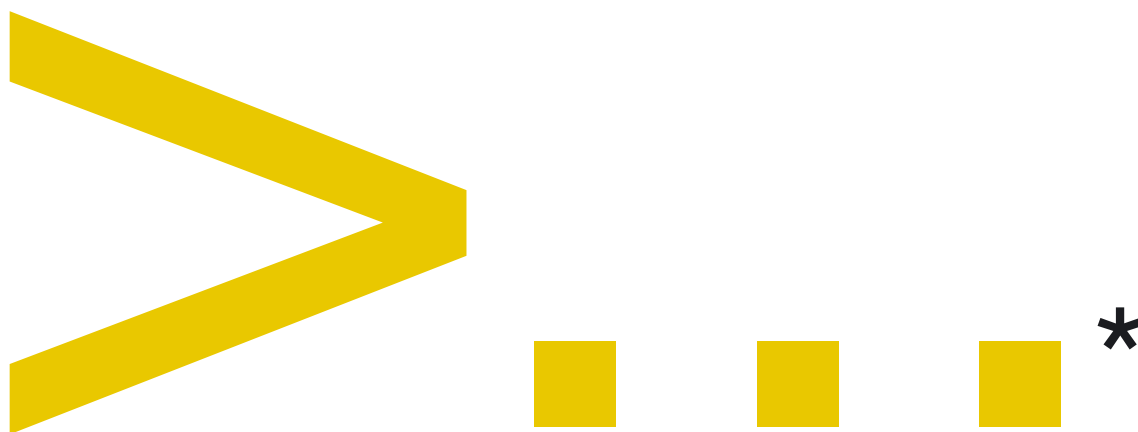
### Funding conditions

Projects must be 100% pre-financed. The EU will reimburse any expenditure already made for an amount not exceeding 50% of eligible costs. The grant is paid once documents evidencing the expenditure have been presented.



This project was co-financed  
by the European Union.  
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)





\* To be continued...

Since the first INTERREG programme some 15 years ago, nearly 300 projects have been successfully completed, an eloquent testimony to the Upper Rhine's commitment to furthering the European idea.

This favourable picture should not, however, be used to hide the imbalances and sometimes deep divisions that exist between the territories that make up the Upper Rhine. The region must leverage its considerable assets to drive harmonious development and increase its crossborder integration by developing the cooperation dynamic initiated by the INTERREG initiative.