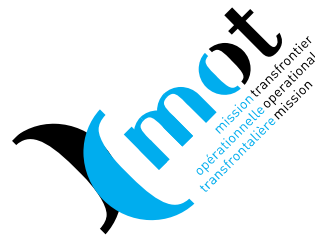


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CROSS BORDER NEWS



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BORDERS FORUM, 09/10 Nov. : the event will be entirely streamed

France's borders – focus for the second day

Following the announcement of the latest health measures, the event will now be entirely streamed. Close-up on the second day devoted to cross-border territories along France's borders. It will be opened by Jean Jouzel, climatologist and glaciologist and Member of the Academy of Sciences, with the aim of highlighting the diversity of these territories, going from Dunkirk to Bayonne, by way of Nice, Geneva and Strasbourg, pointing out their specificities and discussing decentralisation, deconcentration and above all differentiation.

There will notably be contributions from Pia Imbs, President of the Strasbourg Eurometropolis, Christian Estrosi, President of the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis, Annie Genevard, Vice-President of the Assemblée Nationale and MP for the Doubs Department, Roland Theis, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Justice of Saarland

(Germany) and Commissioner for European Affairs, Carlos Moreno, researcher and scientific director, and Thierry Mallet, CEO of Transdev. The day will be organised around four thematic roundtables:

- RT#5: Health, digital evolution, climate... time for cross-border transitions?
- RT#6: Cross-border mobility and attractiveness, back to borders?
- RT#7: Cross-border areas, differentiated areas?
- RT#8: Metropolises, mountains, rural areas: what kind of cross-border cohesion?

On page 2 of this issue, we highlight two themes linked to RT#7 and RT#8: the issues of territorial differentiation and cooperation in border mountain areas.

[Full programme for the Borders Forum. Online registration.](#)



New MOT publication - A preliminary assessment of Cross-Border Cooperation Strategies along France's borders

Following the adoption of the first four Cross-Border Cooperation Strategies (Schémas de Coopération Transfrontalière – SCT) by the Nice, Strasbourg and Lille Metropolises, as well as by the Basque Country Conurbation Community, the MOT and its partners embarked on the drafting of a preliminary assessment of these initiatives that has resulted in a publication, co-written with each of these groupings of municipalities. Among the questions the publication attempts to answer are: what lessons can be drawn from this work of putting the SCTs in place? What are the prospects and tangible effects for a territory's development? In parallel, an "SCT network" coordinated by the MOT is taking shape, which will foster enhanced observation of the operational dynamics within these areas. [Download the publication.](#)



Focus in this issue on mountain territories and “differentiated areas”, two topics on the agenda of RT#7 and RT#8 of the BORDERS FORUM.

EVENTS



1st Borders Forum, 9-10 November. The event will be held online. Don't forget to register!

[Program.](#)

[More info, registration.](#)

Other events:

- Webinar "The benefits of cross-border cooperation for European construction: 100 years after Trianon", 28 October 2020.

- TEIN Annual conference and General Assembly, 12-13 November, online.

- "Castle talks on cross-Border cooperation: The migration crisis - A humanitarian challenge for border regions", 16-17 November, in Strasbourg.

[More info](#)

Interview with Annie Genevard, Vice-President of the Assemblée Nationale and MP for the Doubs Department



Mountain areas benefit from dedicated public policies on account of their specificity. To what extent does the cross-border dimension present additional complexity?

Border territories give rise to a particular kind of economy and territorial organisation, with big variations between mountain ranges. Border areas must be considered in their multiplicity. Among the issues specific to mountain areas, we should first mention the issue of mobility and daily traffic jams, as the infrastructures there are inadequate. Mountains are natural borders, which also limits movement as some passes are difficult to cross. It is important to develop rail transport and to expand the provision of public

transport.

The border is also a line of cooperation. There have always been movements of cross-border workers, to varying degrees from period to period, depending on the interplay of often contradictory factors: wage levels, social security insurance systems and availability of transport.

The cross-border setting points up a series of recurrent problems: emigration of cross-border workers, disparities in rates of growth and difficulties regarding compatibility with national spatial planning policy objectives. It is also a positive force and an engine of development for the area, and sometimes the whole region.

What has been the experience

of these territories since the onset of the health crisis?

The health crisis has put pressure on everyday issues such as cooperation and the restrictions that affect the organisation of local life. In the Pyrenees, queues were reserved for healthcare professionals. Switzerland received patients requiring resuscitation and contact is being maintained in case of a second wave. There have also been difficulties. For example, the lack of consistency in health protection policies both at country and regional level.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of the interview.

Join us for RT#8 to hear Annie Genevard's contribution. [More info](#)

Cross-border territories at the time of the "Decentralisation, Differentiation and Deconcentration Act"

While each territory has its own particular geographical, socioeconomic and cultural features, the institutional and legal environments in which cross-border areas operate resemble no other.

At the junction of two national regulatory jurisdictions, these territories are administered by territorial authorities and institutions that have different competences, modes of organisation and capacities for action on either side of the border, making the process of coordination all the more complex.

Perhaps more than elsewhere, the ability of territorial authorities to adapt to local specificities is crucial to enable the genuinely 360° development of these areas. The pandemic has moreover laid these issues bare, by showing up the “double lockdown” brought about by the unilateral closing of borders (with local services inaccessible, families

divided, the range of movement restricted, jobs threatened and stigmatisation of cross-border workers, etc.).

The prospects for evolution offered by the forthcoming draft legislation on “decentralisation, differentiation and deconcentration” (3D) is coming just at the right time to give these territories greater room for manoeuvre.

The devolution of regulatory powers to local players (decentralised departments of central government and local authorities), the generalisation of comprehensive territorial agreements, the modularity of local authorities' competences depending on the issues involved, following the example of the future European Territorial Authority of Alsace, form part of the progress towards an approach to territorial development that is entirely focused on functional areas. The success of these guidelines will then depend solely on the ability to embed them in multi-level governance and proactive cooperation initiatives along France's borders.

To discuss these opportunities for the future of cross-border territories, join us for RT#7 of the Borders Forum: “Cross-border areas, differentiated areas?”. [More info](#)

National "Small Towns of Tomorrow"

programme: the MOT assists small border towns

The national support programme for towns with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants and their groupings of municipalities was launched on 1 October by Jacqueline Gourault, the Minister for Territorial Cohesion, and Joël Giraud, Minister of State for Rural Affairs. The National Agency for Territorial Cohesion is in charge of setting it up and implementing it, in collaboration with the Banque des Territoires and its main national partners (the ANAH, Ademe, Cerema, etc.).

The MOT is a partner in this programme, with the role of supporting small towns and groupings of municipalities located near France's borders in their projects to revitalise their territory and adapt to the ecological and demographic transitions. [More info](#)

European Cross-border Citizen's Alliance

While the crisis initially provoked uncoordinated border measures, it also revealed interdependencies and gave rise to multiple forms of cooperation and cross-border solidarity, which now need to be organised and strengthened by European and national public policies that take full account of the specific nature of cross-border territories.

This is why, at a time when Europe is preparing to decide on its budget and trajectories for the period 2021-27, the European Committee of the Regions, the MOT, the AEBR and the CESCO, will propose on 9 November* a "European Alliance for Cross-Border Citizens".

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.

The signatories of the Alliance advocate that:

- border regions are reflected more fully in EU policy and legislation,
- border regions and their cross-border groupings be involved in the conference on the future of Europe,
- border public authorities have appropriate powers and specific resources, as well as fast-track procedures,
- negotiations on the draft regulation on a European

EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER CITIZENS'



ALLIANCE



Cross-Border Mechanism (ECBM) come to a successful conclusion,
- the legal and administrative obstacles to cross-border cooperation are removed,
- the States and the European Commission carry out cross-border territorial impact assessments of public policies, etc. [Read the rest of the article.](#)

[To consult the text of the Alliance.](#)

[To sign the Alliance.](#)

*During the Round Table #1 of the Borders Forum. [More info](#)

France-Italy: resilience and post-crisis(es) recovery at the heart of future cooperation initiatives

On 17 September, the concluding webinar of the Europ'Act capitalisation project entitled "What prospects for Franco-Italian cross-border cooperation initiatives in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region?" brought together more than 150 people. Organised by the Sud Region and run by the MOT, it aimed to take stock of six years of cooperation initiatives and to outline the Interreg programme for 2021-2027. The experiences shared by the participants made it possible to arrive at a consensus that action to address the challenge of climate change should be the common theme of future programmes: a lever that will help to strengthen the resilience of Alpine and maritime territories of cooperation, while at the same time stimulating economic recovery. "We are facing an urgent need to protect our Alpine areas, the sea and the coastline, which are particularly threatened by climate change. This great common challenge must be at the heart of our policies in order to support the transition to a low-carbon economy," stressed Roger Roux, the Regional Councillor responsible for the Marittimo programme, in his closing words.

The discussions also focused on the need to reinforce cross-border governance and territorial strategies in order to support structuring projects such as integrated territorial and thematic plans (PITer and PITem), while also involving citizens more. [More info](#)

A dictionary of borders and cooperation

The "Critical Dictionary of Borders, Cross-Border Cooperation and European Integration" has just been published: a major publication that contains 209 articles written by 124 authors from different countries and academic disciplines, accompanied by 66 original maps produced by the MOT. Its aim is to answer the following questions: what is the role of borders in European integration? How does cross-border cooperation function concretely in the EU's border regions? Does it contribute to European integration? Who are the players, and what are their motives, objectives and tools? [More info](#)

Contribution to the Leipzig Charter

Signed in 2007, the Leipzig Charter is due to be updated by the end of 2020, within the framework of Germany's presidency of the EU. The MOT has been working, together with several other associations, such as the French Network of Urban Planning Agencies (FNAU), France Urbaine and the Assembly of France's Communities (ADCF), to make its contribution to the new charter and put forward amendments, notably emphasising the need to cooperate across national borders within cross-border territories. [More info](#)

