

Press release

The MOT is publishing two handbooks to encourage cross-border economic development

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With 37.5% of the EU population living in border areas, regional disparity on the rise and faced by the growing challenge of migration, the CoR's President, Markku Markkula, called on 2nd September 2015 at a meeting in Luxemburg, for cross-border cooperation to be reinforced: "**Encouraging synergies between cities and regions can foster innovation, open-up markets, promote local investment and boost economies**".

Public action in the area of economic development is currently the subject of intense discussion. In France, it has been progressively redefined by different reforms¹. At the level of the European Union, the Europe 2020 strategy and the launch of the new 2014-2020 programme period have intensified the EU's efforts in the areas of economic development, innovation and technology transfer.

Against this dynamic backdrop, the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière has produced a document providing an introduction to cross-border economic development, accompanied by a practical guide that is an aid to structuring public action in border and cross-border settings.

Carried out as part of a study co-financed by the national assistance programme Europ'Act, this work is the culmination of a year-and-a-half of investigations on the ground².

It shows that the potential for the economic development of cross-border territories is insufficiently exploited. The movement of people, goods, services and capital, and as a result, the integration of territories, no longer takes place just within each country, but within the European area as a whole, and this mobility plays a more significant role in the context of cross-border regions, where it is a potential source of prosperity, if it is regulated in a coordinated manner by the countries on either side of the border.

The two brochures are intended for project developers and stakeholders involved in cross-border economic development³:

- **The introduction to the topic** provides for the first time in a single document an overview of the different facets of cross-border economic development along France's European borders, both border-by-border and in a cross-cutting manner. Comparisons with three cross-border European territories⁴ made it possible to broaden the study by giving it a truly European perspective.

- **The practical guide** gives stakeholders methodological tools and practical advice aimed at helping them to establish partnerships and set up projects.

The results of the project will be presented at the project's final conference on 30 September in Paris. More than 180 people are expected. More info: [click here](#).

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To download the documents, please [click here](#).

¹ Reform of the chambers of commerce and industry, the "Macron Act" and the territorial reform that affects the degree of intervention and the role of the different territorial authorities in France.

² With 108 meetings with people in the cross-border territories and at national level, and four working sessions held for the drafting of the practical guide.

³ Territorial authorities, government departments, European institutions and programmes, chambers of commerce and industry, economic development agencies, public employment services and EURES, financing and investment institutions and cross-border project developers.

⁴ The Euregio Meuse-Rhine, the Vienna-Bratislava axis and the German-Danish border.



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