

The IBA Basel's International Congress

At the congress entitled "Cross Border Planning and Cooperation" held in Basel on 18 October 2013, international specialists and stakeholders discussed solutions for metropolitan cooperation and the implementation of cross-border projects. The message was clear: cooperation and the development of metropolitan areas require concrete projects. National and European authorities are ready to support solutions through financial incentives for cooperation, the coordination of national instruments and strategic advice. Cross-border urban and regional planning, which is at the heart of IBA Basel, is a typically European topic. Spatial developments and transformations in densely populated Europe do not stop at the territorial limits of city regions. The resulting planning and communication tasks require increasing horizontal and vertical cooperation between players and different levels. Following in the – hitherto

German – tradition of international architecture exhibitions, the IBA Basel is taking up the new challenges presented by the European conurbations and metropolitan areas with regard to cross-border cooperation.

In four themed workshops – "Urban spaces", "Landscapes", "Living together" and "Regional cooperation" – IBA cross-border projects were discussed in relation to benchmark international projects. In the final panel discussion, Walter Deffaa (Directorate-General for Regional Policy, Brussels), Katharina Erdmenger (Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development, Berlin), Maria Lezzi (Federal Office for Territorial Development, Bern) and Jean Peyrony (MOT, Paris) highlighted the importance of the IBA's approach and reaffirmed their financial and organisational support.

<http://iba-basel.net>



The Euro-Institut is twenty years old!

Two hundred people gathered in Strasbourg to discuss the topic "Capacity building and cross-border cooperation: a duo for the future!" on the occasion of the Euro-Institut's twentieth anniversary.

Today, the role of facilitator played by the Euro-Institut through training, advice and support is recognised not only in the Upper Rhine but also in Europe with the TEIN (Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network). On 21 October, many leading figures took the floor to underline the need to

strengthen the competences of cross-border players. Indeed, "working together appears straightforward, but it isn't!", observed Marek Olszewski from the association OLZA on the Polish-Czech border. Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Minister-President of the German-speaking Community of Belgium, stressed that you have to "want, be authorised and able to cooperate", and it is especially with respect to this last point that the Euro-Institut provides real value added. The assessment shared by everyone and underscored

by Marie Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, MEP, was: "cooperation needs to be intensified to support territorial development and contribute to European integration in order to achieve the ultimate objective: improving the daily lives of citizens". The complementary approaches of the TEIN, the MOT and the AEER (Association of European Border Regions) are in line with this rationale.

[Consult documentation online.](#)

EVENTS

NOVEMBER

AEBR annual conference: "Cross-border urban and rural integrated areas – challenges and chances", 7 to 9 November 2013 in Liège (Belgium) and Maastricht (Netherlands) (Euregio Meuse-Rhine). Further information.

Cross-border science days on renewable energies, in October and November 2013, organised within the framework of the Upper Rhine trinational metropolitan region. Further information.

Conference on "Energy transition and quality of life: Active participation to bring about changes", on 15 November 2013 in Freiburg im Breisgau, organised by the French-German-Swiss Upper Rhine Conference and TRION, the trinational network on energy. Further information.

CAMIS project final conference: "Looking to the future of maritime cooperation in the Channel region", 21 November 2013 in Rouen. Further information.

DECEMBER

National training of URBACT local support groups - France-Belgium, 5 and 6 December 2013 in Paris. Further information.

Other events at: www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

Legal seminar on the French-Swiss border

The MOT organised a seminar in Annemasse on 3 October 2013 bringing together some fifty participants on the legal instruments of cross-border projects on the French-Swiss border, introduced by Robert Borrel, president of the Arc joint association and first vice-president of Annemasse-Les Voirons Agglomération, which hosted the event, and Christian Dupessey, mayor of Annemasse and MOT vice-president.



The first round table was on the reasons for selecting a legal instrument for managing a cross-border project, the added value of the selected instrument, the success factors and the limits of the implemented structure. Three examples illustrated the discussions: the Greater Geneva LCCG, established in 2012 to manage the France-Vaud-Geneva conurbation project; the cross-border public transport LCCG established in 2006 by the French and Swiss public transport authorities of the France-Vaud-Geneva conurbation to manage cross-border bus routes; the Association internationale des Portes du Soleil, established in 1974, an association governed by French law for the development of the French and Swiss ski resorts of the Portes du Soleil skiing area. The second round table, on the life cycle of cross-border

projects, focused on three questions: What are the stages in a cross-border project? To what extent does the selection of the instrument form part of the medium- or long-term operation of the project? What support can the legal arrangements give to the preparation and implementation of a cross-border strategy? The presentations covered: the Agglomération Urbaine du Doubs, a project currently in the organisation stage, governed at present by an agreement between six municipalities of the Jura Arc (including Morteau and La Chaux-de-Fonds); the Doubs cross-border regional nature park project, between two neighbouring parks in France and Switzerland, currently being set up; the Espace Mont-Blanc, a French-Italian-Swiss territory around Mont-Blanc, governed at present by a cooperation agreement and

planning to form an EGTC; the Confédération Transjurassienne, a cooperation body without legal personality, active in the Jura Arc area. Following these presentations, MOT director-general Jean Peyrony stressed that the diversity of projects and territories calls for diverse solutions. This seminar, one of a series of five legal seminars on the French borders*, will be used by the MOT to produce decision aid documents providing guidance to project developers. He concluded with a reminder that this cross-border project toolbox is not just legal, but also includes financial (for example the Interreg programmes) and governance tools.

* Further information.



* Project co-funded by the European Union. Europe is committed in France with the ERDF.

French-Italian legal seminar

Around 120 French and Italian practitioners took part in the French-Italian seminar on legal instruments organised by the MOT in Genoa on 10 October 2013, at the invitation of the Liguria region. Various legal arrangements were presented at the first round table, for example the Bouches de Bonifacio international marine park EGTC (established in 2012 and governed by Italian law), the Alpi Marittime-Mercantour European park EGTC (established in 2013 and governed by French law), and the Conferenza delle Alpi Franco-

italiene (CAFI), an Italian association formed in 2000 comprising the five French border departments, three Italian provinces and the Valle d'Aosta autonomous region. The cooperation between Genoa city council and the Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur, covered by a cooperation agreement signed in 2011, was also presented. The second round table discussed the 2014-2020 integrated territorial development instruments: the European regulatory framework of the ITI and

the CLLD, their place in the French Partnership Agreement, current thinking in Italy, the criteria for the use of the ITI and the CLLD and their deployment in the 2014-2020 programming period. An assessment of the integrated cross-border plans (PIT) and recommendations for their continuation in 2014-2020 were also formulated. **Further information.**



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EUROPE NEWS

NETWORK NEWS

The CECICN workshop at the OPEN DAYS

Closing event of the France-Wallonia- Flanders programme

Wallonia and the partner authorities of the Interreg IV France-Wallonia-Flanders programme held the closing event of the programme for the 2007-2013 period on 8 October 2013 in Mons, Belgium. The discussions covered the management of the acquired knowledge and experience, the promotion of the results and the identification of cooperation priorities for the next programming period. The event was followed by the presentation of the 2013 "Strategic Projects" awards. The award-winning projects included [TANDEM](#), the [Metropolitan University](#) and [Phytobio](#)*.

* Click on the project names for further information.
[The presentations on line.](#)



The 11th OPEN DAYS, European Week of Regions and Cities, took place from 7 to 10 October 2013 in Brussels, attended by more than 6000 participants from all over Europe. Cross-border cooperation was on the agenda of a number of workshops.

The MOT had a strong presence throughout the week, for example organising a workshop of the CECICN*, of which the MOT is a founding member, on "Territorial cooperation and single market: how to create tangible added value for citizens in cross-border territories and interregional networks", attended by more than 230 participants.

Jean Peyrony, MOT director-general and CECICN executive director, moderator of the workshop, introduced the workshop by presenting the CECICN network, the objective of which is to place European territorial cooperation at the heart of European policies in the 2014-2020 programming period and the Europe 2020 strategy.

The representatives of the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), the Eurodistrict REGIO PAMINA and the Iberian Network of Cross-border Cities (RIET) illustrated three examples of territorial cooperation contributing to the single market. Marcus Andersson, for the UBC,



discussed the mobility of talented persons between the Baltic cities to meet the needs of the employment market, while promoting the development of the territory and benefitting the mobile persons. Nevertheless, a number of obstacles to such mobility remain to be eliminated.

Patrice Harster, director-general of the Eurodistrict REGIO PAMINA, presented the issues of the cross-border employment market on the French-German border. The Eurodistrict proposes to coordinate the existing tools (ERDF cross-border programme, ESF regional programmes, EURES-T, Eurodistrict, etc.) in order to avoid spreading resources too thinly.

According to Xoán Vazquez Mao, secretary-general of RIET and CECICN, this second generation of cooperation must be the generation of the internal market. He highlighted the issues and needs on the Spanish-Portuguese border, particularly in terms of transport and telecommunications. Olivier Girard, member of the

cabinet of Internal Market and Services Commissioner Michel Barnier, stressed the need, in the run-up to the European elections, to promote another vision of the single market, too often criticized: "Although some problems remain, there is progress in the work reaching out to citizens and SMEs. In terms of cooperation, the cross-border territories and their pilot projects must be laboratories of the internal market."

Bernard Soulage, vice-president of the Rhône-Alpes region, chairing the workshop, concluded the discussions by stating that "territorial cooperation is a major political issue, an essential brick in the construction of a European political and democratic space. [...] The aim is to remove all remaining barriers, including those that prevent close contacts between the inhabitants in the cross-border territories."

* Conference of European Cross-border and Interregional City Networks, www.cecicn.eu

A joint event with the EGTC Platform

The CECICN workshop, complementary to the Committee of the Regions EGTC Platform workshop "The European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation: Cross-border players in the Single Market", was followed by a joint event attended by a hundred persons.

The Committee of the Regions launched at this occasion the Award "Building Europe across Borders" for the EGTC, to give visibility to the EGTC as an instrument for fostering economic growth and especially for implementing the Europe 2020 strategy. This informal interaction event was

also an opportunity to continue the discussions started in the two workshops. The CECICN presented its network and its activities around the specialisations of its member networks.

* All the workshop presentations are on line at www.opendays.eu -> Library.



PRESS REVIEW

▲ The disagreement on the European budget worries the regions

Le Courrier des Maires, 8 Oct.

"At the opening of the OPEN DAYS in Brussels on 7 October, calls were made for the European Parliament and Council to rapidly reach an agreement on the multi-annual financial framework.

Speaking to an audience of nearly 6000 representatives of European local authorities, regional policy commissioner Johannes Hahn affirmed that he was reasonably optimistic with regard to the economic future of the European Union. According to him, the economic data show the beginning of convalescence."

▲ Structural funds: still no agreement on the new cohesion policy

Europe Information Service, 11 October

"It's clearly more complicated than they thought. The three-way talks between the European Parliament, Council and Commission on 10 October have still not managed to strike a final compromise on the EU's future cohesion policy. Discussions will continue late on Monday, 14 October. The votes in the regional development committee (REGI), which meets on the 14th, are postponed. The original plan was for the REGI to approve the final compromises on 14 October, so that they could be submitted to the plenary session on 21-24 October."

▲ At Halluin Pôle emploi: 65% of the vacancies are Belgian

Nord Eclair, 8 October

"With the Armentières and Villeneuve d'Ascq branches, the Pôle emploi branch in Halluin has a task force dedicated to cross-border employment which consolidates the activity of this leading branch on the north-eastern side. 65% of the vacancies listed here are for jobs on the other side of the border."

▲ Dutch, an asset for a successful career with our neighbours

La Voix du Nord, 12 October

"In the face of an employment rate above 10% in the region, job hunters are not hesitating to make efforts, including linguistic ones, to get a job [...]. Learning Dutch is in favour [...]."

▲ Border worker health insurance: the mobilisation is getting organised

Le Messenger, 10 October

"Demonstrations, petitions, amendment, lobbying: the movement against the ending of the right of option for health insurance is getting organised. In vain? Analysis: the consequences will be dramatic for the border workers (substantial purchasing power reduction, disproportionate contributions for less coverage) and for the economy of the border regions [...]. The introduction of this new system does not take account of the specific needs of border workers. Like other associations defending border workers, and elected representatives [...], the collective 'Frontaliers ou bien ?' is annoyed by the government's decision to end the right of option with regard to health insurance with effect from 31 May 2014. Same story from the Groupement transfrontalier européen, which wants 'a proper status for the border worker with regard to health insurance'."

▲ Cross-border emergency services to respond to earthquakes

La Provence, 4 October

"French sapeurs-pompiers and Italian vigili del fuoco were among the participants yesterday in operation Richter 2013. This year the Alpes de Haute-Provence department hosted the exercise [...] placing the department's emergency services in a 'real' situation in order to assess the effectiveness of the operations centre and respond to a potential earthquake. An earthquake of magnitude 6.2."

▲ Faster progress on the Cerdagne cross-border hospital

L'Indépendant, 12 October

"The consultative council of the Cerdagne joint cross-border hospital, chaired by French MP François Calvet and composed of all the elected and other representatives of Cerdagne, met recently in Puigcerda. The opening date should be next summer at the latest."

"Genève en chiffres" - Cross-border vision

A special issue of the magazine Genève en chiffres, 2013 edition, entitled "Vision transfrontalière" (cross-border vision) has been published (in French). It is devoted to Greater Geneva (the France-Vaud-Geneva conurbation) and covers topics including mobility. The contents:

- Editorial by Michel Charrat, president of the European cross-border grouping
- Quotes from elected representatives
- "Le Grand Genève" (Greater Geneva): new name for the France-Vaud-Geneva project
- Bernard Ghiglione: "At the service of border workers"
- Border workers: more and more of them
- Free movement: border workers in Switzerland
- Luxembourg: an attractive employment area
- CEVA: the project on the right track
- Public transport: the tramway extends into neighbouring France
- Bernard Gaud: "Training, health, housing...: essential topics"

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CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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