

The Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai publishes its 2014-2020 strategy

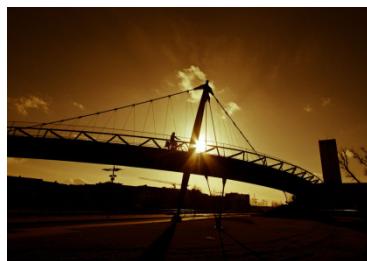
The overall objective of the Eurometropolis strategy is to "proceed from the collective project to practical implementations": "going beyond the pooled knowledge of the institutional participants and civil society and various achievements, the mobilisation of collective intelligence remains essential, both for designing the processes and realising joint projects in the field and for planning the future"¹. The members of the Eurometropolis EGTC are focusing their collective action on the challenges for which their cooperation generates added value for both the residents of the Eurometropolis and the local actors: their 2014-2020 strategy is the result of a maturing process of their

cooperation², of their intention to build Europe in the field. Organised along three axes (socio-economic; mobility-accessibility; blue and green Eurometropolis), it provides a reference framework for the partners and actors in the territory, leading to coherent and integrated comprehensive cross-border action. Cross-border information for the citizens will be developed. The EGTC will implement the projects using the competencies and the resources of its members and partners as well as European co-funding.

More info

¹ Stef Vande Meulebroucke, director of the Eurometropolis Agency.

² Refer to "[5 years of Eurometropolis](#)".



Maubeuge - Charleroi cross-border meetings

On 16 January 2014 cross-border meetings took place in Maubeuge, organised by the Charleroi-Sud Hainaut region and the Communauté d'Agglomération Maubeuge-Val de Sambre (CAMVS) to reinforce their collaboration initiated in 2011.

The meetings were chaired by Rémi Pauvros, president of the CAMVS, Paul Magnette, mayor of Charleroi, and Michel Martin, chairman of the Charleroi-Sud Hainaut region strategic development committee.

On this occasion, the two parties announced their intention to form a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, first step towards an

initiative intended to be open to other neighbouring territories.

The aim for the partners was to affirm their intention to develop new joint initiatives, for example in the context of the 2014-2020 Interreg programming. Projects should emerge in various areas, including tourism, culture, connections between territories and mobility, economic promotion and employment.

Lastly, the cooperation agreement between the Charleroi-Sud Hainaut region and the CAMVS was renewed.

The Communauté d'Agglomération Maubeuge-Val de Sambre joined the MOT in 2011. At the

conference, the MOT presented the objectives and advantages of EGTCs.



EVENTS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Conference "Cross-Border Economic Development and the Border Development Zone (BDZ) Concept", 30- 31 January 2014 in Cavan (Ireland), organised by the Centre for Cross-Border Studies (CCBS) and the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD).

"International Symposium on Socio-Ecological Transformation Processes in a European Cross-Border Region", 13-14 February 2014 in Mondorf-les-Bains (Luxembourg).

Conference "Cities of Tomorrow: Investing in Europe", 17-18 February 2014 in Brussels.

Call to the network: please contact us if you wish to take part in order to represent the cross-border cause there.

Annual meeting of the ETGC Platform of the Committee of the Regions, on 18 February in Brussels, on "The EGTCs and the Europe 2020 strategy".

MOT events in the first half of 2014

The MOT is organising a seminar on 15 April 2014 in Paris on **cross-border economic development**. More information to follow very soon.

The MOT's next Annual General Meeting and conference-debate, on the topic "**Cross-border networks: mutualising services and experimenting with Europe on each border**", will take place on 18-19 June 2014 in Paris.

[All the events.](#)

Health systems and cross-border cooperation

The French-Belgian health monitoring unit (EEIG OFBS) and the Wallonia-Lorraine-Luxembourg cross-border health monitoring unit (EEIG LUXLORSAN) organised a conference on health systems and cross-border cooperation, which took place on 18 December 2013 at the Committee of the Regions offices.



The morning was devoted to the impact of the crisis on health systems and on cross-border cooperation in this area. After an overall analysis of the situation in the European Union (Willy Palm, WHO – European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies), the examples of Belgium (Jo De Cock, INAMI), France (Dominique Polton, CNAMTS), Luxembourg (Claude Schummer, AMMD) and Germany (Marc Schreiner, German hospitals association) were presented in detail. The responses to the crisis have differed between the countries, with different levels of reduction of the budgets allocated to health. Some countries have made minor changes, while others have introduced structural reforms according to a real strategic vision.

Koen Lenaerts, vice-president of the Court of Justice of the European Union, explained the areas of application of the two fundamental European texts governing cross-border healthcare: [Regulation \(EC\)](#)

[No. 883/2004 of 29 April 2004](#) on the coordination of social security systems and [Directive 2011/24/EU of 9 March 2011](#) on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare, which had to be transposed by the Member States before 25 October 2013. These texts guarantee the mobility of European patients and define the rules for healthcare reimbursement. In practical terms, a patient can receive healthcare in another Member State and is treated under the same conditions as the patients of that State. The French Ambassador to Belgium, Bernard Valero, introduced the second part of the conference.

The afternoon communications focused on the assessment of cross-border cooperation on health. Grégoire Lefebvre (Mouscron hospital) discussed inter-hospital cooperation in the north-east of the Lille conurbation and the ZOAST (organised cross-border care access area) MRTW-URSA.

Robert de Fays (VIVALIA) described medical cooperation between Arlon and Mont Saint Martin and the ZOAST ARLWY. Manon Marell (Cerdagne hospital EGTC) presented the establishment of the first European cross-border hospital on the French-Catalan border. Philip Cordery (French MP) discussed socio-medical cooperation through the French-Walloon cross-border outline agreement on the management of handicapped persons.

Other contributors included Nathalie Chaze (DG SANCO), Phillippe Lorenzo (ORS Picardie), Claude d'Harcourt (ARS Lorraine), Christophe Lafond (MGEN) and Agnès Monfret (DG REGIO). The proceedings were concluded by Frederic Flamand (Walloon regional health minister).

[More info on the conference](#)

[Cross-border health topical data sheet](#)

Cross-border cooperation, "lever of peace and development" in Africa



"Build bridges between the States through the construction of development programmes that are going to join together the

communities on either side of physical borders" was the objective of the conference on cross-border cooperation which took place on 17 to 19 December 2013 in Dakar, Senegal, under the aegis of the UEMOA¹, attended by Aminata Touré, prime minister of Senegal, ministers from Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin and Guinea-Bissau, representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, the African Union and the ECOWAS, and many local elected representatives and experts.

To deal with growing security issues and combat the development of the illegal economy, smuggling and terrorism, the States must reinstitute the border areas and, to this end, rely on support from the local authorities. Practical initiatives to provide services to the border populations and to produce joint infrastructures have been presented, but they remain isolated.

As Abdoulaye Sene, president of the Global Local Forum², stressed:

"The aim is to take a fresh look at all the possibilities offered by cross-border cooperation to contribute to the construction of societies with much higher levels of solidarity, territories that dialogue, but above all to the consolidation of peace and security in our different territories."

¹ West African Economic and Monetary Union

² Scientific organiser of the conference.

[More info](#)

A framework for the partnership for the structural funds



On 7 January, the European Commission adopted a code of conduct providing a framework for partnership in the management of the European regional policy with regional and local authorities, economic and social partners and the other representatives of civil society. [The regulation adopted](#) aims to improve dialogue with these various partners and their consultation and participation throughout the programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by the European structural funds and investment funds. The ERDF, the ESF, the Cohesion Fund, the EAFRD and the EMFF are the funds involved.

New regulations for Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 entered into force

The regulations of the new Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 have been formally endorsed by the Council of the European Union and have been published on 20 December in the 'Official Journal of the EU' (L 347). The Member States now move to finalise their strategic plans with investment priorities for regional development, following months of preparation.

Two contributions by the CECICN for DG REGIO and DG MARKT

In the context of the 2014-2020 programming period, the CECICN¹, of which the MOT is a member, in December 2013 officially submitted two contributions to the European Union's DG REGIO and DG MARKT in order to prepare an upcoming meeting at European level. The first contribution, addressed to DG REGIO, is on "[Integrated territorial approaches and small project funds within the 2014-2020 programming period](#)". The CECICN supports the integrated approaches presented in the various programming documents and highlights some difficulties that might arise regarding their use in a cross-border context. It also follows the position to maintain the micro-project funds in the 2014-2020 programming

period. At the same time, the CECICN submitted to DG REGIO its position on the role of cities and the urban dimension in macro-regional strategies. It highlights the importance for cities to participate in the macro-regional process, looking for more open, effective and ambitious cooperation. The second contribution, submitted to DG MARKT, is on "[Single market – topics in link with citizenship](#)". The CECICN holds that the single market and citizenship² are two particularly important starting points for exploiting the potential of cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation. In this context, it puts forward practical proposals in terms of employment/training, economic

development and innovation, energy and sustainable development, transport and quality of life of the citizens. European territorial cooperation contributes to the implementation of the single market and identifies the needs of the territories, in particular cross-border territories. Through these two contributions, the CECICN wishes to offer the European Commission the vision and the position of the cities involved in territorial cooperation in Europe.

[More info](#)

¹ Conference of European Cross-border and Interregional City Networks, www.cecicn.eu

² The CECICN organised a workshop on this topic at the Open Days in October 2013: [more info](#).



France: Partnership agreement

The French authorities officially submitted the partnership agreement to the European Commission on 31 December 2013. This document provides the framework for the programming of the European funds for the period 2014-2020. It will be the subject of negotiations between the European Commission and France. [More info](#)

Award for EGTCs

The Committee of the Regions launches a bi-annual European award named "Building Europe Across Borders" to recognise and give visibility to the best practice of a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) related to the creation of growth and jobs in Europe (Europe 2020 Strategy). The application form shall to be sent before 25 January 2014.

[More info](#)

PRESS REVIEW

Structural funds: Preparation of partnership agreements should be made public

Europe Information Service,
15 January

"The European Parliament urges the European Commission to make public the state of preparation of the partnership agreements that the member states are currently negotiating to benefit from the Structural Funds 2014-2020. These partnership agreements have to define the major investment priorities in each state and contain the objectives that will be used to assess their success in the future. In a resolution adopted on 14 January in Strasbourg, which notes the national differences in the progress of the preparations, the MEPs suggest that the Commission publish summaries for each member state, providing information on the state of the preparations, the proposed content of the partnership contracts and the consultations carried out with the entities concerned. The objective is for the other states and entities concerned by the cohesion policy to be able to learn about good practices and methods used elsewhere."

The Côte d'Opale coast highly rated by Belgian investors

La Voix du Nord, 25 December

"Nearly forty entities established on the coast in general, and in the Dunkirk district in particular, creating a total of more than 1200 jobs."

The forced exile of French handicapped persons in Belgium

Le Monde, 4 January

"For lack of places, 6500 mentally-handicapped persons are accommodated in Walloon facilities subject to few standards."

Thank goodness, the Grande Region hasn't exploded yet!

Le Républicain lorrain, 14 January

"At the end of the day, the 'president's perseverance' paid off. Along with 'the flexibility of the prefect of the Lorraine Region'. The German Malu Dreyer and the Frenchman Nacer Meddah are the heroes of the day. Yesterday in Trier, they enabled the Grande Region to continue on its road. [...] A month ago, at the same place on the track, an accident was narrowly avoided. But no nervous crisis between the two co-drivers: Lorraine on one side, all its partners on the other. Cause of the dispute: the operation of the EGTC."

Strasbourg - The Eurometropolis on track

DNA, 1 January

"After the adoption by the Parliament of the bill on modernisation of territorial public action and declaration of metropolises, Roland Ries, mayor of Strasbourg, and Jacques Bigot, president of the CUS (Strasbourg urban community), expressed their satisfaction regarding the 'imminent promulgation of this text in application of which the Strasbourg Eurometropolis will come into being on 1 January 2015'."

Cross-border property has its own portal

La Tribune de Genève, 14

January - "A new property portal has appeared on the web. As its name suggests, Frontalimmo.com covers the French-Swiss border area (Rhône-Alpes, Franche-Comté and Alsace)."

The Euroregion Aquitaine-Euskadi has just published a survey of cross-border mobility

Sud Ouest, 26 December

"The Euroregion Aquitaine-Euskadi has just published a survey of cross-border mobility, conducted as part of the European Transfarmuga project. [...] The main finding is that the preferred means of mobility is still the car."

European support for the environment

Sud Ouest, 3 January

"Txinbadia has become the green lung of the Basque Eurocity. This cross-border system is above all a network of work between two neighbouring territories, the Txingudi wetland at Irún and the Abadia estate, so that it can benefit from European grants."

"Regions and innovation: Collaborating across borders"

This OECD report, published in December 2013, to which the MOT contributed, analyses cross-border cooperation in the area of innovation, based on the study of six cross-border regions: Oresund (Denmark-Sweden), Helsinki-Tallinn (Finland-Estonia), the Bothnian Arc (Sweden-Finland), Hedmark-Dalarna (Norway-Sweden), Ireland-Northern Ireland, Top Technology Region/Eindhoven-Leuven-Aachen Triangle (Netherlands-Germany-Belgium). It consists of two main parts:

Part I: Engaging in regional cross-border collaboration for innovation

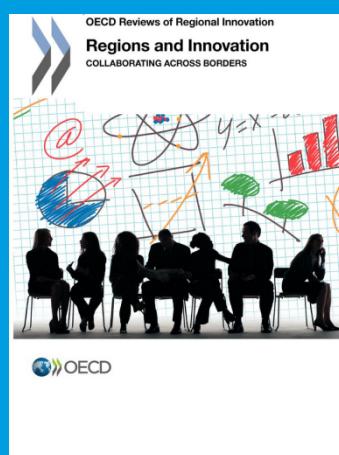
Chapter 1 – Innovating beyond borders

Chapter 2 – Governing cross-border collaboration

Chapter 3 – Making cross-border instruments work

Part II: Summaries of case studies on cross-border areas

[More info](#)



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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