Cross-border territories: fatalism or resilience?

21-22 June 2022

Cité Internationale Universitaire, Paris
+ online
Context

In the face of the crises that we have been dealing with for the past 20 years, should we resign ourselves to a situation where countries turn in on themselves and borders are reduced to mere dividing lines? Or are we capable collectively of demonstrating resilience, of adapting to an uncertain world, and of regarding borders as shared territories that are sources of progress?

Although they have been in the spotlight over the past two years and have been profoundly impacted by the pandemic, cross-border territories are conspicuously absent from the recovery plans. However, they can clearly be the leading territories for experimentation and innovation to meet the ambitions of the European Green Deal and embody Europe of the ecological transition.

In this respect, the European sense of belonging, which is one of the priorities of France’s EU presidency, can be seen in concrete form along Europe’s borders: cross-border integration creates a Europe of daily life, in which the border region citizen can become a standard-bearer for social, economic, environmental and democratic progress. At a time when war has broken out again on Europe’s doorstep, the failures both of closing borders and of opening them up without limits should once again call into question our cross-border model in order to construct a Europe of solidarity. These are the questions that the Borders Forum will attempt to answer.

The event is organised in the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union*

The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) is the result of a long-term partnership between the cross-border territories and the national and European institutions. Working alongside its members, partners and European networks, the MOT is heavily involved in cross-border policies at these three levels.

The 2nd Borders Forum is supported by the French National Agency for Territorial Cohesion.

European partners

The European Commission published in summer 2021 a report setting out its priorities for border regions, which are key tools for European integration. It suggests that these territories should be better taken into account in EU Cohesion policy 2021-2027.

The European Committee of the Regions is one of the main promoters of territorial cooperation and of the 80 European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs). The CoR support the day-to-day work of cross-border territories and networks in Europe.

ESPON is an EU-funded programme which aims at promoting and fostering a European territorial dimension in development and cooperation by providing evidence, knowledge transfer and policy learning to public authorities and other policy actors at all level.

Media partners

- France Média Monde and France 24
- Res publica
- BIG Network (Borders in Globalization)

Main organiser

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Objectives of the Borders Forum

1. Demonstrate the key role played by cross-border areas in bringing the peoples of Europe together; promote sustainable and inclusive growth; and support European integration.
2. Convence European and national authorities to put cross-border territories at the heart of their public action.

Cross-border areas involve 30% of the European population. Two million European workers are cross-border workers.

* This event is not organised by the French Government. It is however authorised by the French Government to use the emblem of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
On the way to cross-border sustainable development

Cross-border Europe, a reference in energy transition?

▶ Arantxa Gonzalez Laya, Former Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (ES)*
▶ Thomas Zeller, President of the Trinational Eurodistrict of Basel (FR-CH-DE)
▶ Hiba Debouk, Deputy Director - Territories at AREP - Interdisciplinary Architecture practice

Cross-border public services, a contribution to integration?

▶ Carole Delga, President of the Occitanie Region (FR), President of the Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean (FR-ES), President of the Régions de France*
▶ Antoine Trosch, Investment Director of the Banque des Territoires
▶ Tineke Bolhuis, Business Developer at Gasunie (NL)

What directions can cross-border territories follow?

▶ Charlotte Halpern, PhD in political science, FNSP tenured researcher at Sciences Po Paris
▶ François Decoster, Vice-President of the Hauts-de-France Region, Mayor of Saint-Omer (FR), Member of the French Delegation to the European Committee of the Regions
▶ Anke Rehlinger, Minister-President of Saarland (DE)*

Crises in Europe: what territorial responses to the present and future migratory challenges?

▶ Damien Carême, Member of European Parliament, Member of Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)*
▶ Wiktor Sydzarowski, Esopt EGTC Director
▶ María Ángeles Elorza Zubiría, Secretary-General for External Action, Basque Parliament (ES)

"The New European Bauhaus: what are the cross-border perspectives?"

17H30 CLOSING OF THE 1st DAY

18H00 - 21H00 COCKTAIL BUFFET

* To be confirmed.
** The round tables take place one after the other, they are not concomitant.
Cross-border alliances: compasses to be (re)imagined

8H30 WELCOMING COFFEE

9H15 Opening of the 2nd day
Nathalie Sarrabezolles, President of the COTER Commission, European Committee of the Regions

9H30 ROUND TABLES DISCUSSION** #8 AND #9
Moderation: Caroline de Camaret, Editor-in-chief Europe at France 24
Introduction: presentation of ESPON IRiE (Interregional relations in Europe) by Nicolas Rossignol, Head of Unit for Evidence and Outreach at ESPON EGTC

Between interdependencies and cross-border economic imbalances
▶ Christoph Schnaudigel, Landrat of Landkreis Karlsruhe (DE), President of the Eurodistrict PAMINA (FR-DE)
▶ Prof. Katy Hayward, Professor of Political Sociology Queen’s University Belfast and Senior Fellow, UK in a Changing Europe think-tank
▶ Tue David Bak, Managing Director at Greater Copenhagen, Member of the Growth Commission for an Inclusive and Sustainable Malmö (DK-SE)

Towards new models of cross-border governance?
▶ Sandro Gozzi, Member of European Parliament
▶ Philippe Voiry, Ambassador for intergovernmental commissions, cross-border issues and cooperation (FR)
▶ Dietmar Nietan, Coordinator of German-Polish Intersocietal and Cross-Border Cooperation, Federal Foreign Office*

Towards new models of cross-border governance?

11H00 BREAK

11H30 ROUND TABLES DISCUSSION** #8 AND #9
Moderation: Sophie Guillain, Managing Director at Res publica
What long-term alliances should be built in favour of the green transition?
▶ Jean Rottner, President of the Grand Est Region (FR)
▶ Damian Cortinas, European System Coordination Director at RTE, Member of the Board at ENTSO-E
▶ Anna Karina Kolb, Director of the External and Federal Affairs Department, State of Geneva (CH)

How to get organised to deal with environmental and climate emergencies?
▶ Xavier Pelletier, Prefect delegated to the reconstruction of the valleys, Prefecture of Alpes-Maritimes (FR)
▶ Iliyana Cvetanova, Project and Program Coordinator, Association of South-western municipalities (BG)
▶ Gaetano Vivo, Deputy Head of Unit, Disaster Risk Management, Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations (DG ECHO), European Commission

13H00 LUNCH BREAK

14H30 CITIZENS’ VOICES
Moderation: Tom Val, Senior Advisor at Res publica
What is the place of civil society and young people in the construction of the cross-border territories?

3 citizens / civil society representatives:
▶ Linus Bergauer, Volunteer in the Greater Region (FR-DE)
▶ Irene Santamaria, Trans-Pyrenean Youth Forum participant (FR-ES)
▶ Bektha Djilidjel, Former Interreg Volunteer Youth (FR-BE)

3 institutional representatives:
▶ Chantal Jouanno, President of the French National Commission for Public Debate
▶ Sandra González Álvarez, Mayor of Tomiño (ES)
▶ Gaëtane Ricard-Nihoul, Member of the Common Secretariat for the Conference on the Future of Europe

16H00 CONCLUDING DISCUSSION
Moderation: Caroline de Camaret, Editor-in-chief Europe at France 24
Synthesis:
Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, Professor at the University of Victoria, Canada

"Let's take the (cross-border) road!"
▶ Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms
▶ Vasco Alves Cordeiro, 1st Vice-President of European Committee of Regions
▶ Future French Minister of the Cohesion of Territories

17H00 END OF THE BORDERS FORUM

* To be confirmed.
** The round tables take place one after the other, they are not concomitant.
Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris

→ Salle Konrad Adenauer
17 bd Jourdan - 75014 Paris
www.ciup.fr
Opening hours of the Cité Universitaire: 8:30AM - 4PM

→ Languages of the event
Simultaneous translation into FR, EN, DE, ES, IT will be provided.

REGISTRATION
On www.bordersforum.eu
within the limit of the number of places available

ACCESS TO CÎTE UNIVERSITAIRE

Access by public transport
Arriving by RER: RER B, Cité Universitaire station
Arriving by subway: Metro line 4, Porte d’Orléans station
Arriving by tramway: T3, Cité Universitaire station
Arriving by Bus 21, 61, 88, 216
Station Velib’ Cité universitaire 14015
Access by car
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THE PLAN
of the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris

Access to the Konrad Adenauer Room (1st floor) from the entrance hall.