

The citizens of Europe express themselves in Tournai

Citizens turned out for the citizens' consultation held on 27 October by the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, the MOT and the Jacques Delors Institute. This was a thoroughly European story: "Everything starts in the dark. There are around 120 people in the room, murmuring and wondering what awaits them. For the form of this evening is full of surprises and above all invites them to express their emotions, both positive and negative. All of a sudden a voice is heard: a storyteller appears on stage to tell the story of Europe. The aim: to give everyone a shared foundation to then facilitate dialogue." This was followed by discussions, stimulated by facilitators using innovative methods that gave priority to

expression by the citizens of the emotions associated with Europe: disgust with powerful lobbies, fear of the rise of populism, and love for the wider European family with which they live on a daily basis in the cross-border territory. These citizens also came together for a festive event to celebrate Franco-Belgian friendship and what unites them beyond any differences in opinion. Interviews were carried out, which show that citizens are ready to participate when they are asked for their opinion. The Eurometropolis wishes to repeat this successful experiment and has already planned to hold a similar event in February 2019. [More info](#)



On the way to Alsace as a European territorial authority

The French government has announced its support for the creation of a European territorial authority of Alsace, formed by the merger of the Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin Departments. It will be set up as of 1 January 2021. "We will support the elected representatives in their desire for Alsace. This will all be within the Grand Est Region – not a special status, but an authority with particular competences that derive notably from the cross-border setting and Alsace's Rhineland identity," stated the Minister for Territorial

Cohesion, Jacqueline Gourault. The new authority will be "the lead partner in cross-border cooperation". Its development will fall within the framework of the constitutional revision desired by the French President, with the wish to "start from a territory's competences" and to put in place "a foundation that can be built on in the future by lawmakers". The joint declaration signed by the parties concerned specifies that the European territorial authority of Alsace will be "charged with drawing up Alsace's overall plan

for cross-border cooperation", and that it will be able, like the other territorial authorities in the Grand Est Region, to draw on the Élysée Treaty,* which will be signed in January 2019, as well as on the European mechanism aimed at removing legal and administrative obstacles currently being negotiated. Finally, it can serve as "an experiment with regard to the first measures taken within this framework".

[More info](#)

* The MOT is taking part in the drafting of the chapter on the cross-border dimension.

EVENTS

The MOT's annual conference

The MOT will hold its general assembly and annual conference on 20-21 March in Annemasse and Geneva, at the invitation of Annemasse Agglo and the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois, members of the MOT's network.

On the programme: the annual meetings of the MOT's bodies, a conference on the topic of cross-border investment and field visits: the cable car in Salève, the construction site for the Léman Express rail link, the green pathway, etc.

European conference: "Enhancing Healthcare Cooperation in Cross-Border regions", 4 December 2018 in Brussels

National seminar in France: "Territorial cooperation post-2020: an asset for Europe", 4 December 2018 in Besançon

Workshop on "Legal tools for interterritorial cooperation in the Benelux", 11 December 2018 in Brussels

PAMINA – 30th anniversary of cross-border cooperation, 12 December 2018 in Wissembourg

[All the events](#)

Europe supports universities without borders

In a new call for proposals, the European Commission is allocating €30 million to the European universities project: a major step towards higher education without borders.



University of Fribourg-en-Brisgau, partner in the European campus Eucor

The objective is clear: cooperation between universities should know no borders. The "European universities" initiative, supported by the European Commission, is in line with this aim. Through a call for proposals under the Erasmus+ programme, it is allocating a budget of €30 million to this new type of cooperation.

Thus, six alliances of European universities, each bringing together at least three higher education institutions from three different countries, will be supported by a pilot programme from 2019. Candidates must submit their applications by 28 February for this first phase. There is expected to be a second pilot phase the following year, with the aim of creating around 20 European universities by 2024.

The European universities initiative was approved by EU leaders at the social summit in Gothenburg in November 2017, and represents a step towards the creation of a European education area by 2025.

Eucor - a European cross-border campus

The universities in the Upper Rhine (Basel, Fribourg-en-Brisgau, Haute-Alsace, Karlsruhe and Strasbourg) are with "Eucor" constructing an academic space without walls or borders. With over 115,000 students, this campus offers 10 or so joint courses leading to double or triple degrees. All of the students are able to take the courses of their choice across the five institutions without having to duplicate administrative procedures or pay additional fees. Moreover, the 15,000 lecturers-

researchers on the campus collaborate on very varied cross-border projects.

This campus may serve as an example for other borders.

Report on the cross-border activities of French universities

Universities in France are involved in many programmes and activities that extend beyond the country's borders. The General Inspectorate of the Administration, National Education and Research (IGAENR) has drafted a report – as yet unpublished – that describes these activities, as well as the aims of, obstacles to and levers for cross-border university cooperation.

The contents of the report are available (in French) on the MOT's website: [click here](#).

IN BRIEF

The Eurometropolis launches its project platform

This new platform of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis is aimed at developers of cross-border projects who wish to raise their profile, to find partners on the other side of the border, or who require assistance in implementing their project. [More info](#)

Cross-border citizens' consultation in Haguenau

What European tools should be used to step up the energy transition? And what policies should be adopted to foster mobility among young people and learning the language of the neighbouring country's? In Haguenau on 25 October, the citizens' consultation organised with the MOT and the Jacques Delors Institute

in the PAMINA Eurodistrict, with the support of Vincent Thiébaut, MP for the Bas-Rhin Department, brought together a hundred or so citizens to discuss the actions they would like Europe to implement in the cross-border setting. They also put forward proposals during the course of workshops. [More info](#)

An agreement between Wallonia and the Hauts-de-France Region

An enhanced cooperation agreement between Wallonia and the Hauts-de-France Region was signed on 15 September. It covers territorial development, mobility and jobs and reaffirms the desire to complete the planned linking up of the Seine-Escaut Canal on the Belgian side and the Seine-Nord Europe Canal on the French side. [More info](#)

EUROPE NEWS

Good practices of EGTCs

A brochure published by the European Committee of the Regions presents examples of good practices by EGTCs across Europe.

[More info](#)

European prizes for the Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euroregion



The Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euroregion has received two European prizes: the EGTC prize, awarded by the Committee of the Regions at the EGTC Platform on 8 October, and the "Sail of Papenburg" prize awarded by the AEBR. [More info](#)

Proceedings of the seminar on observation on 17 September

The proceedings of the seminar on "Territorial observation and assistance with decision-making in cross-border regions" hosted by the MOT and UMS RIATE* on 17 September in Paris are online, together with all of the presentations made at the seminar.

To consult them, [click here \[FR\]](#).

* Interdisciplinary network for territorial development and cohesion in Europe and neighbouring countries.

NETWORK NEWS

Study trip by a delegation from Haiti and the Dominican Republic



On 22-26 October, the MOT coordinated and accompanied the study visit of a delegation made up of representatives of ministries and local authorities from Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This project follows on from two assignments by the MOT in 2016 and 2017 in these Caribbean countries aimed at fostering the emergence of cross-border cooperation there. The objective was thus to build on this momentum by enabling the members of this binational delegation to get to know one another better through studying how cross-border cooperation is organised at the national level in France, as well as emblematic cross-border projects along the

Franco-Spanish border. The participants were first received by the MOT and then by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the French Development Agency. During the course of a field visit along the Franco-Spanish border, they learned about the cross-border actions of the Pyrénées-Orientales Departmental Council in Perpignan, the working of Cerdanya Hospital and that of the cross-border abattoir in Ur, before being received by the Cerdanya District Council in Puigcerdà. On the Basque border, the delegation was received by the Mayor of Hendaye; and it learned about the whole range of projects implemented by the Nouvelle

Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra EGTC, the Gipuzkoa Provincial Council in San Sebastian and the Basque Country Conurbation Community. The trip ended with a visit to the cross-border water treatment plant in Fontarabia in Spain, and by a presentation of the activities of the Bidassoa-Txingudi Cross-Border Consortium. The links forged during this week both between the two delegations and with the French and Spanish players will facilitate the development of decentralised cooperation along both Caribbean and European borders.

France — the Minister Jacqueline Gourault sets out her vision for "the territories"

At the Council of Ministers on 7 November 2018, the Minister for Territorial Cohesion presented a communication on France's territories that sets out the Government's objectives with respect to them. This document points out that in order to "identify each territory's potential" it will be necessary to "build a 'bespoke' relationship with the players in that territory". It is to this end that the

Government will call on the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion that is being set up and that will incorporate part of the General Commission for Territorial Equality. The aim will be to "reinvent the method of dialogue" with territorial authorities and to put in place "a single point of entry" in the relationship between them and central government. Other initiatives that are mentioned are "the concrete experiment with

'territorial differentiation' with the example of Alsace", and the launch in 2019 of phase IV of the competitiveness clusters in order to build clusters with a European dimension.

More info in:

[The communication \[FR\]](#)

[The Minister's press release \[FR\]](#)

PRESS REVIEW

▲ Olivier Sichel: "The Banque des Territoires is really meeting a need"

Localtis, 14 November

"Launched five months ago, the Banque des Territoires is taking shape in the regions. For Olivier Sichel, Director of the Banque des Territoires and Deputy Director-General of the Caisse des Dépôts, the reactions from local players, particularly elected representatives, attest to its usefulness."

▲ Brexit could cost Brittany dear

Euractiv, 5 November

"Whatever the outcome of the negotiations between the United Kingdom and the European Union, the exit of the British will have consequences for the regional economy."

▲ Doctors from Namur help the French

La Meuse, 10 November

"Three specialist doctors from Namur University Hospital have been travelling to the French municipality of Givet since the start of November. Their purpose: to help our neighbours in this part of Northern France to cope with a shortage of doctors. This assistance means that patients no longer have to travel for hours to see a specialist."

▲ Europa-Park: Plan for a cable car between the theme park and Alsace

20 Minutes, 6 November

"The German theme park in Rust, on the border with France, has set out its plan for a cross-border cable car link above the Rhine..."

▲ Cross-border mobility: the Grand Est Region and Saarland step up cooperation

Grand Est Region website, 7 November

"The government of the Land of Saarland held, for the first time in Strasbourg, an extraordinary Council of Ministers devoted to European issues and cross-border cooperation. On this occasion, they signed an agreement aimed at improving rail transport."

▲ The post-nuclear project as seen from Germany

L'Alsace, 8 November

"The redevelopment of the nuclear site at Fessenheim involving Franco-German cooperation on this issue is unprecedented in all respects. Entrenching this project in version 2.0 of the Élysée Treaty would have major symbolic significance for both of our countries, our neighbours declare."

▲ The Assemblée nationale and the Bundestag create a joint chamber

Contexte, 15 November

"The exchanges between the two parliaments, which have hitherto been limited and ad hoc, will take on another dimension with the creation of a Franco-German parliamentary assembly. Made up of 50 MPs from each chamber, it will be set up in early 2019."

▲ Smart Destination plays at border-hopping

Tribune Bulletin Côte d'Azur, 26 October

"Tuscany, Liguria and Sardinia are working with the Sud Region in the context of a European project to create a cross-border offering. They are looking at how to offer cross-border tourist itineraries without obliging travellers to surf from one website or app to another to put together their trip."

▲ A strategy for the Pyrenees to preserve their territories and climate

République des Pyrénées, 14 Nov.

"On both sides of the Pyrenees, people seem to be convinced that it's best to act together with regard to climate. On Tuesday, the members of the CTP (Working Community of the Pyrenees) officially approved an innovative cross-border cooperation and development tool bearing the name 'Pyrenees Strategy'."

A new guide for France-Luxembourg cross-border workers

Guide published by the Grand Est Region Cross-Border Workers Research and Documentation Centre-EURES, October 2018

This eighth edition, which runs to 160 pages, is aimed at French cross-border workers who work in Luxembourg. It gives an overview of the legislation in force, setting out the principal rules to which these workers are subject in the areas of labour law, social security and tax law. [More info \[FR\]](#)

This publication is available in the MOT's document portal [FR]. Specialising in cross-border cooperation, the portal provides more than 4,000 document references. [More info](#)

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Guide pour les frontaliers
FRANCE - LUXEMBOURG

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