

The Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur

The Nice Côte d'Azur *métropole**, the first such entity in France, was established on 1 January 2012. A member of the MOT network, it has many cross-border projects with Italy.

It brings together the Nice-Côte d'Azur urban community and three communities of municipalities. It has the same responsibilities as the four intermunicipal communities, plus three additional ones: school transport, departmental roads and international promotion of the territory. The new *métropole* is eligible for European programmes (such as Interreg) and will consequently be able to apply for European funding for its cross-border projects.

Three new cooperation protocols are already in preparation and a number of projects have been published, including:

- the introduction of a single badge giving access to free parking for users of low-carbon or hybrid vehicles**;
- free use of public transport in Genoa for holders of season tickets for the public transport systems of the *métropole*, and vice-versa;

- cultural cooperation between the opera houses of Nice and Genoa, with the aim of setting up co-productions and joint ticketing.

In the north of the territory, the Mercantour national park is developing increased cooperation with its Italian neighbour, the Alpi Marittime nature park. Also worth noting, an agreement reached on 9 January between the airports of Nice and Genoa aiming to exploit synergies between the two platforms, for example with the introduction of regular shuttle buses for passengers in transit between the two airports.

* *The métropole is a new Etablissement Public de Coopération Intercommunale (EPCI – public establishment for intermunicipal cooperation), an entity introduced by the French act of 16 December 2010 on local government reform. It is defined as a continuous territory, without enclaves, with a population of more than 500,000.*

** *Project already in place with Monaco.*



Christian Estrosi

MP for Alpes-Maritimes, mayor of Nice, president of the Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur

"On 1 January 2012, Nice Côte d'Azur became the first *métropole* in France. This territory, extending from the Mediterranean coast to the Mercantour summits, encompasses 46 municipalities and 550,000 inhabitants, and offers diversity and unique complementarity from the sea to the mountains. Incorporating three rural communities of municipalities, the *métropole* has tripled the area of the urban community. One of the consequences of this geographical extension is that it is now contiguous with Italy.

Nice Côte d'Azur has decided to commit itself to a vigorous policy of opening up to Europe, and on 11 February 2011 I signed a partnership protocol with Genoa city council covering the following themes: Nice-Genoa railway link, motorways of the sea (MOS24), digital innovation, cooperation and lobbying. The incorporation of the Marseille-Nice-Genoa axis into the Trans-European transport network for 2030 is its first result.

Today I want to broaden this cooperation in the fields of public transport and low-carbon vehicles, by leading a fight in favour of the introduction of an eco-tax on heavy goods vehicles, and of cultural cooperation; but again, to extend it to the Piedmont and then to Lombardy.

So Nice Côte d'Azur will complete the cross-border policy of France by finalizing the 1993 bilateral [...]

[continued on page 2]



Inaugural session of the Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur council, 9 January 2012.

EVENTS

MARCH

- **5th European Summit of Regions and Cities**

22 and 23 March in Copenhagen
Organized by the Committee of the Regions

- **Interinstitutional conference on the EGTC**

29 March in Brussels
Organized by the Committee of the Regions, preceded by the annual meeting of the EGTC platform

- **Expert seminar "Microproject funds in Europe"**

29 and 30 March in Lauterbourg
Organized by the Eurodistrict Regio Pamina

APRIL - MAY

- **MOT general assembly**

4 April in Paris
Chaired by Michel Delebarre, MOT president

- **MOT working group on "Renewable energies"**

29 and 30 May in Lauterbourg
First meeting of the MOT working group on the topic of renewable energies, coordinated by the Regio Pamina Eurodistrict. For further information: conchetta.mundo@mot.asso.fr

For further information on these events :

<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu>

Territorial conferences on "Culture" at the Regio Pamina Eurodistrict



Over the last two years or more, the Regio Pamina Eurodistrict has organized "territorial conferences", one-day events facilitating contact in various areas of action between the people and institutions concerned from Baden, Alsace and the southern Palatinat. On 2 February in Wissembourg (northern Alsace), the third territorial conference was held, on the topic of "cross-border cultural cooperation". It was an opportunity for 90 persons to meet,

representing all the cultural institutions of the Eurodistrict territory, with the objective of boosting cooperation arrangements between them. In his opening speech, Eurodistrict president Josef Offele stressed the importance of this event, which enables the participants to acquire more in-depth knowledge of how neighbouring systems work. The Eurodistrict wants to encourage the participants to meet regularly, form ties between existing institutions

and interconnect the different competencies. During the day, a first workshop covered the funding options for cross-border cultural projects, and a second discussed cultural cooperation as an element of territorial cohesion and examined the means of developing it. To view the full summary of the day (in French): <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu/ETCPamina.pdf> Further information: <http://www.regio-pamina.org>

Editorial continued from page 1:

[...] cooperation agreement between France and Italy. It was then obvious that the Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur should join the MOT network to become the instrument of a process of economic integration of a coherent and complementary French-Italian territory. Its objectives of innovation and competitiveness will be able to make use of MOT expertise and enable it to position itself as an essential player in Latinity, at the heart both of Europe and of the Mediterranean."

Lyon-Turin

On 30 January the French and Italian transport ministers signed an amendment to the 2001 Turin treaty for the construction of the Lyon-Turin railway line. The amendment, which must be ratified by both parliaments, defines the alignment and the cost breakdown of the cross-border section (in addition to the European funding). The two ministers committed themselves to a timetable: 2013 for starting work, 2023 for putting the cross-border section into service.

"Three-Countries Museum"

This project for a "Trinational network for History and Culture" was launched on 23 January in Strasbourg. It brings together some twenty French, German and Swiss partners with the aim of informing a broad audience about the past and present

history of the Upper Rhine region and organizing a number of cross-border meetings. It is one of the largest current cross-border cultural projects of the Upper Rhine. www.interreg-rhin-sup.eu



Study on border worker flows between France and Italy

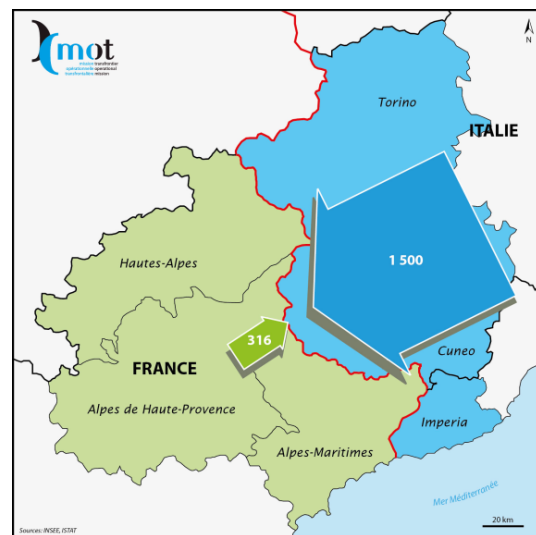
This study, commissioned by the French national employment service Pôle Emploi and its Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regional directorate, was conducted by the MOT between May and September 2011. Supported by European funding, it forms part of a cross-border action plan with the aim of collaboration between the French and Italian employment services.

The study was an analysis of the cross-border worker flows between the PACA, Liguria and Piedmont regions and the Principality of Monaco. It counted the border workers and identified their profiles.

The work started with a socio-economic analysis to define the territories at the different levels (from local to regional) and to obtain an overview. This analysis enabled a second stage of assessment of the degree of cross-border integration of the territories in terms of economic aspects, residential

interpenetration and worker flows. A third stage compared the employment and training systems and examined cross-border interactions in these areas.

The recommendations put forward are intended to enable Pôle Emploi to draw up an action programme aimed at strengthening collaboration between the French and Italian services and providing better guidance for workers in the cross-border employment area (including Monaco).



IN BRIEF

Compared with the other territories on the French borders, home-work flows between France and Italy are not very large. The most recent statistics show 1500 Italian border workers working in France*, and only 316 French border workers working in Italy. These movements are concentrated on the coast. Monaco attracts 38,000 French and Italian border workers every day.

* Within the territories studied.

EGTC

At the 94th plenary session of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) on 15 February in Brussels, Michel Delebarre*, CoR rapporteur on the draft regulation on the EGTC, presented the draft opinion of the CoR on this future regulation. The draft was adopted in plenary session, and can be viewed at:

<http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/PressTemplate.aspx?view=detail&id=643d3e18-45c2-4869-a096-068d962ef1c3>

Françoise Schneider-Français, MOT legal assessment manager, assisted Michel Delebarre with the drafting of the opinion, in the capacity of expert consultant to the Committee of the Regions.

The MOT will include a technical article on this opinion in its March newsletter.

* Former minister of state, senator, mayor of Dunkirk, president of the MOT and of the CoR's COTER Commission.

CECICN congress

The MOT, within the framework of the CECICN*, is co-organizing a European congress to be held on 25 and 26 June in La Coruña, Spain, on the topic "Territorial Cooperation fostering European integration: Cities and Regions linking across borders". The congress will bring together senior representatives of European institutions and stakeholders from all European borders. At a time when the future of

the cohesion policy is under discussion, the event will underline the importance of territorial cooperation and highlight the concerns of those in the field.

The pre-programme will be very soon downloadable on :

<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu>

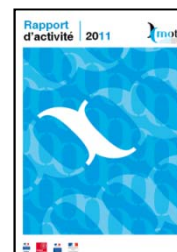
* Conference of European Cross-border and Interregional City Networks, of which the MOT is a member.

"Consumers" programme

The populations of cross-border territories are the first to be concerned by the proper operation and regulation of the Single Market. With the aim of better consideration of their situation, the MOT network has contributed to the CoR consultation on the draft regulation of the parliament and the council on a "Consumers" programme for the 2014-2020 period.

http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu/Cons2012_en.pdf

Publication of the MOT activity report



The MOT has published its activity report for 2011.

It can be viewed at:

http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu/RA_2011.pdf

PRESS REVIEW

16 February: Urban Forum

14 February, Inforegio News
“[...] The event [brought] together in Brussels some 500 participants, including mayors of major European cities and representatives of urban networks, associations and European institutions. Regional Policy commissioner Johannes Hahn wants to initiate direct dialogue with European cities in order to discuss the place of urban development in the cohesion policy for 2014-2020. This dialogue will subsequently be institutionalized with the setting-up of a ‘European urban development platform’ to encourage experience-sharing at European level.”

European summit: the Council supports the reallocation of the structural funds

Europe Information Service, 13 February
“Accused of giving priority to rigour and austerity, at their informal summit on 30 January the EU heads of state and government considered how to boost growth and employment. The ‘urgent measures’ that they proposed include better mobilization of the structural funds and reprogramming of unused funds to support employment.”

Third call for URBACT projects for the formation of topical networks

Inforegio News, 27 January
“The third and final call for URBACT projects is open for the establishment of 19 new topical networks. The bids must be submitted before 15 March 2012. URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.”

The Eurometropolis label to gain visibility

Nord Eclair, 28 January
“Olivier Beddeleem, lecturer at the EDHEC business school, has started the blog ‘les Amis de l’Eurométropole’ (friends of the Eurometropolis), a citizen access medium covering current events in this area with a population of two million.”

Eurocampus, the university that’s moving mountains

Le Monde, 26 January
“In the Middle Ages, we were the drivers of European intelligence. We must regain the splendour of our past!” When the Eurocampus Pyrénées-Méditerranée was established in 2009, the president of the Languedoc-Roussillon regional council, Georges Frèche (who died in 2010), had emphatically set the course.”

Euroregion: federating grey matter

L’Indépendant, 14 February
“Barcelona. Eight years after the establishment of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion, the leaders of the four remaining member regions [...] not only show off a very satisfactory record, but also affirm that this transnational entity attracts ‘part of the solutions’ to the economic and financial crisis.”

What is the Eurodistrict for?

Le Républicain lorrain, 4 February
“Eighteen months after its formation, this cross-border structure linking Moselle-Est with the Saarbrücken conurbation is ramping up its operations.”

Andalusia reinforces its technological and entrepreneurial cooperation with northern Morocco

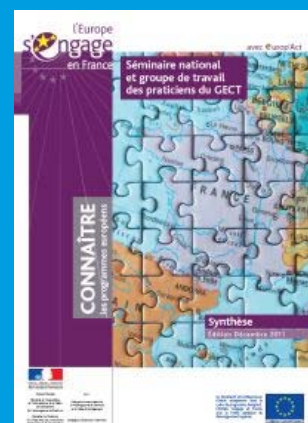
Maghreb Arab Press, 25 January
“The autonomous government of Andalusia has strengthened its technological and entrepreneurial cooperation with northern Morocco by the adoption of two cross-border cooperation projects with funding of almost two million euros, 75% co-financed by the EU, it was announced on Wednesday.”

Summary of the national seminar and working group of EGTC practitioners

This seminar was held on 20 January 2011 in Paris, as part of the Europact national technical assistance programme, to meet a demand for discussion and information on EGTC implementation issues. It was organized by the DATAR (French interministerial agency for spatial planning and regional attractiveness) in liaison with the DGCL (French local government directorate-general) and the DAECT (delegation for foreign action by local authorities, French ministry of foreign affairs), with backing from the MOT.

The work led to the formation of a working group which met during the first half of 2011, with a session on recruitment and management of EGTC personnel and a session on the EGTC as an instrument for implementation of an integrated cross-border strategy.

The summary document of these events can be downloaded from:
<http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/Centre-de-ressources/Seminaires-et-rencontres/Seminaire-national-et-groupe-de-travail-des-praticiens-du-GECT>



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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Director of publication: Jean Peyrony
Production: Domitille Ayral
Photos: DR, Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur,
Regio Pamina, MOT

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