

## The integrated territorial plan ALPIMED

Under the Interreg programme ALCOTRA on the Franco-Italian border, two types of plan can be implemented: integrated territorial plans and integrated thematic plans. Integrated territorial plans are made up of a series of projects organised around several themes for a specific cross-border territory. The ALPIMED integrated territorial plan is a plan for the rural and mountainous area of the "Mediterranean Alps", with funding of €7,155,000. It is organised around four single-theme projects focused on innovation, tourism, climate change and mobility: "ALPIMED INNOV" promotes access to innovation and the spread of new technologies among businesses and young people; "ALPIMED PATRIM" develops and markets a new cross-border tourist circuit; "ALPIMED CLIMA" raises the local populations' awareness

of climate change and is putting an action plan in place; and "ALPIMED MOBIL" encourages "soft" mobility. Supported by experienced partners, it is the Nice-Côte d'Azur Metropolis that is coordinating this plan, which involves representatives from the territories (the Alpes Maritimes Department, the Province of Cuneo, the Region of Liguria and the French Riviera Conurbation Community), chambers of commerce and industry (Nice-Côte d'Azur, Cuneo, the Ligurian Riviera) and protected areas (the Alpi Marittime / Mercantour European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation and the Gesso and Stura River Park). The projects will be implemented over periods of 36-48 months, from the end of 2018 to the end of 2022.

[More info](#)



## The PAMINA Eurodistrict celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday

It was in the Alsatian town of Wissembourg that, on 12 December 2018, the 30th anniversary of the declaration of intent that established the PAMINA Eurodistrict was celebrated. Tribute was paid to the three founding fathers of PAMINA, Daniel Hoeffel, Dietrich Schmidt and Hans Kistenmacher, who received the PAMINA gold medal for their visionary work. Made up of the territories of Southern Palatinate, the Mittlerer Oberrhein

and Northern Alsace, since 1988 the Eurodistrict has been at the heart of Franco-German cross-border cooperation. "The border should not constitute an obstacle, but rather a factor for growth and development," emphasised the Eurodistrict's President, Rémi Bertrand. In this respect, the PAMINA Eurodistrict serves as a model: with more than 320 cross-border projects completed and €45 million in European funding received, it is an

example of cooperation and success. Having become the principal interlocutor on cross-border questions, the PAMINA Eurodistrict is now one of the players involved in the renewal of Franco-German cooperation and is actively participating in work on the Aachen Treaty, which will be signed on 22 January. The PAMINA Eurodistrict is a long-standing member of the MOT, having joined the network in 2008. [More info](#)



## Ninth meeting of the working group on innovative solutions to cross-border obstacles

On 18 December 2018 the ninth meeting of the working group on innovative solutions to cross-border obstacles was held in Brussels at the European Committee of the Regions. It was an opportunity to take stock of the different initiatives underway aimed at overcoming cross-border obstacles. The process of adopting the proposal for a regulation on the ECBM (see below), the projects being implemented within the framework of DG REGIO's "B-Solution" call for projects, as well as testimonies regarding the potential uses of the ECBM tool enabled the central government and local players, as well as the representatives of the European institutions present, to contribute to the debate.

[More info](#)

## Opinion of the Parliament and the CoR on the proposal for a regulation on the ECBM

In adopting its opinion on the proposal for a regulation on the ECBM on 22 November 2018, the European Parliament's Regional Development Commission (REGI) embarked on the process of inter-institutional negotiations on the proposed tool. This opinion principally emphasises the voluntary nature of the future mechanism, which Member States should be able to choose to apply or not, notably leaving, for justified reasons, a legal or administrative obstacle unresolved, and also within longer deadlines than those initially envisaged. Similarly, REGI believes that the ECBM should apply to all of the EU's border regions, on a case-by-case basis (depending on the projects concerned), and with the obligation on all Member States to set up national coordination points. [More info – The opinion](#)

On 5 December, it was the turn of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) to publish its opinion on the proposal. [The opinion](#)

## A new edition of the MOT's Guides, on the energy transition

On the occasion of the European Conference on the Energy Transition, which is taking place in Dunkirk on 22-24 January 2019, the MOT is publishing a new edition of its thematic Guides, on the energy transition and cross-border cooperation.

The 24-page publication presents in the first part **the cross-border territories as "fully-fledged players in the energy transition"**.

Nine good practices illustrate the diversity and "value added" of cross-border projects in four sections:

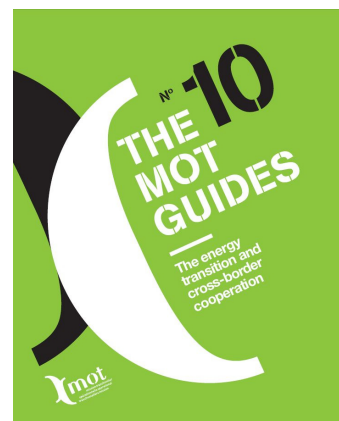
- 1. Sharing experiences to develop appropriate solutions**, with the examples of the "TRION-Climate" network, the PASSAGE project on European straits and the SEREH project, which has enabled the development of an energy community on the German-Dutch border.
- 2. Encouraging economic**

**development**, with the "specialisation strategy" of the Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euroregion, and the "Zero Emission Valley" scheme in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.

- 3. Planning the energy transition**, with the experiences of Greater Geneva and the "mobility eco-bonus: towards a smart cross-border city".

- 4. Experimenting along borders**, with the Smart Border Initiative: the "Smart Grids" solution.

**A dossier entitled "Cooperating in the area of the energy transition"** then



sets out **the obstacles, and the solutions and tools proposed at the local, national and European levels.**

The brochure was written in French and English, in partnership with the MOT's network and with participation from the Banque des Territoires – which wrote the editorial, as well as from ENEDIS, the Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, the National Observatory on the Effects of Climate Change, and from European networks that work on the energy transition such as the Heinrich Böll Foundation and Energy Cities.

[Download the Guide.](#)

## Call for projects on decentralised cooperation

The Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs has launched a call for projects aimed at funding decentralised cooperation projects supported by French local authorities in partnership with foreign local authorities. This call is also aimed at implementing in the territories Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the Paris Climate Agreement. One of the seven priority themes selected relates to cross-border cooperation. The deadline for the submission of projects is 15 March 2019.

[More info](#)

## Mooc - "Beyond borders, assessing territories"

The University of Lorraine is offering an online course [in French] entitled "Beyond borders, assessing territories", which will start at the end of February 2019. It is providing an introduction to territorial assessment, and will look at several examples of cross-border areas.

More info and to enrol: [click here.](#)

# PRESS REVIEW

## ▲ Towards integrated electricity networks in Europe

**Euractiv, 14 December**

"There is a lack of real informed debate about the 'common' issues relating to electricity. As the President of the Republic recalled recently, we need urgently to 'step up the development of interconnections between France and other European countries, in order to improve our security of supply at lower cost'."

## ▲ Macron and Merkel will sign a new Franco-German cooperation treaty on 22 January

**AFP, 10 January**

"Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel will sign a new Franco-German cooperation and integration treaty on 22 January, with the aim of 'strengthening the already close ties' between the two countries, the Elysée Palace announced on Tuesday. It will be the first meeting of the year between the French President and the German Chancellor, who have already met in Aachen."

## ▲ The cross-border Ardenne asserts its brand

**L'Avenir, 12 December**

"At the second meeting of the Ardenne, held in Sedan in early December, the EEIG (European economic interest grouping) of the Ardenne 'brand' was able to take stock of the progress made since it was set up in 2014."

## ▲ The Border Region Metropolitan Pole is up and running

**La Semaine de Metz, 10 January**

"The project was already well underway and in the past few months had cleared the last hurdles and received the necessary approval and authorisations: the North Lorraine Border Region Metropolitan Centre has been set up and was officially launched on Wednesday 9 January in Thionville. It does not claim to be a panacea for all of the area's ills, but it is a tool that can be used to tackle coherently all of the issues relating to cross-border workers."

## ▲ Lorraine: those deprived towns full of cross-border workers

**Le Républicain lorrain, 28 Dec.**

"Villerupt, Saulnes, Hussigny... A bus full of Luxembourgers set off to discover those areas forgotten by the Grand Duchy's strong growth. This contrast raises questions about the development model."

## ▲ Results of the second Cross-Border Worker Observatory

**L'Alsace, 8 November**

"Crédit Agricole in the Savoie Departments, CA Next Bank and the European Cross-Border Grouping have presented the results of the second Cross-Border Worker Observatory. This study was carried out by the Ipsos Institute on the basis of 400 cross-border workers from the Savoie, Haute-Savoie and Ain Departments."

## ▲ The cities of Nice and Turin sign a pact of friendship

**Nice Matin, 26 December**

"Rudy Salles, the deputy mayor in charge of international relations, and Laurence Navalesi, the city councillor in charge of cross-border relations, travelled to Turin and held discussions with its mayor, Chiara Appendino, on cooperation initiatives to be set up between the two cities."

## ▲ A 7 km-long metro to link France and Andorra

**Econostrum.info, 9 January**

"The Perpignan and Andorran Chambers of Commerce are reported to be reviving an old project to build a metro service to link the village of Porta (Pyrénées-Orientales) with that of El Pas de la Casa in Andorra."

## ▲ The Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euroregion has launched an information portal

**PresseLib, 28 December**

"This new website gives information about work-related opportunities, rights and obligations in the three territories."

## The Grand Est Region's cross-border strategic orientations

In December, the Grand Est Region published a brochure setting out its strategic orientations in the area of cross-border cooperation. It is divided into the following sections: The Grand Est Region – cross-border by nature; Challenge 1: Addressing mobility issues; Challenge 2: Facilitating collaborative initiatives and collective intelligence in all sectors; Challenge 3: Coming together around a shared cross-border ambition; A method.

[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](#)

**Grand Est**  
ALSACE CHAMPAGNE-ARDENNE LORRAINE  
*L'Europe s'invente chez nous*

**ORIENTATIONS STRATÉGIQUES  
TRANSFRONTALIÈRES  
DE LA RÉGION GRAND EST**

VERS UN ESPACE EUROPÉEN DE DÉVELOPPEMENT UNIQUE



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## CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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