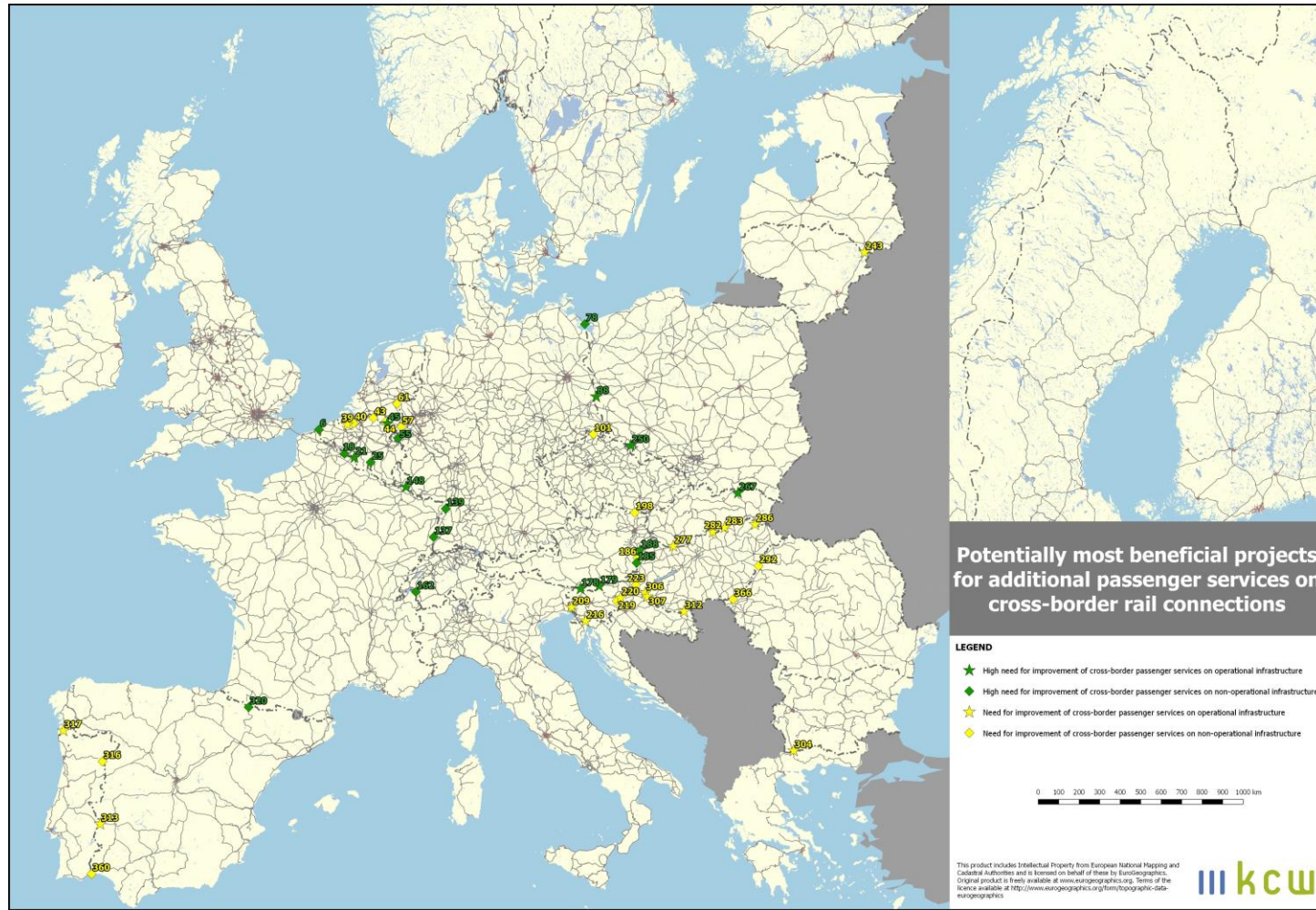

RECOVERING THE CROSS-BORDER RAILWAY LINE
KARLSRUHE – RASTATT –
HAGUENAU – SAARBRÜCKEN

Missing Link N°139

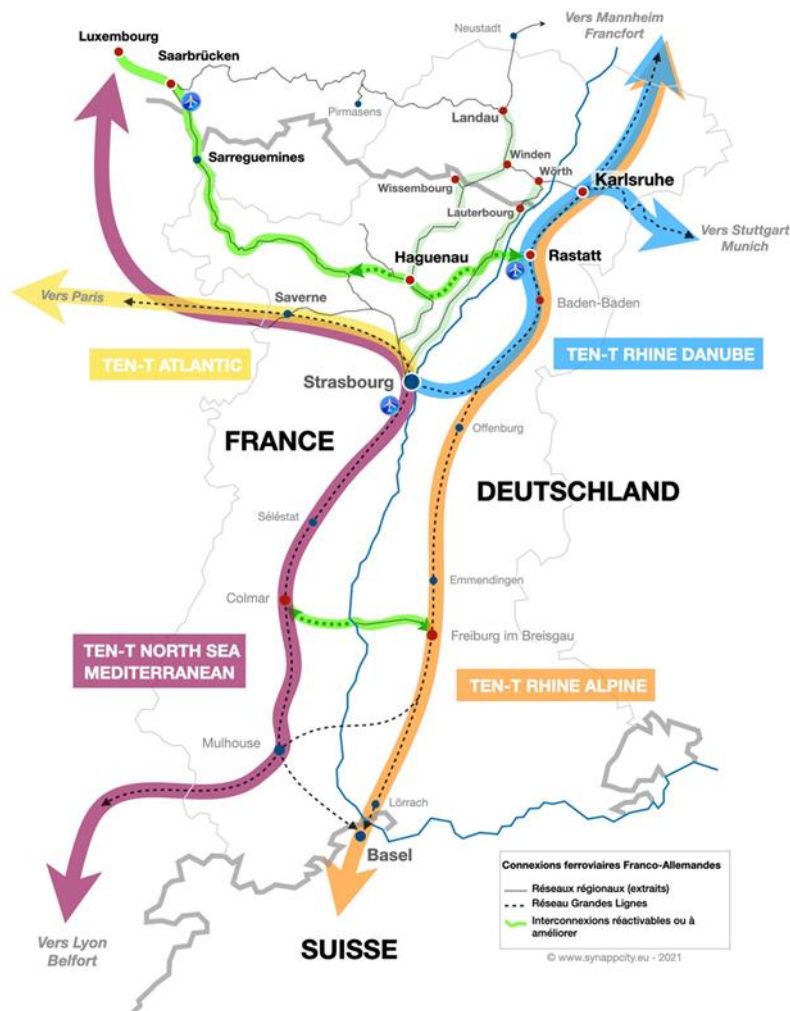
Recovering the cross-border railway line Karlsruhe – Rastatt – Haguenau – Saarbrücken

Connections of transnational corridors



Recovering the cross-border railway line Karlsruhe – Rastatt – Haguenau – Saarbrücken

A cross-border line at the crossroads of 4 major RTE-T corridors



A history of war – a history of reconciliation

Wars, reconstruction, dismantling

In 1934, five trains passed in each direction on the bridge. There were no more public trains after it was blown up in 1945. The bridge was rebuilt and used by NATO, but the last rail traffic on the bridge was in 1966.



Le pont de Beinheim après la guerre

Source: SNCF Médiathèque

The idea of reactivation

With the opening of the borders, a rail link in the northern Upper Rhine is becoming a must.

Construction and commissioning

The Rastatt-Haguenau railway line was built in 1895. In 1913, the Beinheim-Wintersdorf bridge was used daily by two fast trains, two express two express trains, 12 omnibuses and 13 freight trains. The two express trains connected Luxembourg and Nuremberg.

Operation until today

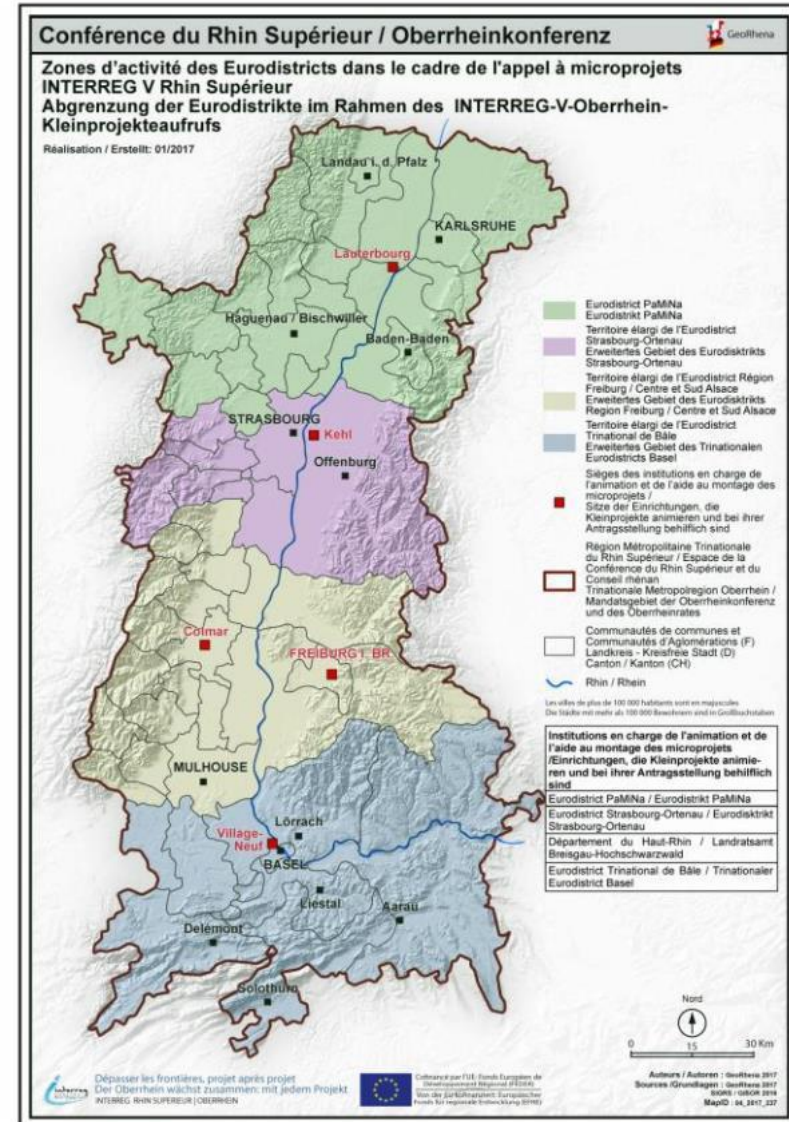
On the French side, the last military freight ran in 1973 (Oberhoffen-Soufflenheim) and in 1991 (Soufflenheim- Roeschwoog). Today, a short section is still used for freight traffic. The rest of the of the line is neutralised but not decommissioned and the track is maintained, On the German side, passenger trains were suspended in 1950. The bridge on the road to Wintersdorf still exists. On the German side, the line is still used by the Mercedes factory in Rastatt (connection between the factory and the station in Rastatt).

Realization of the reactivation

In 2016, Eurodistrict PAMINA included the reactivation of this railway line in its Mobility Action Plan. Political interest is expressed on all sides.

Recovering the cross-border railway line Karlsruhe – Rastatt – Haguenau – Saarbrücken

A highly diverse cross-border area



Route of the train

Karlsruhe – Rastatt – Haguenau –
Obermodern – Saarbrücken:

160 km

**SECTION TO BE
REACTIVATED:**

Haguenau – Obermodern:
~ **58 km**

out of service
~ **40 km**



A “missing link” with particularly promising potential

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

For the transport network, the cross-border region
& the European integration

ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

Increasing the region's attractiveness
& boosting Northern Alsace

SOCIAL EQUITY

Improving the citizens' quality of life
& ensuring better access to local supplies

A “missing link” with particularly promising potential

PASSENGER POTENTIAL

The estimate of cross-border passenger/day traffic is 6,000 journeys/day on a low assumption

- ❖ Consideration of a potential of 2000 persons/day in the framework of the study of the Land Baden-Württemberg on the reactivation of the Rastatt-Haguenau railway section,
- ❖ a potential of 1000 people/day in the study of the city of Rastatt concerning the extension and redevelopment of the whole business park, a potential of 1000 road/rail transfer to the Roppenheim brand centre,
- ❖ a road/rail transfer potential of 300 at Baden-Baden-Karlsruhe airport
- ❖ a potential of 1500 with a development/connection of the Karlsruhe tram-train with about 300 people - connection between Karlsruhe and Haguenau (economic development).

A “missing link” with particularly promising potential

FREIGHT TRAFFIC POTENTIAL

- ❖ Very great potential due to high density of cross-border companies with heavy-duty requirement
- ❖ Currently insufficient rail expansion, particularly noticeable since the tunnel collapse near Rastatt in 2017

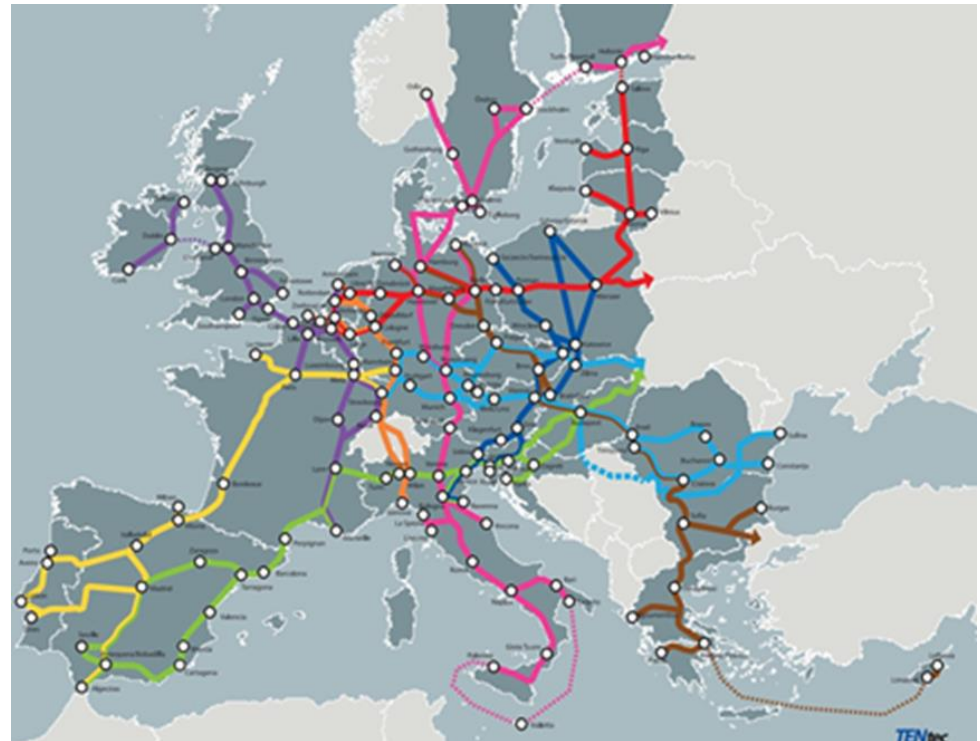
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

- ❖ Improving the citizens' quality of life
- ❖ Ensuring economic growth

A “missing link” with particularly promising potential

POTENTIAL FOR EUROPE

- ❖ Due to its exposed position in Europe, four important transport corridors are linked together:
 - ❖ TEN-T Atlantic
 - ❖ TEN-T Rhine – Danube
 - ❖ TEN-T North Sea – Mediterranean
 - ❖ TEN-T Rhine - Alps



A recovery of regional and European importance

MOBILITY ACTION
PLAN PAMINA
MAY 2016

COMPLEMENTARY
PROJECTS

EUROPEAN
CORRIDORS

COMPANIES

TECHNOLOGIEREGION
KARLSRUHE

Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle

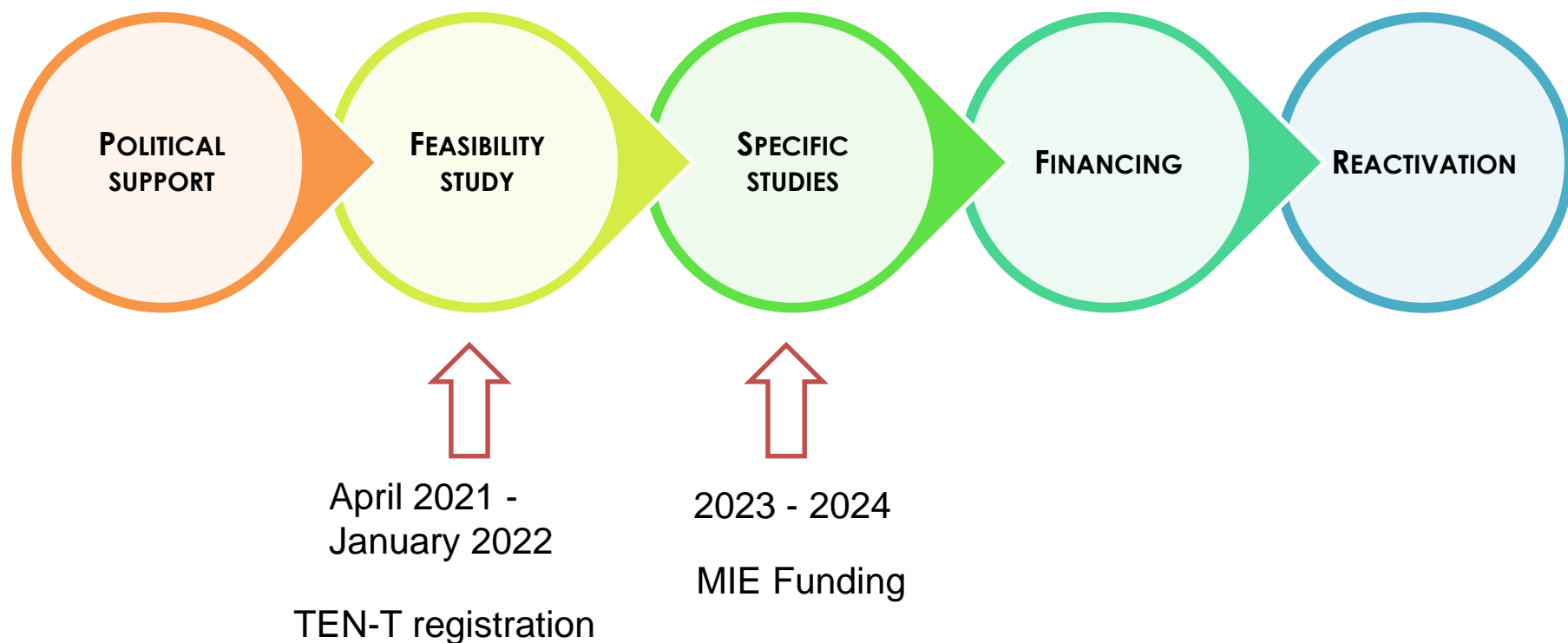
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION COMMITTEE (31 MAY 2021)

- ❖ concerning Haguenau/Rastatt (line that could be used for rail freight) a global feasibility study has been launched (MobiPamina, commissioned by the Pamina Eurodistrict, whose conclusions are expected in February 2022),
- ❖ the Colmar/Freiburg project is currently in the preliminary study phase, with results expected in autumn 2022

FRANCO-GERMAN COUNCIL OF THE MINISTERS (31 MAY 2021)

- ❖ In order to improve cross-border connections, we are studying the possibility of re-establishing the rail link between Freiburg and Colmar (with a first economic evaluation planned for 2022); we will also examine the possibility of re-establishing the rail line between Rastatt and Haguenau so as to strengthen the two European corridors along the Rhine, especially as regards freight. We will set up a Franco-German project group, with all relevant railway companies and projects, to work on the establishment of a direct rail link between Strasbourg and Frankfurt airport.

A medium-term project that requires short-term actions



Feasibility study: costs

PRELIMINARY FINANCING AGREEMENT

Total expected costs: €654,500

The financing plan is based on the following breakdown:

EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA	€ 27,250
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Baden-Württemberg	€ 50,000
Regional Association of the Middle Upper Rhine	€ 50,000
Grand Est region	€ 40,000
European Community of Alsace	€ 40,000
French State	€ 40,000
Haguenau Agglomeration Community	€ 40,000
Caisse des dépôts et consignations	€ 40,000

INTERREG V A Upper Rhine decided to grant a subsidy of 50% of the above-mentioned cost, i.e. € 327 250.

Recovering the cross-border railway line Karlsruhe – Rastatt – Haguenau – Saarbrücken



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**