

PORTS RIVIERA COOPERATION

The Ports Riviera Cooperation cross-border project, presented to the Alpes-Maritimes department council on 10 June 2011, bears witness to renewed and reinforced cooperation between French and Italian ports.

Originating in close collaboration between the Alpes-Maritimes department council (project lead partner) and Imperia province*, this project is part of an integrated cross-border plan (ICP) within the framework of the Alcotra 2011-2013 European territorial cooperation programme. Encouraging the port activities of the cross-border Riviera, which extends over 400 km of coast, it contributes to strengthening the synergies between 48 French and Italian Mediterranean ports.

Implemented in three strands, the project covers issues relating to the development of marinas in order to enhance the attractiveness of the territory, the local economy, and protection of the coast and marine ecosystems.

- Launched in 2008, RESAPORT, the economic strand of the project, covers on-line reservation of places for marina users. It has broadened its user base by facilitating access to new port and tourist services through the use of ICTs and the compilation of an on-line directory of marine professionals.

- Specialist and advanced technical training courses will be offered to employees and job-seekers in the recreational-boating trades from October as part of the FORMAPORT strand of the project. A study of cross-border employability will also be used as the basis for developing multipurpose French-Italian training courses aimed at marine professionals.

- Awareness-raising actions on the preservation of the marine and environment, aimed at port managers and recreational boaters, are undertaken through the DURAPORT strand. A repository of good practices will define a common European eco-management and environmental management standard with a view to obtaining European environmental certification.

* In partnership with the Nice Côte d'Azur CCI (chamber of commerce and industry), the Imperia CCI, the Genoa International Communication Institute, the UPACA marina association, the Alpes-Maritimes chamber of trades and crafts and the Savona CCI

Further information: <http://www.resaports.com/PIT.php>

Eric Ciotti

President of the Alpes-Maritimes department council



Broadly open to the Mediterranean, the French-Italian Riviera forms a vast basin for recreational boating. In this space, which has built its international reputation on the natural beauty of its sites and the constant concern for the provision of high-quality facilities, there are major development issues: services to pleasure boaters, the environment, the port and tourist economy, employment and professional training. Over the years the Alpes-Maritimes department council has devoted substantial resources to upgrading the facilities of the six ports for which the department is responsible, improving the provision of services to recreational sailors and maintaining strict vigilance against threats of all types to the marine environment. Building on this experience, the Alpes-Maritimes department council has partnered with Imperia province to develop and enhance the attractiveness of the ports on our coast within the framework of the PORTS RIVIERA integrated cross-border plan. Our two authorities have brought together a number of partners in this joint project, which now covers 35 French ports and 13 Italian ports. Port managers and recreational sailors are invited to act with responsibility and respect for nature so that the Mediterranean remains a living sea, as generations of coastal residents and sailors have known it.



EVENTS

OCTOBER 2011

Organized by the EU Committee of the Regions and the European Commission Directorate General for Regional Policy, in cooperation with the European Parliament, the EU Presidency and 206 regions and cities of 35 countries, **the Open Days will take place from 10 to 13 October 2011 in Brussels, in which MOT will participate.**

An Interact seminar on the EGTC will take place on 13 and 14 October in Brussels.

The CNFPT Paca (national local government civil service centre, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur branch) and its inter-regional network of territorial and decentralized cooperation professions, the TEIN (Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network) represented by the Kehl Euro-Institut and the Catalan cross-border Euro-Institut (EICT), and the MOT are organizing **a discussion day on the topic of borders and cross-border cooperation on 21 October in Avignon.**

Organized by the Centre for Cross Border Studies, partner of the TEIN (Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network), a **conference on "training and impact analysis in the cross-border context in Ireland and in Europe"** will present the results of the project to produce a manual on impact analysis prepared by the Centre for Cross Border Studies and the Euro-Institut on **27 and 28 October 2011 in Cavan, Ireland.**

Further information on events:
www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

Cross-border cooperation framework agreement on the environment



Handshake between Georges Lafeu, President of the CPIE Littoral Basque, and Pilar Unzalu, Basque government environment advisor, at the signature of the cross-border cooperation framework agreement on 21 July 2011.

On 21 July a cross-border cooperation framework agreement to implement a "genuine cross-border policy on management and promotion of Basque country natural spaces" was signed between the CPIE* Littoral Basque, the Basque government, the Pyrénées-Atlantiques department council, the Conservatoire du Littoral and Hendaye town council. The "Txinbadia" project, fruit of this collaboration, will network the sites of Txingudi and Abbadia located on either side of the Bidassoa. Confined in a restricted geographical space, Txingudibay is characterized by

a very rich ecosystem. Three development priorities will be implemented in order to raise broad public awareness of the preservation of the coast. Asporotsttupi will be the starting point for animation and public promotion actions. The Larretxea farm resource centre will be a source of information on nature, the environment and sustainable development, making available knowledge and methods covering the whole of the cross-border territory, of interest in particular to project sponsors. The third focus of this cooperation, Nekatoenea, will each year welcome artists from

various disciplines, painters and sculptors but also writers, musicians and storytellers, so that it becomes a key cultural facility for contemporary creativity in the Basque country. These exchanges, site developments, communication actions and cooperation operations will be conducted in Basque, French, Spanish and English.

* Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement (environmental initiatives centre)

4.2 million euros invested for joint actions

IN BRIEF

A "fund" for cross-border micro-projects

On 16 August a charter for setting up a cross-border micro-project fund was signed between the Landkreis Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald and the Conseil général du Haut-Rhin within the framework of the INTERREG IV Upper Rhine programme. Cross-border citizen projects will be able to benefit from aid amounting to 400,000 euros up to 2014.



Greater Region Forum in Berlin

Le Luxembourg, the Lorraine region, the Wallonia region, the German-speaking community and the French-speaking community of Belgium and the Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland Länder met in Berlin on 7 July 2011 to present the Greater Region project to a broad audience drawn from political, economic, social and cultural circles. The executives of the Greater Region, meeting in an informal summit, adopted the "Berlin Declaration", which lays the foundations for reinforced

institutional cooperation. Drawing on the results of the Metroborder applied research study, it recommends the promotion of "an ambitious, territorially consistent and balanced process of metropolization" within the Greater Region through the gradual implementation of a cross-border polycentric metropolitan region. An opportunity to reaffirm the particular contribution of cross-border policy to the European cohesion policy.

The MOT at the 3rd France-Hungary decentralized cooperation conference

EGTC Platform meeting during the 2011 Open Days

In the afternoon of 12 October, the Committee of the Regions EGTC platform will meet to discuss the proposed revision of regulation (EC) 1082/2006 drafted by the European Commission; registration is open on the website www.opendays.europa.eu ("registration" section, search keywords: EGTC platform). You can discuss this topic now in the EGTC platform forum.

Registration: portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/Platform

Michel Delebarre, rapporteur of the Committee of the Regions

On 4 July 2011 Michel Delebarre, Senator, former Minister of State, Mayor of Dunkerque and President of the MOT, was appointed rapporteur of the Committee of the Regions on the future EGTC regulation, which will be published early in October. Françoise Schneider-Français, legal officer of MOT, was nominated as expert for the Committee of the Regions to assist Michel Delebarre.

The third France-Hungary decentralized cooperation conference took place in Budapest on 6 and 7 July 2011. Attended by more than 160 persons over the two days, it provided an opportunity for the participants to take stock of current cooperation programmes, initiate partnerships and discuss new work priorities. A French-Hungarian working group on the topic of cross-border cooperation met on 8 July.



Cross-border cooperation was one of the six topics relating to decentralized cooperation examined during the conference. During the other sessions, discussions covered cooperation programmes between associations of local authorities, urban development, heritage promotion, tourism and economic development, local government reforms, social affairs, the use of the European Social Fund (ESF), rural development and the environment. The discussions on cross-border cooperation were chaired by Jean-Paul Bachy, President of the Champagne-Ardenne region,

and Dr. László Fésüs, Deputy Director General of the Eszák-Alföld Regional Development Agency. Multi-level public instruments, the MOT and its Hungarian counterpart the CESCO* presented themselves as twin structures able to aid the members of their respective networks to exchange information and views on their topics of common cross-border interest. These meetings provided opportunities for local authorities to meet each other and talk about practical topics. The meeting of a working group on cross-border cooperation on 8 July, involving the MOT, the CESCO, INFH**, the Champagne-

Ardenne and Lorraine regions, the Pas-de-Calais department council and their Hungarian partners, discussed in depth issues relating to reinforcing the instruments of cooperation.

* Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives

** France-Hungary Initiatives



"Cross-border cooperation is above all local decentralized cooperation".

The MOT selected for the Europact project

The MOT has received EUROPACT funding to conduct a study on the governance of cross-border cooperation. This work will contribute to improving the multi-level governance of such cooperation and the linkage between cross-border strategies and projects and the INTERREG programmes. The conclusions of the study will be of interest to all stakeholders in cross-border cooperation.

CECICN meeting

Experts from the CECICN* and the AEBR met from 19 to 21 July 2011 in the MOT offices for a working session also attended by a European Commission observer. It was devoted to the drafting of a document on "Cities and regions committed to territorial cooperation", due to be published at the end of the year.

*Conference of European cross-border and interregional city networks

MOT contribution

The MOT has participated in the stakeholder consultation launched by the Committee of the Regions on 7 September 2011 on the European Commission green paper "Less bureaucracy for citizens: promoting free movement of public documents and recognition of the effects of civil status records".

The MOT contribution is on line at www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu.

Czech delegation

On 13 September the MOT welcomed a Czech delegation in the context of a training project and a fact-finding visit by local government civil servants. The participants were from the Moravia-Silesia regional authority and its regional council. It was an opportunity to present the MOT, with a focus on partnerships for training on cross-border matters. A session covered the EGTC, comparing French aspects of EGTC implementation and the EGTC being formed on the Polish-Czech-Slovakian border.

PRESS REVIEW

▲ Chad and Cameroon extend their cross-border protected areas

All Africa, 2 August

"Central Africa now has 45 million hectares of protected areas [...]. This figure was reached with the signature on Tuesday of an agreement on the establishment and coordinated management of the Sena Oura (Chad) and Bouba N'Djidda (Cameroon) cross-border complex".

▲ Signature of the Okavango/Zambezi programme implementation accord

All Africa, 18 August

"The heads of State and Government of the signatory countries of the regional Okavango/Zambezi cross-border tourism project [...] signed Thursday in Luanda an accord on implementation of the programme. [...] The project is aimed at conservation of biodiversity and sharing benefits from natural resources, sustainable development of the local communities and environmental tourism".

▲ 77% of the HSL rails from Figueres to Girona are laid

La Clau, 28 August

"Technical testing has started between Figueres and Girona. Half the catenaries that will supply power to the high-speed trains have been erected and 77% of the rails laid on the 31 km of high-speed line due to link Figueres to Girona from the end of 2012. [...] The Perpignan-Barcelona line, which will be inaugurated in December 2012, will shorten the links between the two cities [...] to about fifty minutes".

▲ A new aid for border workers

Les frontaliers.lu, 31 August

"[...] To aid the 200,000 border workers who cross a national border each day in the Grande Région, the Border Workers Task Force [...] will be inaugurated tomorrow. [Its] mission will be to draft proposals for legal and political solutions in response to the questions and difficulties of border workers [...]".

▲ "Risk of social dumping"

L'Alsace, 3 September

"The European cross-border grouping (ECG) has decided to react in a context where the strong Swiss franc encourages some employers to reduce the salaries of border employees. [...] The multiplication of alerts and rumours is leading to an increasingly unhealthy climate within businesses, threatening the social cohesion of the cross-border regions", considers Jean-François Besson, secretary-general of the ECG".

▲ "River taxi" between Liège and Dunkerque

Environnement et stratégie, 5 September

"A French-Belgian partnership has been established between Voies navigables de France, Grand port maritime de Dunkerque, Port autonome de Liège and Service public de Wallonie. [...] The principle: route containers from one port to another among the twelve ports targeted along the itinerary".

▲ Lyon-Torino: deadline 21 September to save the European funds

Villes et Transports Magazine, 7 September

"To avoid losing European funding, France and Italy must sign a rider to the founding treaty of the cross-border part of the Lyon-Torino HSL by 21 September. This agreement should enable the cost breakdown to be redefined".

▲ The stop at Sarreguemines station again under threat

Le Républicain lorrain, 13 September

"Less than a year after the threats that hovered over the tram-train connection linking Sarreguemines to Saarbrücken, Céleste Lett, MP and mayor of Sarreguemines, must once more step into the breach [...] following the increase in a fee covering stopping rights and track maintenance paid by the Saarbahn to RFF. As of 1 January it is slated to increase from € 42,000 to € 134,000. A cost judged excessive in relation to the 350 users [per day] of the line".

▲ Establishment of a cross-border college between the universities of the Nord region and Belgium

Educpros.fr, 14 September

"It has two principal objectives: promote student mobility and constitute an 'honours college' for the best first degree students from the two countries".

New publication

The DAECT (Delegation for External Action of Territorial Authorities) has recently published a vade-mecum "GECT" intended for French local authorities and their groupings. This document, produced in partnership with the MOT, presents the practical steps in the formation of an EGTC and proposes a template for drafting the convention and the statutes. It is available on the MOT website (www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu, section "Ressources"; "Guides").

Informations:

http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/docdivers/VM_GECT_DAECT_2011.pdf



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière
38, rue des Bourdonnais
75001 Paris - France
Tel.: +33 1 55 80 56 80
www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu
Director of publication: Jean Peyrony
Production: Sophie Valette

Photos: Ports Riviera Coopération ; Forum Grande / Groß Region ; CPIE LITTORAL BASQUE

To subscribe, or to modify or cancel your subscription:
www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu
("Newsletter" tab)

