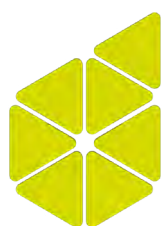


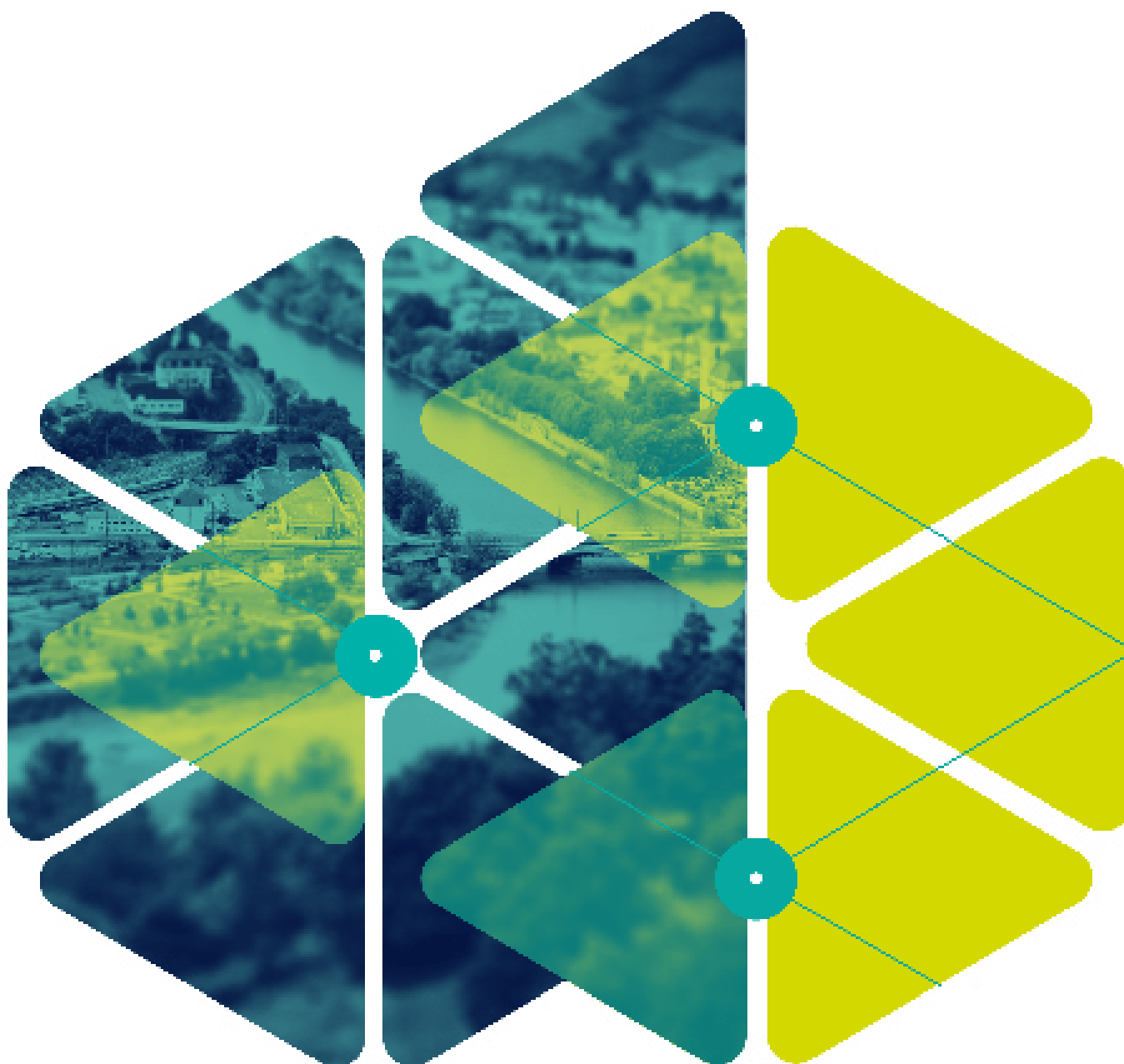
AN EVENT ORGANISED IN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



borders forum

Cross-border territories:
fatalism or resilience?

21/22
JUNE. 2022
—
IN PARIS
AND ONLINE



PRESS KIT

Table of contents

CONTEXT	3	THEMATIC APPROACH	
Presentation of the second edition of the Borders Forum	4	Recovery and «co-development»	10
Cross-border territories: areas deeply marked by the crisis	5	- Strong interdependencies	
France's presidency of the EU: «Cross-border territories, at the forefront of bringing Europe closer to its citizens»	6	- Cross-border teleworking	
European support for border regions	7	- Cross-border examples	
What place for cross-border territories in the Europe of tomorrow?	8	Green transition	12
Key actors	9	- Cross-border territories in favour of the green transition	
		- A European Green Deal	
		- Cross-border examples	
		Citizenship and solidarity	14
		- Civil society involvement in cross-border cooperation	
		- 2022, European Year of Youth	
		- Cross-border territories, transit and hosting places for displaced populations	
		- Cross-border examples	
		Cross-border governance	16
		- A «multilevel» governance	
		- A diversity of cross-border cooperation structures	
		- Cross-border examples	
		What is the «MOT»?	18
		The partners of the Borders Forum in 2022	19

Context

Cross-border territories: resignation or resilience?

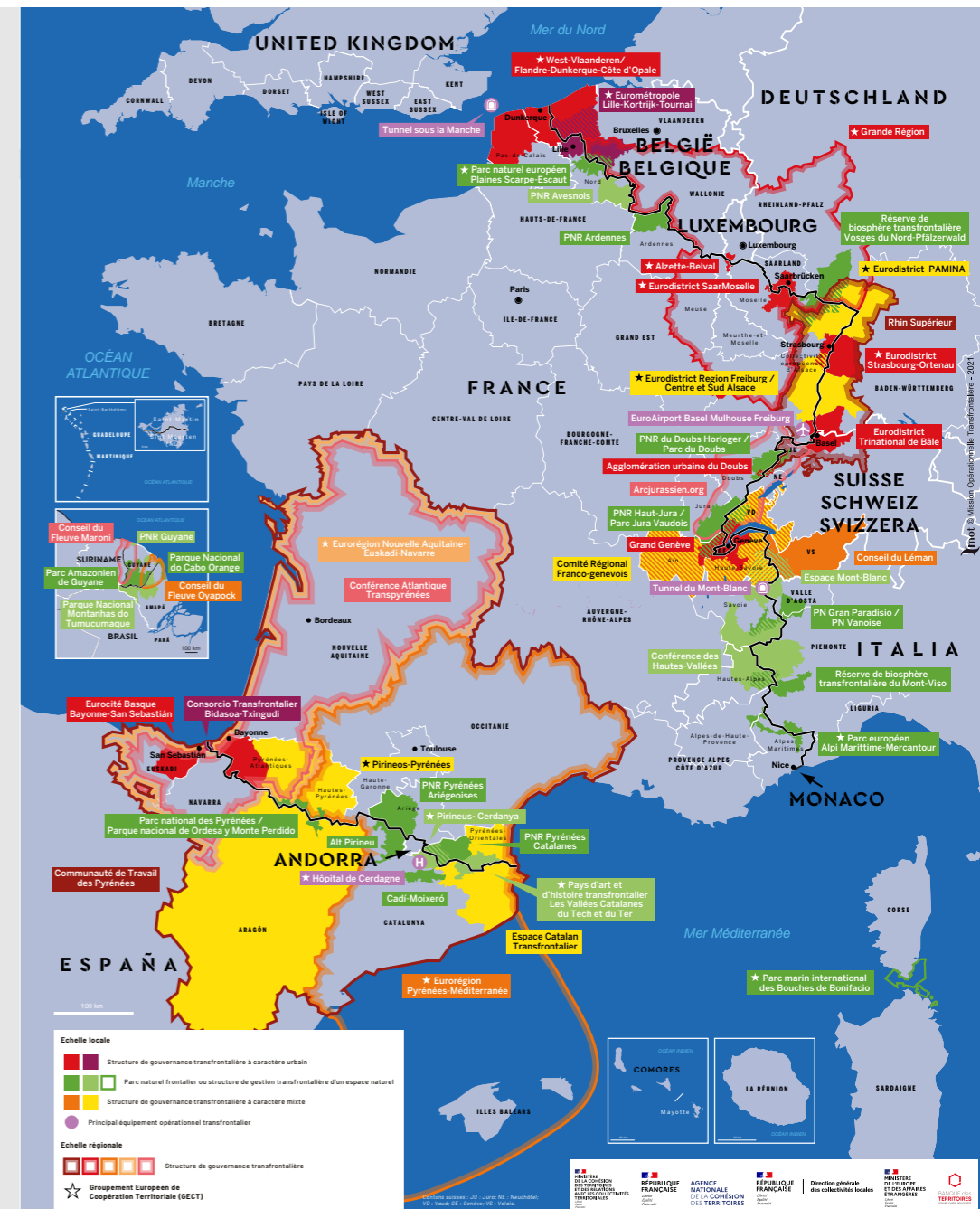
In the face of the crises that we have been dealing with for the past 20 years, should we resign ourselves to a situation where countries turn in on themselves and borders are reduced to mere dividing lines? Or are we capable collectively of demonstrating resilience, of adapting to an uncertain world,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

CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES AT THE FRENCH BORDERS



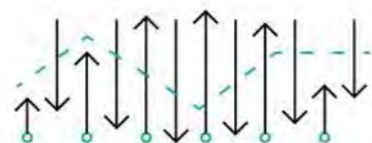
CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES REPRESENT



30%

of the territory of the European Union.

More than 1 European in 3 lives in a border region.



2 MILLION

cross-border workers in the EU – of which over 20% live in France.¹

20,000 KM

OF INTERNAL LAND BORDERS IN THE EU.

37

cross-border conurbations in Europe.



11 of which are on France's borders.

THE SECOND EDITION OF THE BORDERS FORUM:

Cross-border territories: resignation or resilience?

0 0
JUNE
21

On the way to cross-border sustainable development

0 0
JUNE
22

On the way to cross-border sustainable development

Key points and speakers



Opening by 21 JUNE - 9h30

- ▶ Christian Dupessey, President of the MOT, Mayor of Annemasse, President of the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois (FR)
- ▶ Amélie de Montchalin, French Minister for Ecological Transition and Cohesion of Territories*



High-level speakers

- ▶ Find the full programme with all the speakers [by clicking here](#).

- ▶ **Synthesis of the messages** 22 JUNE - 16h by Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, Professor at the University of Victoria, Canada



Moderation

- ▶ Caroline de Camaret, Editor-in-chief Europe at France 24
- ▶ Giuseppe Bettoni, Professor at the University of Rome
- ▶ Sophie Guillain, Managing Director at Res publica; et Tom Val, Senior Advisor at Res publica



Concluding discussion by 22 JUNE - 16h

- ▶ Marc Lemaître, Director-General of DG REGIO, European Commission
- ▶ Petr Blizkovsky, Secretary-General of the European Committee of the Regions
- ▶ Yves Le Breton, Director General of the French National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT) (FR)*

Two days of debates

ROUND TABLES #1 AND #2 21 JUNE - 11h

- #1 Cross-border management of our resources, an opportunity to seize?
- #2 Cross-border Europe, a reference in energy transition?

ROUND TABLES #3 AND #4 21 JUNE - 14h

- #3 For cross-border social and inclusive employment areas
- #4 Cross-border public services, a contribution to integration?

ROUND TABLE #5 21 JUNE - 16h

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

ROUND TABLES #6 AND #7 22 JUNE - 9h30

- #6 Between interdependencies and cross-border economic imbalances
- #7 Towards new models of cross-border governance?

ROUND TABLES #8 AND #9 22 JUNE - 11h30

- #8 What long-term alliances should be built in favour of the green transition?
- #9 How to get organised to deal with environmental and climate emergencies?

CITIZENS' VOICES 22 JUNE - 14h30

- What is the place of civil society and young people in the construction of the cross-border territories?

Cross-border territories: areas deeply marked by the crisis

In 2020, Europe faced a serious crisis with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many Member States took a series of unprecedented measures to combat it. While the preventive measures to contain the spread of the virus were undoubtedly necessary, some of them disproportionately affected national borders, creating unjustified constraints on movement and violations of fundamental European principles. The sudden closure of borders had serious consequences for cross-border communities: health care services were affected as workers from a neighbouring town or region could not reach their place of work; border workers were prevented from travelling to work or home; families were split up, people in care were separated from their relatives for long periods of time, etc.

The 2020 edition in a few key figures

8 ROUND TABLES

700 PARTICIPANTS

41 EUROPEAN SPEAKERS

40 REPRESENTED COUNTRIES



Elisa Ferreira
European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

«I would like the Borders Forum to be the place where we can exchange views on our core European values and reiterate how committed we all are to live in peace, in a Union of democracy and solidarity, across all borders. United in diversity is our motto. Let us remind ourselves of how powerful those words are in cross-border cooperation.»

CROSS-BORDER REGIONS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S PROPOSED REFORM OF THE SCHENGEN AREA:

On 14 December 2021, the European Commission presented to the European Parliament its proposals for new rules to strengthen the governance of the Schengen Area. The draft regulation, which sets forth a «Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders», specifically takes account of «cross-border regions». The Covid-19 pandemic and the closure of many borders in Europe compromised the principle of free movement in Europe, and the inhabitants of cross-border territories were the first victims of this. Now, with this proposed reform, the Commission is putting cross-border issues back at the heart of the European project. It is a major step forward which the MOT is very pleased about.

The proposed reform aims to achieve greater European coordination and gives Member States the means to

meet the new challenges posed by the management of the Schengen Area's internal borders, and that of the common external border. Its objective is to ensure that the reintroduction of internal border controls remains a measure of last resort. The new rules also introduce common tools to manage the external borders more effectively in the event of public health crises, drawing on the lessons learned from the pandemic.

STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AT BORDERS
The MOT study «Analysis of the impact of border-related measures taken by Member States in the fight against COVID-19» carried out for DG REGIO in 2020 is quoted extensively in the impact analysis in the draft legislation. A second part of the study is planned for June 2022. [Read the study here.](#)

* to be confirmed.

Key point



France's presidency of the EU

CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES, AT THE FOREFRONT OF BRINGING EUROPE CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS

Until 30 June 2022, France holds the presidency of the European Union Council. At a press conference on 9 December, President Emmanuel Macron set out the presidency's three main themes: «recovery», «power» and «belonging». On this last point, he emphasised that the feeling of belonging to the European region had «declined» in France, as in other EU countries.

Border territories have a crucial role to play in this work of strengthening the European feeling of belonging!

That is why the MOT and its network of players are calling for the voice of these territories to be fully taken into account. The Borders Forum, officially backed by France's presidency¹, aims to be an important opportunity to highlight these issues and the role to be played by cross-border territories.

☉ THE MOT'S VIEWS HEARD:

In order to prepare the work of France's presidency, a report² was submitted to the French Minister of State Clément Beaune a month before its launch. The views of the MOT and of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, were heard in this context. Cross-border cooperation is discussed in a chapter entitled **"Borders and the feeling of belonging"**. The report talks about the prospect of **recognising cross-border living areas**, defining a **status for their inhabitants**, experimenting with bespoke solutions there, and developing a **local Erasmus programme**.

☉ A MEMORANDUM FROM THE THREE FRANCO-BELGIAN EGTCs:

The three EGTCs³ working along the Franco-Belgian border signed a memorandum addressed to France's presidency of the EU. The three EGTCs wish «France to focus European policy on the development of cross-border regions, which is still hampered by many obstacles».

RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE: THE MOT REGRETS THE LACK OF IDENTIFICATION OF CROSS-BORDER ISSUES IN KEY AREAS

On 9 May 2022 the three Presidents of the EU institutions, Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, and the French President, Emmanuel Macron, received the conference's final report. Resulting from the discussions among citizens conducted over a year, the report focuses on 49 proposals and over 320 measures which the EU institutions have to follow up on. According to Ursula von der Leyen, some proposals will be implemented as early as this June; then in September she will announce new proposals in her address on the state of the Union. While the final report and the intermediate reports contain some positive elements, the MOT considers that cross-border issues do not have the place in them that they deserve and notes that regarding many emerging themes,

such as education, healthcare, taxation, energy and so on, the cross-border dimension is at the heart of the issues at stake, but is hardly explicitly identified.

The European Committee of the Regions, together with the members of the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance (MOT, AEBR and CESC, see page 9), organised public consultations on a shared vision for the long-term future of cross-border cooperation in the EU, which served as the basis for a CoR resolution adopted in July 2021.

The Borders Forum will be an opportunity to highlight this mobilisation for the future of cross-border cooperation.

MORE INFO: <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/news/news/news/show/resultats-de-la-conference-sur-lavenir-de-leurope-la-mot-regrette-le-manque-didentification-des/>

EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR BORDER REGIONS



neighbour cohesion

The European Union has 40 internal land border regions, which represent 40% of the Union's territory and close to 30% of the EU population. However, border regions generally perform less well economically than other regions within a Member State. Access to public services such as hospitals and universities is generally lower in border regions. Individuals, businesses and public authorities in border regions face specific difficulties when navigating between different administrative and legal systems.

Different types of obstacles hamper interactions across borders, thus preventing border regions from reaching their full potential. This unmet potential – the border effect – is significant. Research shows that, along internal EU borders, a potential gain of 2% GDP in border regions could be obtained if one fifth of existing obstacles would be overcome. Along external borders too, similar challenges persist.

THE INTERREG SUPPORT

The European Commission has been providing financial support to cross-border cooperation with European Territorial Cooperation – Interreg – for the past 30 years. With its limited resources when compared to the whole of Cohesion Policy (Interreg represents less than 3% of ERDF), Interreg also intervenes on establishing the framework for cooperation. Building trust is key!

Adopted in July 2021, the Interreg 2021-2027 regulation provides for the possibility of programmes financing an integrated territorial approach within the framework of functional areas, the establishment of a governance of cross-border territories favourable to the financing of projects by other tools, the resolution of obstacles, etc. The programmes, currently being finalised, make extensive use of these dispositions.

FUTHER SUPPORTS

In its 2017 Communication "Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions", the European Commission has

INTERREG HAS ACHIEVED MUCH IN SUPPORT FOR THESE REGIONS. HOWEVER, CONSULTATIONS AND CONTINUED EXCHANGES WITH STAKEHOLDERS HAVE SHOWN THAT MORE SHOULD BE DONE TO SUPPORT BORDER REGIONS TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL. TWO MAJOR LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNT WITH THIS PROCESS:

- ☉ **Support beyond funding** should be given to border regions to facilitate cross-border interactions.
- ☉ **Focus on legal and administrative obstacles:** frequently incompatible legal frameworks are present on the two sides of a border, hampering interactions. Work needs to be done to identify, analyse and lift those obstacles.

triggered the process of providing support to cross-border regions to overcome legal and administrative obstacles. Two elements illustrate the recent support (beyond funding) to border regions:

- **The "b-solutions" initiative** in favour of very small projects addressing very specific cross-border obstacles in a given cross-border region. For each project, a legal assessment of the root causes of the obstacles is made and a potential solution is identified. <https://www.bsolutionsproject.com/>
- **The European Cross-Border Mechanism (ECBM):** to overcome obstacles we must ensure that an adequate legal framework is in place. This is why the Commission has proposed a new "Mechanism to overcome legal and administrative in a cross-border context". This would allow for specific solutions to be found when incompatible legal or administrative frameworks hamper the development of cross-border projects. During the negotiations with the Council, the project has encountered opposition from certain States, but the reflection on this new European tool is continuing. <http://www.espacestransfrontaliers.org/activites-ue/groupe-intergouvobstacles/>

⁽¹⁾ 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.

⁽²⁾ «Une Europe pour aujourd'hui et pour demain», January 2022: a report entrusted to an independent committee of reflection chaired by Thierry Chopin, a special adviser at the Institut Jacques Delors.

⁽³⁾ The Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis (at the initiative of the project), West-Vlaanderen/Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale and the Plaine de la Scarpe et de l'Escaut. More info: <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/news/news/news/show/les-trois-gect-franco-belges-signent-un-memorandum-a-lattention-de-la-pfue/>

WHAT PLACE FOR CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES IN THE EUROPE OF TOMORROW?

The report «EU border regions: living labs of European integration», published by the European Commission on July 2021, reminds the need to strengthen cross-border cooperation to make these regions more resilient and develop their potential in the face of persistent obstacles. The report sets out the progress made over the past few years through examples of good practices and the setting-up of initiatives such as the b-solutions initiative launched in 2017, which has helped to identify the main causes of legal and administrative obstacles and to put forward solutions to tackle them.

PROPOSITIONS

- The actions proposed to strengthen cross-border cooperation are grouped into four main clusters:
- 1) **Resilience** through deeper institutional cooperation
 - 2) More and better **cross-border public services**
 - 3) Vibrant **cross-border labour markets**
 - 4) Border regions for the **European Green Deal**

REMOVING OBSTACLES

Many administrative and legal obstacles remain and prevent the realisation of essential projects in the border regions. The European Commission report thus reminds the interest of the ECBM legal instrument which would facilitate the implementation of cross-border projects. The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) initiative will have to be supplemented by the ECBM when the legal provisions of a state prevent the implementation of a joint cross-border project.

MORE INFO

«EU border regions: living labs of European integration», report from the European Commission, 13 July 2021: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/fr/information/publications/reports/2021/eu-border-regions-living-labs-of-european-integration

Cohesion policy: «the backbone of the EU development and solidarity models»

On 25 January 2022, the European Committee of the Regions and the European Commission signed a Joint Action Plan to enhance cooperation supporting regions in the transition towards a more inclusive, sustainable and digital Europe. The aim is to support local and regional authorities in effectively using the €500 billion available in EU structural funds and national co-funding and secure their consistency and complementarity with the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira, underlined that «both during the crisis and now in the midst of recovery, cohesion policy proved to be the backbone of the EU development and solidarity models. Whatever the challenge, from green and just transition to digital revolution, from demographic changes to the vision for rural areas, cohesion policy is there to ensure that all regions benefit fully, and that no region is left behind.»

The Conference on the Future of Europe

On 9th May 2021, the Parliament, the Council and the European Commission launched the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE), offering an unprecedented exercise in participatory democracy open to all the citizens. For one year, a series of open, inclusive discussions and debates have been conducted by citizens from all 27 Member States. An interactive digital platform enables everyone to take part in the discussions, express ideas and organise events.

In partnership with the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance (cf. next page), the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) carried out a public consultation on the future of cross-border cooperation up to 2050. On the basis of the responses, a resolution has been drawn up. Adopted on 1 July 2021, it constitutes the official contribution of the CoR to the CoFoE. It presents concrete proposals to put cross-border cooperation back at the heart of the EU priorities after a year affected by the pandemic.

The CoFoE delivered its conclusions in May 2022. The Borders Forum will be an opportunity to relay the expectations of the territories on the future of cross-border cooperation in Europe.

KEY ACTORS

EGTC Platform

WHAT IS AN EGTC?

The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) was introduced in 2006 through a European Union Regulation in order to overcome cross-border obstacles and assist public authorities in different Member States looking to implement actions across national borders.

The EGTC instrument enables public actors to establish an international entity under European law, and in that way simplify cross-border cooperation and cut red tape considerably. The aim is to simplify cooperation on both sides of the border and considerably reduce administrative formalities.

The EGTC Platform of the European Committee of the Regions integrates the political and technical representatives of all the existing EGTCs, EGTCs under construction and experts. The Platform aims to facilitate the exchange of experiences in the field, to promote the EGTC as a tool for territorial cohesion and give visibility to the EGTC projects, while supporting the consultative works of the CoR in cross-border issues.

THE EGTC PLATFORM:

<https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/Pages/welcome.aspx>



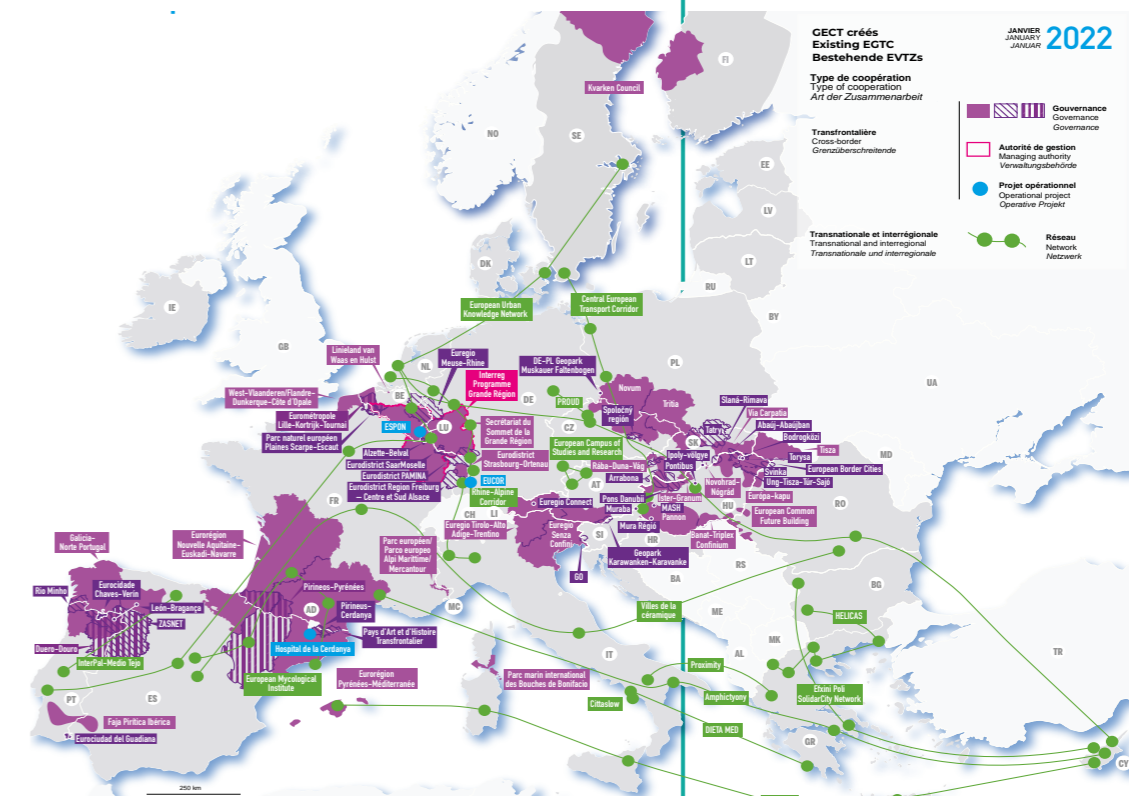
The European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance

In November 2020, at the 1st Borders Forum, the MOT, AEBR and CESC launched a «European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance», with the support of the European Committee of the Regions. This Alliance advocates, on behalf of cross-border territories throughout Europe, that European and national decisions should in the future provide border authorities with more resources and powers to deepen cooperation across borders. It is addressed to European and national authorities. Less than a year later, on 7 October 2021, the founding partners signed the Strasbourg Declaration, in order to «maintain cross-border cooperation at the heart of the European project».

THE ALLIANCE : <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/activites-ue/european-cross-border-citizens-alliance/>

THE STRASBOURG DECLARATION: <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/news/news/news/show/larfe-la-mot-et-le-cesci-signent-la-declaration-de-strasbourg/>

As of May 2022, there were 84 EGTCs in the EU, with several more being set-up.



RECOVERY AND «CO-DEVELOPMENT»

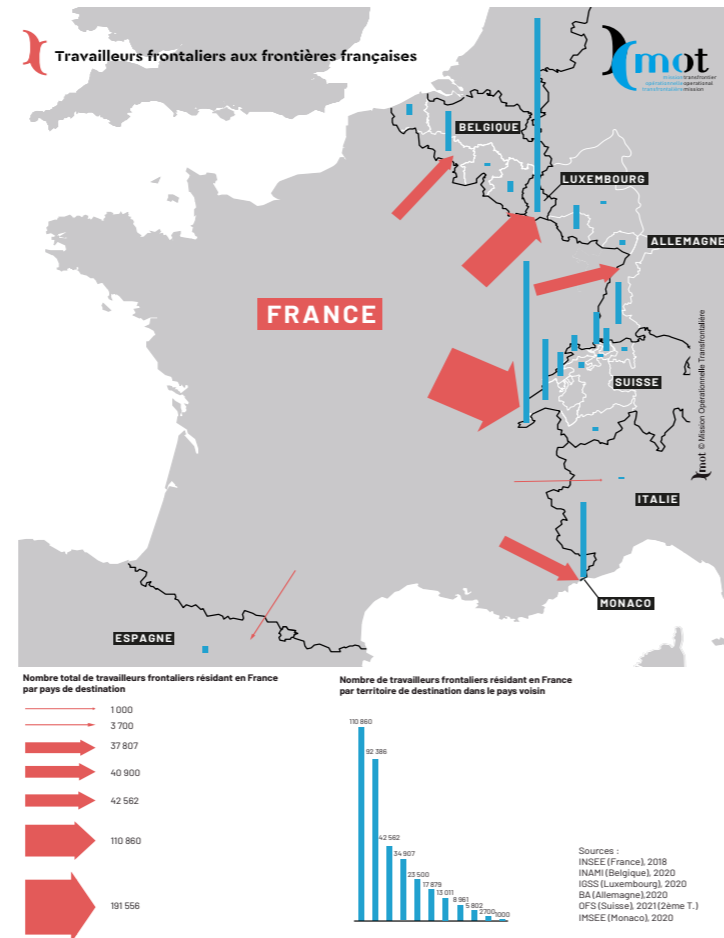
Recovery and «co-development»

Strong interdependencies

For cross-border cooperation in the field of economic development, tax, salary and price differentials, and linguistic, administrative, and cultural diversity etc., are both constraints and opportunities. Households and businesses take advantage of these differentials in their choice of location and use of markets (including the labour market) on the other side of the border. For both the labour force and businesses, the mastery of two languages, two cultures, two administrative environments, etc., is an asset that can broaden their horizons, not only within the cross-border territory, but more broadly to the whole of the two or three countries concerned.

The cross-border territories have been strongly affected by the health crisis and its socio-economic impacts. In addition to the labour market deterioration, the health situation has also led us to reconsider the issue of teleworking and the status of the border worker.

In the context of the European and national recovery plans, the question of cross-border solidarity is more than ever at the heart of the debate. The aim is to take better account of the cross-border interdependencies revealed by the crisis, which can be sources of imbalances and aggravating factors of regional disparities, and to promote economic recovery at the level of the cross-border living area. This co-development objective aims to establish a more sustainable and balanced economic model on both sides of the borders.



CROSS-BORDER EXAMPLES:

Multi-site business areas on both sides of the Rhine: as part of the MORO Upper Rhine project, a new generation of multi-site cross-border business areas on both sides of the Rhine is being studied. These business parks are both a solution to the scarcity of land and a lever for co-development within the cross-border living area. **To talk about it:** Christophe Schnaudigel, President of the PAMINA Eurodistrict (22/06)

The Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre Euroregion facilitates cross-border employment: «EMPLEO» is a digital information portal and a reception and advice centre, launched in 2017. Its aim is to promote cross-border professional mobility in the Euroregion. Funded by the Interreg Poctefa programme, the project aims to develop a Euroregional employment area.

France-Belgium - Cross-border «France Services»: the Nord Department has set up «France Services» houses and buses. It is a label awarded by the French National Agency for Cohesion of the Territories (ANCT) to places providing assistance with administrative procedures for residents. These places link French and Belgian public services within the cross-border territory. They contribute to a more inclusive Europe, by supporting users in their professional and residential mobility.

To strengthen cross-border work between France and Italy: financed by the Interreg Italy-France Maritime programme, the MA.R.E project develops joint services to promote the fluidity of exchanges between job offers and demands in the cross-border area. This initiative involves the construction of a network between employment services to better match the needs of the regions of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (with the involvement of Pôle emploi Paca), Corsica, Tuscany, Liguria and Sardinia. This project is a concrete implementation of the sustainable mobility/employment component of the Franco-Italian Treaty of Quirinal.

Cross-border teleworking

From the spring of 2020, teleworking had suddenly entered the lives of millions of European workers. It has been a form of «lifeline» for an economy brought to a standstill by the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions that followed. It has made it possible to maintain or even preserve a certain continuity of activity, while providing for the health security of the people concerned. In 2021, more than 40% of teleworkers in Europe and 25% in France have teleworked, compared to 15% and 7% respectively before the pandemic. This increase has been particularly perceptible in border territories, which have been confronted with a form of «national confinement» following the partial or total shutdown of European internal borders.

MORE INFO
«Le télétravail frontalier : de marginal à indispensable», MOT study, May 2022, in French: www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Documents_MOT/MOT_etude_teletravail_2022.pdf

ON THE WAY TO A FRENCH-SWISS AGREEMENT ON TELEWORKING FOR CROSS-BORDER WORKERS?

⊙ In spring 2020, France and Switzerland authorised border workers to work from home without changing their tax situation or the payment of their social security contributions. Two years later, despite the end of restrictions linked to the health crisis, teleworking has become a permanent feature of workers' habits. Both countries have struggled to find a permanent solution. They have repeatedly extended the provisional amicable agreement, which will finally expire on 1 July 2022. A new agreement is expected to be reached by the summer of 2022.



Christian Dupessey
President of the MOT, Mayor of Annemasse, President of the Pôle métropolitain du Genevois français

«Teleworking has an impact on many areas, such as mobility, climate or the attractiveness of the territory. That is why the post-Covid challenge is to ensure the sustainability of the measures adopted to facilitate it. The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière has shared the expertise of Greater Geneva in the management of teleworking during the pandemic and will continue to do so.»

« The desire to erase the border is paradoxical. »

At the MOT General Assembly in Morteau on 21 September, Anne Vignot, President of Grand Besançon Métropole and Mayor of Besançon, underlined that «it is precisely because there is a border and a dissociation of functioning on both sides that there is a dynamic within the cross-border territory. The question is to know whether it is positive, and for whom it is positive.»



© Léman Express

Teleworking for border workers: a response to worker flows?

Within the cross-border territory of Greater Geneva, the Léman express, a rail link between Annemasse and Genève, carries nearly 30,000 passengers every day, including many border workers.

GREEN TRANSITION

Green transition

Cross-border territories in favour of the green transition

Nature and climate do not know the limits defined by humans, that is why the issue of green transition goes beyond borders. The objectives defined by the green pact require the implementation of coherent and coordinated actions on the scale of the continent. In this respect, cross-border territories are privileged areas for the European ecological and energy transition.

The fragmentation of natural areas by national borders complicates their protection and the management of their resources is sometimes chaotic. Cross-border cooperation is therefore necessary to restore ecological continuity and establish ecological corridors, to manage river basins sustainably, or to reduce pollution effectively.

The cross-border level may also be relevant for the implementation of risk prevention and management plans at cross-border level, in order to tackle natural and technological risks.

As interfaces between national energy networks, cross-border territories also play a key role in the European energy transition, by promoting the interconnection of networks, the mutualisation of infrastructures and the exchange of good practices between neighbours.

A European Green Deal

To fight against climate change and environmental degradation, the European Union has adopted a series of proposals to adapt its climate, energy, transport and taxation policies. The Green Deal is now a EU's roadmap that aims to transform the European economy into a modern, competitive, sustainable and resource-efficient economy.

It defines eight objectives to be achieved up to 2050:

- Reinforcing the **EU's climate ambition** for 2030 and 2050;
- Providing clean, affordable and secure **energy**;
- Mobilising **industry** for a clean and circular economy;
- Energy and resource efficient **construction and renovation**;
- A **zero pollution ambition** for a toxic free environment;
- Preserving and restoring **ecosystems and biodiversity**;



New European Bauhaus

This initiative, supported by the European Commission, encourages us to transform our living areas in order to make them more consistent with the ecological transition objectives of the Green Pact for Europe. This interdisciplinary reflection stands at the crossroads between art, culture, social inclusion, science and technology. Approximately €85 million in funding has been allocated to the New European Bauhaus projects from EU programmes for the period 2021-2022, including the Horizon Europe programme for research and innovation, the LIFE programme for environment and climate action and the European Regional Development Fund.

How can the New European Bauhaus contribute to building a new European cross-border imaginary? How can it help to transform the «border line» into a «border zone», a source of greater inclusion of people across borders and a greater sense of belonging to a common European space?

- **«From Farm to Fork»**: a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system;
- Accelerating the transition to sustainable and intelligent **mobility**.

MORE INFO

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

CROSS-BORDER EXAMPLES:



Intelligent and resilient reconstruction of the Roya and Vésubie Valleys

In the Roya and Vésubie Valleys, destroyed by storm Alex in the autumn of 2020, reconstruction is ongoing. It is not planned to rebuild identically, but to take account of future needs and to prevent future potentially destructive meteorological episodes on a cross-border level. In particular, danger zones classified as unbuildable have been delimited.

To talk about it: Xavier Pelletier, Prefect delegated to the reconstruction of the valleys, Préfecture des Alpes-Maritimes (22/06)



Greater Geneva in transition

Greater Geneva has launched a concerted action programme for the ecological transition, to make it the keystone of cross-border development and cooperation. This approach should result in the signing of a political charter in 2022, followed by a major consultation and an action plan in 2023.

To talk about it: Anna-Karina Kolb, Director of the External and Federal Affairs Department, State of Geneva (22/06)



France-Germany-Luxembourg: a cross-border hydrogen transport network

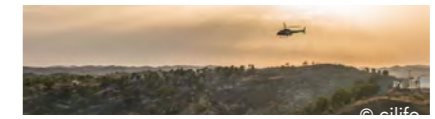
Supported by GRTgaz, Creos and Encevo, the MosaHYc (Moselle Sarre HYdrogène Conversion) cross-border network project aims to implement 100 km of hydrogen pipelines by 2026. This is an integrated ecosystem that will link the production of clean hydrogen to mobility and industry in Saarland (Germany), Lorraine (France) and Luxembourg. This network will thus contribute to the development of a regional, cross-border hydrogen ecosystem between three countries.

To talk about it: Jean Rottner, President of the Grand Est Region (22/06)



A cross-border heating network between Strasbourg and Kehl

The Eurometropole of Strasbourg, the Grand-Est region, the Banque des Territoires, the city of Kehl and the Land of Baden-Wutemberg have initiated the creation of the local semi-public company Calorie Kehl-Strasbourg. Its purpose is to manage a cross-border heating network from 2026. The aim is to recover the heat produced by the Badische Stahlwerke steelworks in Kehl to provide heating for homes in Strasbourg. The recovered heat could supply 4,500 homes initially, and up to 20,000 homes in the longer term.



A Spanish-Portuguese cross-border forest fire prevention project

As part of the Interreg VA Spain-Portugal programme, the Iberian Centre for Research and Fight against Forest Fires (CILIFO) is a project that aims to improve the authorities' response capacity to forest fires in the Alentejo - Algarve - Andalusia Euroregion cooperation area. In 2021, the project won the European Enterprise Promotion Award (EEPA) for establishing the world's first forest fire incubator.



A cross-border nature park on the French-Belgian border

The European nature park Plaines Scarpe-Escaut EGTC brings together two parks on the French-Belgian border: the PNR Scarpe-Escaut on the French side and the Parc naturel des Plaines de l'Escaut on the Belgian side. Its objective is to develop the integrated and sustainable management of cross-border natural resources and ecosystems. The establishment of an EGTC, formalised in 2022, enables governance to be structured, financial and administrative arrangements to be facilitated and the visibility of projects to be improved. This approach was inspired in particular by the Parc européen/ Parco europeo Alpi Marittime Mercantour EGTC, on the French-Italian border, established in 2013.

CITIZENSHIP AND SOLIDARITY

Civil society involvement in cross-border cooperation

With almost a third of the European population living in a border territory, cross-border cooperation responds to real and concrete needs of local populations. Civil society actors were early precursors of this cooperation through their local initiatives. However, current cross-border cooperation is essentially part of the action of the public authorities. In the end, it remains little known to the inhabitants, who are the first recipients and consumers of the cross-border projects carried out on their territory.

The recognition of cross-border living areas by the inhabitants themselves is however an essential prerequisite for strengthening territorial and European cohesion. It is therefore necessary to involve citizens more in the decision-making processes and political construction of these territories, beyond the major electoral events, by setting up inclusive and innovative mechanisms for citizen participation.

2022, European Year of Youth

The pandemic has had a profound social and economic impact on all Europeans, and in particular on young people. For this reason, in 2022, the European Union has decided to focus on youth. The aim is to put young Europeans in the spotlight in a post-pandemic perspective, to support them and to engage with them, in order to strengthen the integration of their priorities into policy-making. Actions at national, regional and local level are carried out in all Member States throughout the year.

CROSS-BORDER EXAMPLES:



The Eurocidade Cerveira-Tomiño, pioneer of cross-border citizenship

In 2016, the municipalities of Tomiño in Spain and Cerveira in Portugal set up an innovative project: a cross-border participatory budget. It aims to enable the inhabitants to propose, decide and conduct together projects that will bring them closer together. Since 2017, the Eurocity has also been conducting an innovative experiment, with the institution of Women Defenders of Rights («Valedora» in Galician; «Provedora», in Portuguese) of cross-border citizenship. Their function is «to ensure the defence and realisation of the rights and specific interests of residents as European cross-border citizens». They are pioneering figures in cooperation between Galicia and Portugal. They carry out their activity with autonomy and impartiality as regards municipal bodies and without remuneration. The initiative has been rewarded by the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy, receiving a special mention in the ODP «Best Practice in Citizen Participation» Award.

To talk about it: Sandra González Álvarez, Mayor of Tomiño (22/06)



The Youth Parliament of the Pyrenees Mediterranean Euroregion

In February 2022, the Occitania Region, the Generalitat de Catalunya and the Balearic Islands Government agreed to create a Youth Parliament. This is a mixed and representative assembly composed of about ten young people from each region. The Euroregion ambition is to involve young citizens more closely in the projects, especially those that tackle climate and ecological issues. The Borders Forum also gives young people the floor! On 22 June, the sequence entitled «What is the place for civil society and young people in the construction of the cross-border territories?» will bring together several young speakers involved in cross-border citizen initiatives. It will be an opportunity for them to question institutional and political actors on the issue of a fairer association of the populations in the construction of cross-border areas.

To talk about it: Carole Delga, President of the Occitanie Region, President of the Pyrenees Mediterranean Euroregion (21/06) (to be confirmed)

CROSS-BORDER EXAMPLES:



Franco-German micro-projects to involve cross-border civil society

Launched in 2017 and supported by the four Upper Rhine Eurodistricts, the «Civil society in the Upper Rhine» project aimed to increase the inhabitants' participation in the joint construction of a cross-border daily life. In 5 years, 62 micro-projects have been carried out by civil society actors and 19 Franco-German meeting projects by the Eurodistricts themselves, gathering a total of 10,200 citizens. These Franco-German micro-projects could become a source of inspiration for other Interreg programmes, especially in the context of the ETC Regulation 2021-2027, which is favourable to the emergence of this type of «people-to-people» fund, which can represent up to 20% of the overall budget of each programme.

To talk about it: Christophe Schnaudigel, President of the PAMINA Eurodistrict (22/06)



Involving the inhabitants of the Trinational Eurodistrict of Basel in the reflection on the future of their region

In 2021, in collaboration with the Euro-Institute and the MOT, the Trinational Eurodistrict Basel has developed a concept based on a survey and several virtual events. It aims to ensure a broad participation of the population and to create a real exchange between the citizens of the three countries. The numerous responses to the survey revealed the interest of the citizens to participate in this reflection. The citizens formulated 402 wishes and concrete ideas for various projects, such as the creation of bus lines, a cross-border volunteering platform or a great trinational post-Covid party. They have provided promising inspiration for the future!

To talk about it: Thomas Zeller, President of the President of the Trinational Eurodistrict of Basel (21/06)

Cross-border territories, transit and hosting places for displaced populations

At the European and global levels, political, climatic and sanitary crisis lead to massive population movements. The hosting, passage and management of these large population flows occur on Europe's internal and external borders, and their consequences raise new issues for cross-border stakeholders. These large flows of people and their consequences in the territories challenge the cross-border actors. They must therefore act, show collective solidarity and respond promptly and effectively to new social, economic and even educational challenges.



The Basque Country commits to helping migrants in transit

In November 2021, the presidents of the Basque Country agglomeration community, Jean-René Etchegaray, and of the Basque autonomous government, Iñigo Urkullu, signed a joint declaration on the migration issue. They reaffirmed the humanitarian commitment of both territories to the massive displacement of people in transit through the Basque Country. They also called on the States and Europe to take urgent measures to secure the roads of migrants in transit and to guarantee their fundamental rights.

To talk about it: María Ángeles Elorza Zubiría, Secretary-General for External Action, Basque Parliament (21/06)

SaarMoselle: a platform to facilitate the procedures for refugees

In April 2022, a platform was set up by the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict in order to provide support for the reception of Ukrainian refugees. It aims to facilitate cross-border exchanges in order to strengthen the proposals for accommodation, schooling, and access to healthcare...

To talk about it: Gilbert Schuh, Vice-President of the Moselle Department de Moselle, President of the Eurodistrict Saarmoselle (21/06)

Ensuring the successful integration of immigrant populations within the French-Belgian cross-border territory

The «AB Réfugiés-Social» project, supported by the Interreg France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen programme, aims to promote the cross-border mobility of new arrivals and to facilitate their integration into the cross-border labour markets. The French, Walloon and Flemish partners and labour market actors undertake actions in favour of refugees living in the territory, in order to support them until they get a job (orientation, professional training, language training, etc.).

CROSS-BORDER GOVERNANCE

A «multilevel» governance

European borders - external and internal - are characterised by a profusion of cooperation schemes which take different forms in each territory and at several levels: local (Eurodistricts, local cross-border structures, etc.), interstate with the indispensable involvement of the state (intergovernmental commissions), or supra-regional (Euroregions). The multi-level nature of cross-border governance remains a fundamental issue, because of the differences in organisation, the asymmetries of competences and the interdependence between different topics.

A diversity of cross-border cooperation structures

These different ways of organising political, administrative and legal systems on either side of borders justify the creation of governance structures with very different configurations, in terms of composition, operation, missions, territorial scale and legal form. Cross-border governance can take different legal forms, more or less structured, depending on the objectives of the various initiatives, the cultures of public action or the resources committed: cooperation protocols, conventions, agreements, consorcio, LGCC, EGTC, EEIG, etc.

MORE INFO

The map of the cross-border territories at the French borders: http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/uploads/tx_tmswmotressources/map/Carre_France_territoires_tf_2021.pdf

The map of the EGTCs in Europe : http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/uploads/tx_tmswmotressources/map/20220125_Carte_GECT_Europe.pdf

«Call for the recognition of cross-border living areas»

«It is by working together at all levels that we will succeed in giving local actors the means to conduct their projects, to resolve the obstacles, and to build in each territory a cross-border governance adapted to the needs of the citizens», explains Christian Dupessey, President of the MOT, Mayor of Annemasse, President of the Pôle métropolitain du Genevois français.

« There are still too many barriers»

«In cross-border territories, there are still too many barriers that hamper social development and prevent the completion of the single market. To overcome them, we must strengthen cooperation and test new forms of integration. For example, the Quirinal Treaty, with the commitment of Italy and France, aims to promote cooperation between the two countries in many fields. It will considerably strengthen the sense of common European belonging and allow a coordinated approach to face new economic and political challenges», underlines Sandro Gozi, MEP, who will speak at the event on RT#7 «Towards new models of governance?».

The “3DS Law”, a major advance for cross-border territories in France

Adopted in February 2022, the 3DS law (differentiation, decentralisation, deconcentration and simplification of local public action) includes an entire chapter dedicated to «cross-border cooperation».

Several concrete measures have been taken for cross-border territories, particularly in the fields of health, education and training, spatial planning and development and the resolution of cross-border obstacles.

These measures reflect progress in the consideration of cross-border specificities within national policies. They are partly the result of contributions from the network and the reflections expressed through the various MOT bodies.

MORE INFO

<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/news/news/show/adoption-du-projet-de-loi-3ds-des-avancees-concretes-pour-les-territoires-transfrontaliers>

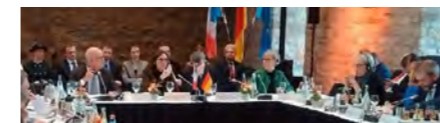
CROSS-BORDER EXAMPLES:

The Quirinal Treaty: stronger Franco-Italian cross-border cooperation

Ahead of the French presidency of the EU, French President Emmanuel Macron and the head of the Italian government, Mario Draghi, signed a treaty of enhanced bilateral cooperation in Rome, the «Treaty of the Quirinal». This «friendship pact» is historic and demonstrates the determination to develop Franco-Italian cross-border cooperation, at the highest level of the State.

The Quirinal Treaty has three objectives: to work together at European level for a more united, democratic and sovereign Europe; to promote the rapprochement and integration of civil societies; and to structure the bilateral relationship by giving it strategic guidelines and formalising various consultation frameworks. It is completed by a roadmap that «specifies the areas and projects of cooperation that the two countries intend to implement».

Article 10 of the treaty is devoted to cross-border cooperation. It highlights the recognition of the French-Italian border as a «continuous living area, where the French and Italian populations share a common destiny», and creates a «border cooperation committee» dedicated to cross-border issues on the same principle as the Franco-German committee of the Aachen Treaty (TALC).



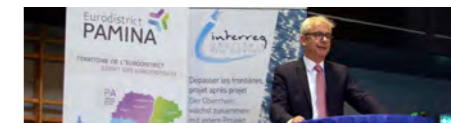
The Franco-German example of bilateral cross-border cooperation: the Aachen Treaty

Signed on 22 January 2019 in Aachen, the new Treaty on cooperation and integration between Germany and France includes a chapter entirely dedicated to cross-border cooperation. Drafted with an active contribution from the MOT, it aims to eliminate cross-border obstacles in order to facilitate the implementation of projects and simplify the daily life of border residents. The treaty also establishes a Franco-German Cross-Border Cooperation Committee (CCT), mandated to examine «as a matter of priority those issues relating to cross-border cooperation which could not be resolved within the existing bodies, and whose resolution requires increased cooperation». The last meeting of the CCT was held on 12 March 2022, in Strasbourg, under the co-chairmanship of Clément Beaune, Secretary of State for European Affairs (FR), and Anna Lührmann, Minister Delegate for Europe and Climate (DE). The MOT participated as an «expert» in the committee.

To speak about it: Jean Rottner, President of the Grand Est Region and Philippe Voiry, Ambassador for intergovernmental commissions, cooperation and cross-border relations (22/06)



To talk about it: Sandro Gozi, MEP (22/06)



Example of the Eurodistrict Pamina

The EGTC (European grouping of territorial cooperation) of the PAMINA Eurodistrict (Southern Palatinate, Mittlerer Oberrhein and Northern Alsace) is a platform for the mutualisation of competences and a facilitator for the development of territorial cohesion. It implements projects and advises citizens, companies, associations and local authorities on all issues related to cross-border cooperation on its territory. **To speak about it:** Christoph Schnaudigel, Landrat of the Landkreis Karlsruhe, President of the Eurodistrict (22/06)

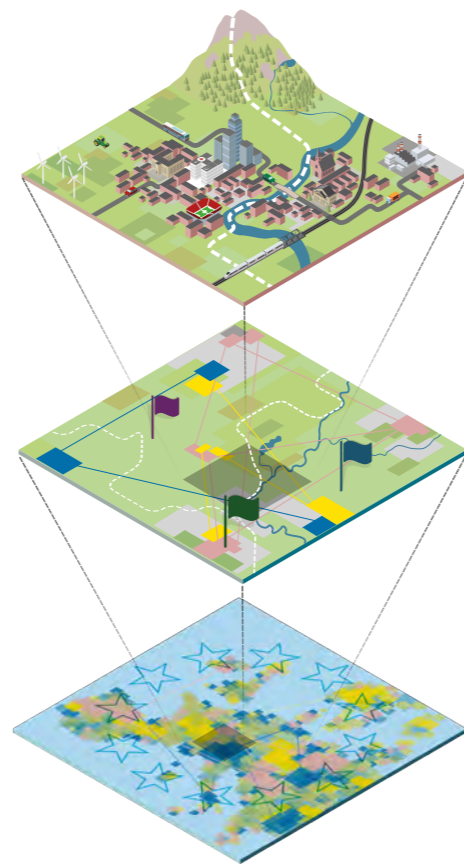


Example of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis

The Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis was set up in the form of an EGTC (the first created in Europe) to bring together the French and Belgian public partners in the same structure. It federates many skills to act in the field, and to make French and Belgian people work together, by associating the civil society. Thanks to its Agency based in Kortrijk, it conducts concrete actions in areas such as training, mobility, the environment and employment.

What is the MOT ?

The MOT is an association specialised in supporting cross-border cooperation. It was established in 1997 on the initiative of the French government. Its network brings together more than 70 cross-border cooperation actors: cross-border structures, regions, departments, municipalities, groupings of municipalities and communities, states, businesses, federations and networks, urban planning agencies, etc. Its mission is to defend the interests of cross-border territories, to establish networks between them and to provide them with operational and legal assistance. Its multi-level positioning promotes dialogue between national and European authorities and local and regional actors, to ensure that cross-border issues are better taken into account in legislation.



The partners of the Borders Forum in 2022

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION plays an essential role in the development of cross-border cooperation in Europe. In the summer of 2021, it published a report setting out its priorities for «border regions» as tools for European integration. It proposes for 2021/2027 a territorial cooperation funding instrument (Interreg) more attentive to these territories, in order to stimulate recovery in border areas, where economies have often been particularly disrupted by the health crisis. Through its «Border Focal Point», the Commission puts cross-border issues at the heart of its priorities. The MOT maintains close links with DG REGIO, the service in charge of EU regional policy, while its network regularly contributes to the European Commission's consultations, in order to promote the consideration of cross-border territories in Community policies.

MORE INFO
https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/regional-and-urban-policy_en

THE FRENCH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR TERRITORIAL COHESION (ANCT) was created on 1 January 2020. The ANCT's mission is to implement the government's main orientations in terms of urban policy and territorial cohesion. Based on a joint governance between the State, associations of elected representatives and members of parliament, it designs and leads the programmes for the revitalisation of territories («Action Cœur de ville», «Territoires d'industrie», «Petites villes de demain», etc.). It also monitors the implementation of development policies and provides engineering services for the implementation of territorial contracts. The ANCT mobilizes the MOT to ensure that the obstacles and issues of cross-border spaces are brought to the fore, and relies on it to develop a cross-border engineering service for the territories.

MORE INFO
<https://agence-cohesion-territoires.gouv.fr/>

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS (CoR) is the voice of the regions and cities in the European Union (EU). It helps to bridge the gap between the work of the institutions and the citizens of the EU. With the EGTC platform, the CoR plays a very active role in promoting and supporting

EGTCs: it adopts political opinions, monitors the implementation of EGTC legislation in the Member States, informs about the EGTC regulation and its evolution, organises events, advises and supports existing EGTCs in formation, produces studies and serves as a meeting point for policy makers, civil servants, experts and citizens. The CoR is also in charge of the official European register of EGTCs.

MORE INFO
<https://cor.europa.eu>

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.

MORE INFO
<https://www.espon.eu/>

RESPUBLICA RES PUBLICA is a consultancy company specialising in consultation and collaborative dialogue. It helps institutions, organisations and companies to organise useful and effective dialogues.

MORE INFO
<https://www.respublica-conseil.fr/>

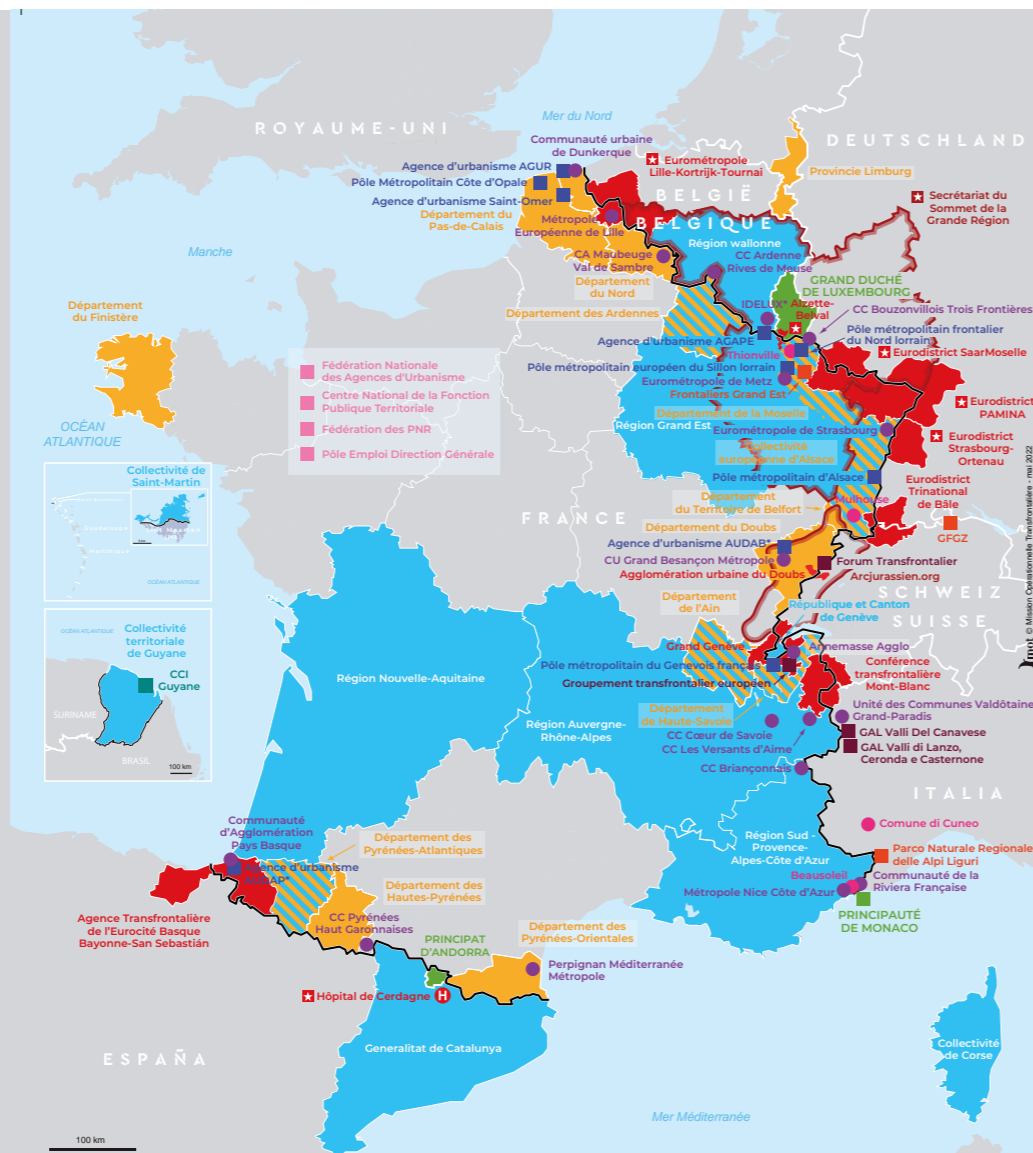
BORDERS IN GLOBALIZATION (BIG) is an innovative network of academic partners from Canada, the United States, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, engaging with non-academic organizations involved in border and frontier management around the world.

MORE INFO
<https://biglobalization.org/>

FRANCE MÉDIAS MONDE supervises and coordinates the activities of French state-owned public radio and television stations with international broadcasting. As a partner of the first Borders Forum, the company is renewing its partnership with the MOT for the second edition.

MORE INFO
<https://www.francemediasmonde.com>

THE MOT NETWORK



MORE INFO
<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en>

- Catégorie d'adhérents**
- Etats
 - Régions, cantons ou communautés autonomes
 - Départements ou provinces
 - Groupements plurinationaux de collectivités territoriales
 - ★ Dont: Groupements européens de coopération territoriale (GECT)
 - Groupements de collectivités territoriales
 - Communes
 - Entreprises et CCI
 - Fédérations et agences nationales
 - Agences d'urbanisme et pôles métropolitains
 - Associations de personnes morales et autres structures
 - Associations de personnes physiques et sociétés coopératives d'intérêt collectif
 - Personnes physiques
- * = Membre associé



Avec le soutien de



Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence



LES PARTENAIRES DE LA MOT :

