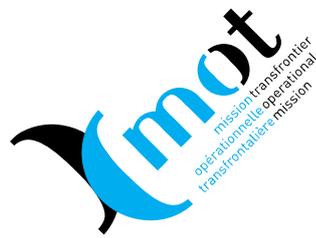


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CROSS BORDER NEWS



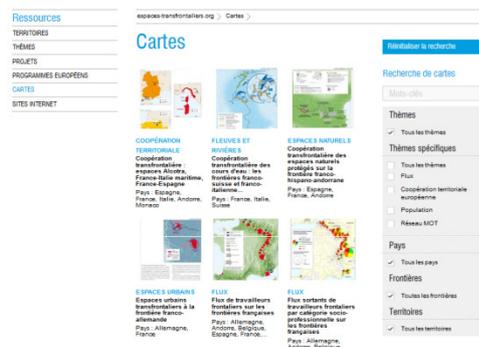
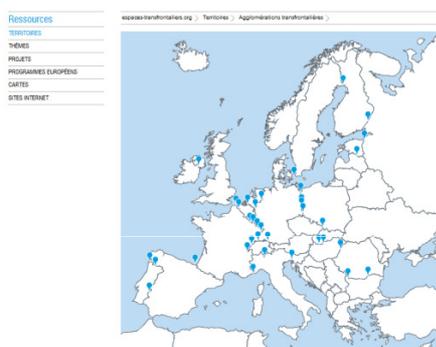
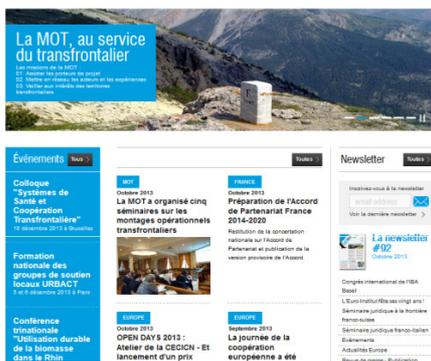
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The MOT unveils its new website!

After a total revamp and more than two years' work, the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière and its president Michel Delebarre invite you to discover the new version of the website www.cross-border-territories.eu

With a new layout, simplified structure and updated and expanded content, the site presents the MOT's activities and makes available a unique resource centre on cross-border cooperation : borders, territories, topics, projects, maps... multiple entry-points for the pooling of territories' experiences. As the MOT's president, Michel Delebarre, emphasises: "This new website is intended to

be a tool in the service of cross-border territories. The site must belong to those involved in cross-border cooperation, and we therefore invite you to contribute, and enrich it with your cross-border experiences and projects!". [Further information and presentation of content on page 3.](#)



Forum of the Basque Eurocity

Organised by the Cross-Border Agency for the Development of the Basque Eurocity and the Donostia-San Sebastián City Hall on 14-15 November 2013 in San Sebastián, this event brought together the political, technical, institutional and socio-economic representatives of the Basque Eurocity. The aim of the forum was to present ongoing projects, to discuss the strategic vision for the Eurocity of the future and to launch the process of drawing up the operational strategic plan for the cross-border conurbation for 2014-2020. Nearly 200 people attended the numerous

presentations and discussions. Among the major projects for the Eurocity discussed were: the rehabilitation of the banks of the Adour River, plans for urban regeneration around Irún railway station, urban projects concerning water treatment for the South Basque Country Conurbation and the project for Donostia-San Sebastián as European Capital of Culture in 2016. The Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa (Gipuzkoa Provincial Council) also highlighted the impact of energy dependence on the Eurocity area and the potential represented by marine renewable energies. In addition to the

presentations and exchanges regarding ongoing projects, the forum was an opportunity to discuss the Eurocity's future 20 years after its creation. All of the elected representatives agreed on the need to carry out concrete projects that serve the Eurocity's citizens. A number of areas for work were identified as priorities: mobility, the environment, culture, tourism, infrastructures, languages, higher education, and technological research and development. [More information: click here to read full article \(in French\).](#)

EVENTS

DECEMBER

Symposium on "Health Systems and Cross-Border Cooperation"
18 December 2013 in Brussels.

Day of discussions on "Climate change: from regional impacts to proposals for adaptation, from the Nord-Pas de Calais Region to the Euroregion"
12 December 2013 in Lille.

In 2014

The MOT's next Annual General Meeting and conference-debate will take place on 18-19 June 2014 in Paris and will address the topic "Cooperation 2.0: Experimenting Europe on each border".

The 14th international conference of the BRIT (Border Regions in Transition) will take place on 4-7 November 2014 on the French-Belgian border (in Arras, Lille and Mons) with the theme: "The border, a source of innovation".

[Click here for further information and other events.](#)

Legal seminar on the French-German-Luxembourg border



Over 50 practitioners participated in the seminar on the legal instruments for cross-border projects organised by the MOT on 17 October 2013 in Sarreguemines and hosted by the Communauté d'Agglomération Sarreguemines Confluences (Sarreguemines Confluences Agglomeration Community). The first roundtable concerned the legal tools available to cross-border projects (relevance, value added and limitations) and the different possible legal structures were illustrated by existing cooperation initiatives along this border. Four examples were presented: two territorial

development structures with multi-sector remits (the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict EGTC, set up in 2010, and the association of the Basel Trinational Eurodistrict, set up in 1995); a training and assistance body, the Euro-Institut (set up in 1993 and structured as an EEIG, and then as an LCCG in 2003); and lastly, a public facility – the fire-boat on the Rhine – which is managed by the Europa 1 LCCG (set up in 2007). The discussions in the second roundtable concerned the life cycle of cross-border projects (strategy, engineering, legal structure and financing). Other examples were

discussed, such as: the Alzette-Belval EGTC (set up in 2012 to support the development of a cross-border territory on the France-Luxembourg border), the Interreg Saarland-Moselle-Lorraine-Westpfalz Public Interest Grouping (which was the managing authority of an Interreg IIIA programme and is now in charge of the territorial coordination of part of the Greater Region programme) and the Upper Rhine Trinational Metropolitan Region (a multi-level informal consultation structure set up in 2010).

[More info](#)

French-Belgian-UK legal seminar

The seminar on legal instruments for cross-border projects organised by the MOT on 29 October 2013 in Lille (at the Nord-Pas de Calais Conseil Régional) brought together nearly 70 French, Belgian and English players involved in cross-border cooperation.

After a comparative presentation of the tools available on the French-Belgian and French-British borders given by the MOT, concrete examples were set forth in a roundtable. The presentations were given by:

- the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis EGTC, the first body of this type in Europe, set up in 2008;
- the West-Vlaanderen-Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale EGTC, set up in 2009;
- the Greater Lille Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on the Euro 3 EEIG, a cooperation structure in the area of economic development, set up in 1991;
- the Parc Naturel Régional Scarpe Escaut which, with the Parc Naturel des Plaines de l'Escaut, forms the

Hainaut Transboundary Natural Park;

- the Pas-de-Calais Conseil Général on the partnership agreement with Kent County Council,
- and Wallonie-Bruxelles International (Wallonia-Brussels International).

To conclude the seminar, the MOT provided some points of comparison by presenting good practices implemented on other borders and set out the outlook for 2014-2020 and the opportunities to use integrated territorial

development tools (integrated territorial investment and local development).

The two legal seminars described here are part of a series of five seminars held in October and November on each of France's borders.

[More info](#)



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

cross-border-territories.eu — the resource centre on cross-border cooperation

European recognition for the Hainaut Cross- border Nature Park

The Parc Naturel Régional Scarpe-Escaut (France) and the Parc Naturel des Plaines de l'Escaut (Belgium), which together form the Hainaut Cross-border Nature Park, received the "Transboundary Park" certificate at the closing ceremony of the annual conference of the EUROPARC Federation on 12 October 2013 in Hungary. "Transboundary Parks" is a EUROPARC initiative to encourage cooperation between protected natural areas across national borders. This label is awarded as a recognition that a set of criteria demonstrating enhanced cross-border cooperation have been met. Ten European parks have so far been certified "Transboundary Parks".



Five main sections make up the new MOT website:

News

Keep track of news and events concerning cross-border cooperation.

About the MOT

Get to know the organisation and the network, explore the MOT's work, partners, seminars, etc.

European Activities

Find the MOT's position papers and European projects, as well as networks such as the CECICN and the Budapest Platform.

Resource Centre

Highlights of the resource centre include:

- 175 presentations of borders and territories
- 27 analyses of cross-border cooperation topics
- A database of 450 cross-border projects
- A collection of 130 maps illustrating the reality of cooperation on French borders,
- Information on European programmes and the 2014-2020 programming period.

The Members' Area (available in French only)

Some resources are reserved for the members of the network, including:

- An updated legal database (the legal framework for cooperation on each French border, factsheets on legal instruments, legal texts...).
- An exceptional press article database: All press articles on cross-border cooperation on French borders have been archived since 2009. The search engine enables searching by topic, border and territory.

The "cross-border healthcare" directive

The European directive on cross-border healthcare came into force on 25 October 2013. Its aim is to facilitate the organisation of scheduled treatment for and reimbursement of patients who receive medical treatment or an operation outside of their country of residence. Henceforth, it is possible

to buy medicines in France with a Belgian prescription and vice versa. Similarly, any patient may choose to be treated in a hospital on either side of the border, although it should be noted that only treatment covered in the patient's country of origin will be reimbursed, at the rate set in that country. [More info](#)

Final conference of the CAMIS project

The final conference of the French-British project CAMIS (Channel Arc Manche Integrated Strategy) took place on 21 November 2013 in Rouen. This event made it possible to evaluate this important French-British project and to launch the "integrated maritime strategy for

the Channel area and its action plan". The conference also addressed the issues of maritime clusters and maritime safety and risks.

[More info](#)



PRESS REVIEW

▲ Cohesion policy: compromise at last on structural funds 2014-2020

Europe Information Service, 5 November

"This time it should work. The Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper), meeting on 29 October, agreed a compromise on the EU's future cohesion policy. It was approved by qualified majority since the United Kingdom does not support it. The rules that will apply to the €325 billion that the structural funds will comprise between 2014 and 2020 are therefore now known. The European Parliament has saved face on macro-conditionality: it will be involved in the procedure – but without being able to block anything at all – and different economic and social criteria may limit the amount of aid that may be suspended."

▲ Two new clusters to boost Dieppe's economy

Les Informations dieppoises, 15 November

"Both for the Government and Dieppe's chamber of commerce and industry, the aim is to increase partnerships with English firms by grouping firms into clusters."

▲ A cross-border network to pay tribute to the soldiers of the Great War

Le Syndicat agricole, 8 November

"An Interreg project has made it possible to set up projects to promote the sites of the First World War in the region [...] The region was strongly impacted by this conflict: the front ran across western Flanders (from Nieuwpoort to the French border near Armentières) then the Nord-Pas de Calais region (from Armentières to Arras) and continued as far as the Somme and the Aisne."

▲ 90,000 French people work in Switzerland and live in France

Challenges, 15 November

"In 10 years, the number of cross-border workers in the French-speaking cantons has doubled."

▲ Greater Geneva elected representatives remain confident

La Tribune de Genève, 11 November

"Geneva's French and Vaudois* partners are reacting to the election of the Mouvement citoyens genevois (MCG) to Geneva's executive body. To comment without giving offence – this was the delicate exercise that Geneva's French and Vaudois partners engaged in, faced with the result of the election of the Conseil d'Etat."

"The people of Geneva have spoken," most of them start off by saying, with some going as far as congratulating "all those elected". "We will work with the Conseil d'Etat as it is," affirms Christian Dupessey, the mayor of Annemasse. "Six of them support the idea of Greater Geneva. I hope that the seventh will be constructive and not obstructive." It is indeed the election to the canton's executive body of the Mouvement citoyens genevois, an anti-cross-border party, which is provoking reactions, questions and even fears among the elected representatives in the neighbouring territories."

*From the neighbouring canton of Vaud.

▲ Lyons-Turin: the hour of truth

Le Monde, 15 November

"The project for a freight and passenger rail link between Lyons and Turin was launched more than 20 years ago. Often criticised, it may nonetheless cross a point of no return in the coming weeks. [...] The hour of truth is approaching: ratification of a bilateral agreement is under way, Europe's decision to fund 40% of the work is expected to be formalised through a call for project proposals in early 2014 and the French and Italian Heads of State will meet in Rome on 20 November."

▲ The Mercantour National Park attempts the ascent of UNESCO

Nice Matin, 19 November

"The French-Italian 'Alps of the Sea' region (Mercantour-Alpi Marittime) yesterday made official its application to be included as a natural site on UNESCO's World Heritage List."

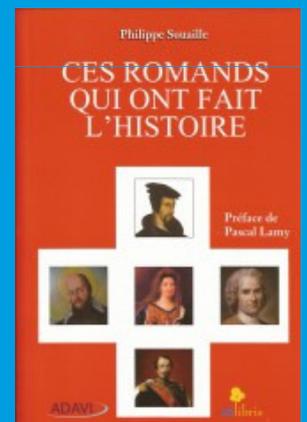
"Ces Romands qui ont fait l'Histoire"

In his book "Ces Romands qui ont fait l'histoire" ("Those Romands* Who Made History"), which has just been published by Ad Libris in Thonon, Philippe Souaille looks at the many aspects that connect Geneva and the French. That city's desire for independence [...] has a long history. In his account, the author links to the past those elements necessary to understand the present". **

According to the author, this book is the fruit of three years' work: "Three years immersed in the history of Geneva, of La Romandie and the surrounding regions, of Switzerland, France, Europe and the rest of the world..."

"Ces Romands qui ont fait l'Histoire", Philippe Souaille, co-published by Ad Libris in Thonon, Haute-Savoie.

* La Romandie is the French-speaking part of Switzerland and the Romands are its inhabitants ** Source : L'Agefi



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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