

Cross-border News

#02

Retrospective
January – June
2022



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IN THE TERRITORIES

FRANCE-BELGIUM: MOT STUDY FOR THE LILLE METROPOLIS DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN PLANNING AGENCY

The impacts of the pandemic on the cross-border area?

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022

Between June and September 2021, the MOT was commissioned by the Lille Metropolis Development and Urban Planning Agency (ADULM) to conduct an analysis of the consequences of the border restrictions in the territory of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis.



The aim was to identify the issues highlighted and revealed by the crisis and the brakes on/levers for the development of the cross-border territory.

This work was structured around three exercises:

- A retrospective analysis of the phases of the pandemic and the evolution of the regulatory measures taken on both sides of the border.

- An online survey addressed at the general public, businesses and local retailers via the Eurometropolis network.

- A comparison of the measures taken on the Franco-Belgian border relative to other French and European border territories, focusing on areas of continuous cross-border conurbations.

It was complemented by a series of interviews conducted by the ADULM with the mayors and burgomasters along the border.

The main conclusions to be noted were subsequently highlighted by the ADULM, around the four following points:

- A hitherto porous border has reappeared.
- The resilience of cross-border practices.
- The mobilisation of border municipalities to inform citizens and facilitate procedures for them.
- Real impacts on cross-border cooperation.

[More info](#)



Closer cooperation between Strasbourg and Kehl

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022



At their joint municipal council meeting that took place on 1 December 2021, the cities of Strasbourg and Kehl signed a cooperation agreement aimed at stepping up their exchanges and working on new cross-border projects. This initiative encompasses the competences of the Strasbourg Eurometropolis, which is a signatory

to the agreement, thus marking a recognition of involvement at the intermunicipal level in the cooperation between the cities and the construction of a cross-border conurbation. The metropolitan authorities intend to create an administrative community, and aim to bring their social and environmental policies in line with one another, to promote education and bilingualism, and to provide new opportunities for people from both sides to meet through closer cultural cooperation and the cross-border participation of citizens. It also wishes to develop a joint cross-border labour market and to work on coordinated urban planning within the framework of the Deux Rives initiative.

This agreement was discussed at the first meeting between the two mayors, Mrs Barseghian and Mr Vetrano, in July 2020, following the painful episode of the closing of the border and restrictions on border crossings in relation to the pandemic. It enshrines the desire of both sides to intensify exchanges through new initiatives that consolidate the reality of a cross-border living area.

[More info](#)



Two urban planning agencies join the MOT network

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022

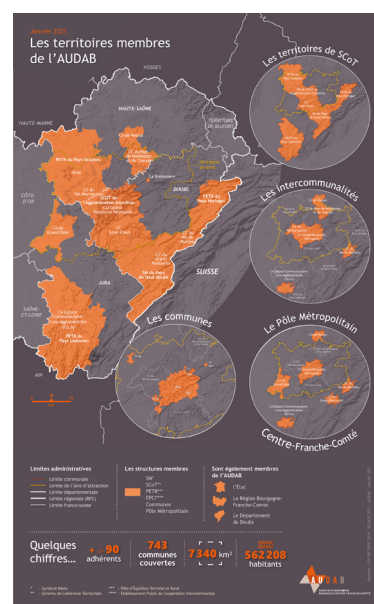
After the AGUR, AGAPE and the Saint-Omer AUD, the MOT has the pleasure of welcoming two new urban planning agencies into its network: the Besançon Centre Franche-Comté Urban Planning Agency (AUDAB) and the Atlantic-Pyrenees Urban Planning Agency (AUDAP).



Isabelle Maquin, Deputy Director of the AUDAB

«The AUDAB decided to join the MOT network in July 2021. Becoming a member follows on from several years of cooperation: preparing and running a workshop at the FNAU conference, coordination of an MOT working group and co-drafting of a position paper. In the Centre Franche-Comté area, the particularity of the cross-border technical and political exchanges is that Switzerland is not in the EU. But on a day-to-day basis, the inhabitants disregard this specificity and cross-border issues come up in all of the discussions about the territory: recognition

of the cross-border context in the SRADDET(6), the Centre Franche-Comté Metropolitan Pole's cooperation goals with Switzerland and the development of territorial projects in border areas such as Morteau. The AUDAB is thus working on a daily basis alongside the local authorities to develop recognised and integrated cross-border policies, and is joining the MOT to benefit from its professional networks, knowledge-sharing actions and know-how. Accordingly, in the short term it has proposed to the Doubs Urban Conurbation to draw up a cross-border strategy in collaboration with a Swiss consultancy (objectif:ne) and the MOT, within the framework of an Interreg project.»



Marc Trinqué, Director of Projects at the AUDAP



«The AUDAP wishes to promote the emergence of cross-border public policies in collaboration with its Spanish members and dialogue partners. In this instance, the aim is to help bring players together around common issues linked to urban planning and territorial development: urban planning documents, planning, the environment, mobility, etc. The AUDAP contributes to the implementation of the Basque Country Conurbation Community's cross-border cooperation strategy drawn up in 2019 with the urban planning agency and the MOT. In addition, one of the actions initiated concerns the development of cross-border observation to contribute to shared knowledge of the territories, issues and challenges to inform the design of public policy. Following the completion of ad hoc studies of demographic and commercial dynamics, the aim is to step

up cross-border observation by submitting a POCTEFA application with all of the French and Spanish territorial authorities. The MOT could play a role in supporting this application with the European bodies. The partnership with the MOT already allows us to benefit from active monitoring of developments in European programmes that might be relevant for the AUDAP's work. The MOT also collates feedback on experiences with regard to cross-border observation initiatives and cooperation strategies in other territories (facilitating networking/looking for synergies, etc.).»

[More info](#)


The goals of the Alzette Belval EGTC until 2027

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022



Inauguration of the Vél'OK bicycle rental stations in the framework of the Interreg project «ABACTIV».

The Alzette Belval EGTC has unveiled its new cross-border strategy for the next six years. This Franco-Luxembourg cross-border cooperation structure was set up in 2013.

Its daily activities are aimed at promoting the emergence of a cross-border conurbation around Esch-sur-Alzette, notably through actions to foster harmonious coexistence and following principles of sustainable development.

Among the topics highlighted in this new strategy is healthcare, with the aim of addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals in the area. «One of our goals is to ensure that the border is no longer a barrier,» emphasises Dorothee Habay-Lê, the EGTC's director. Some of the other priorities include: making the territory an «educational laboratory» by setting up a network of European schools, creating «a green oasis to be protected and promoted», and continuing to act as an initiator and

facilitator, with many actions to benefit citizens and promote «daily life without borders».

With respect to this new strategy, which is aligned with the EU programming periods, the EGTC will be able to implement the goal of «a Europe closer to citizens» for Alzette Belval, within the framework of the Greater Region Interreg. The objective is to promote integrated local development in territories that have a stable cross-border governance tool and an integrated multi-sectoral strategy (which is the case for Alzette Belval).

[More info](#)



Joint declaration about the cross-border hospital in Puigcerdà

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022

On 7 December in Brussels, the French Health Minister, Olivier Véran, and his Spanish counterpart, Carolina Darias, signed a declaration of intent concerning the cross-border hospital in Puigcerdà, which sets out the framework for cooperation with respect to healthcare professionals practising between the two countries.

«The French and Spanish Ministers sought to draw up a system that simplifies the procedures for healthcare professionals to obtain recognition of their qualifications and thereby make it easier for them to provide their services unhindered, within Cerdanya Hospital, but

also on either side of the border between our two countries.» The declaration also concerns medical specialisms that do not entirely correspond between the two countries, stepping up cooperation with respect to emergency medical assistance, and improving exchanges regarding the legal framework within which healthcare professionals practice.

«A binational monitoring and implementation committee will make it possible to take stock of this cooperation, to identify difficulties encountered and to seek joint solutions,» can also be read on the website of France's embassy in Spain. This signature, which took place on the sidelines of an EU Council meeting, comes within the framework of the commitments made at the 26th Franco-Spanish summit that was held on 15 March 2021.

It follows on from a «b-solutions» assessment (initiated by the European Commission) and

a mission entrusted by the hospital to the MOT whose aim was to identify any obstacles and develop the legal arguments needed for this cooperation.



[More info](#)



A CROSS-BORDER STRATEGY FOR RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PYRENEES

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022

At its annual plenary council meeting on 13 December in Alp, in Cerdanya, the members of the Communauté de Travail des Pyrénées (CTP – Working Community of the Pyrenees) unveiled a new «Pyrenees Climate Change Strategy» (EPICC).

«Each day in the Pyrenees region the scars of climate change are a little more visible, and the seven regional authorities of the CTP (Catalonia, Aragon, Navarra, Euskadi, Occitanie/Pyrénées-Méditerranée, Nouvelle Aquitaine, Andorra) have decided to curb the deterioration of this ecosystem and to make their contribution to the conservation of its precious resources,» declared Eva Garcia Balaguer, coordinator of the Pyrenees Climate Change Observatory, on this occasion.

Coming within the framework of the CTP's Pyrenees Strategy for 2018-2024, this «comprehensive approach» is presented as being the only one of its kind in Europe: «So far, there are no other cross-border strategies for adapting to climate change that tackle the

climate challenges facing the bioregion in a cross-cutting manner,» the CTP points out.

The aim of the EPICC is more specifically to «make the Pyrenees more resilient to climate change» by 2050, through five areas of cross-border cooperation: climate, resilient natural spaces, population and territories, adapted mountain economy and governance.

This event, which marked the passing of the CTP presidency from the Generalitat de Catalunya to the Basque Country, was also the opportunity to present the work of the «Trans-Pyrenees Youth Forum», set up in October 2021, and to launch an initial call for micro-projects for the territory.

[More info](#)



The first Franco-German crèche is under way

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022

«The Mayors of Sarreguemines and Saarbrücken, the President of the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict and the President of the conurbation community gathered to lay the first stone of the Franco-German crèche. It should be able to accommodate 33 children by the end of 2023.» Source: Républiqueain lorraine, 5/2/22.

The «Malani» ferry has arrived in French Guiana

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022

«An example of a successful cross-border cooperation project, the arrival of this new ferry symbolises the success of a dialogue between French Guiana and Suriname. [...] Taking the name of a tributary of the upper Maroni river, which forms the border between the two countries, today the Malani symbolises their union. [...] It is eagerly awaited, and many trade development projects depend on it.» Source: France-Guyane, 18/2/22.

A «web» of cross-border innovation to observe and promote the economy of the Upper Rhine

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022

A «web» is a new method for observing innovative sectors. It consists of a mode of visualisation of ecosystems through the representation of their players and the relationships that connect them, and is designed to be a «participatory and experimental tool».

Developed by ADEUS (Strasbourg Conurbation Development and Urban Planning Agency), the first «web» was produced as part of the TITAN-E project focusing on the healthcare innovation sector.

The Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion is setting up a «Youth Parliament»

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022



The Occitanie Region, the Generalitat of Catalonia and the government of the Balearic Islands approved in Brussels on Thursday the creation of a Youth Parliament. An initiative of the Occitanie Region, and its Vice-President, Nadia Pellefigue, which holds the rotating

presidency of the Euroregion until the end of the year. We may recall that 2022 is the «European Year of Youth».

[More info](#) →

A cross-border participatory budget for the Pyrénées-Atlantiques Department and Gipuzkoa

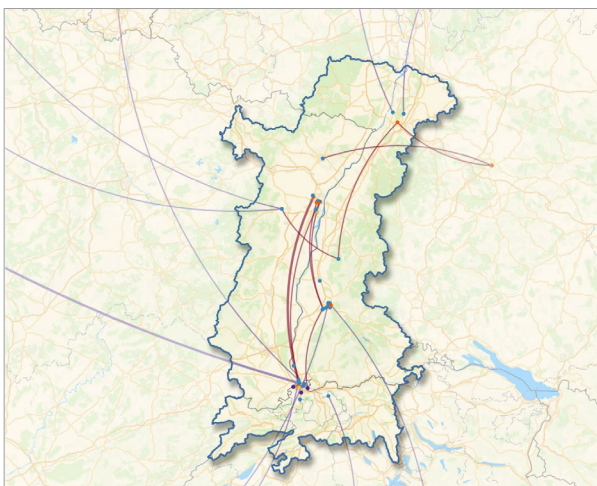


PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022

«This is unique in France – we are the first!» declared Jean-Jacques Lasserre, the President of the Pyrénées-Atlantiques Departmental Council, on 27 January, accompanied by the Deputy-General of Gipuzkoa, at a press conference held to launch an innovative project named «ideiak 2022».

The Pyrénées-Atlantiques Department and the Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa are putting in place an innovative mechanism: a joint participatory budget known as «ideiak 2022». Its aim is to encourage citizens to forge links between their two territories by allowing them to propose, design and carry out projects together that will bring them closer to one another. Each project can receive a financial contribution of up to €20,000.

[More info](#) →





Supporting the rights of inhabitants of cross-border areas through France Services

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022

In order to answer the numerous questions about public services with a cross-border dimension from users of travelling and permanent «France Services» advice points run by the Nord Department, the latter commissioned the MOT to carry out an experimental study in 2021.

«France Services» – the label assigned by the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT) to advice points aimed at supporting citizens with administrative processes in the context of the digitisation of public services – operate on behalf of nine national public administrations (including Pôle Emploi, Assurance Maladie, Assurance Retraite, Allocations Familiales, Finances Publiques) and other local public services depending

on the project developer (for example, the Nord Department France Services serve as «autonomy support points» for people with disabilities and the elderly). Drawing on service users' questions (for example: «Can my child be added to my social security account given that I have recently got divorced from my husband who lives in Belgium?»; and «I went to Belgium and my old driving licence was deemed to be invalid, whereas it is valid in France. I was fined – what should I do?»), the MOT's work consisted in assessing a possible cross-border response for each public administration. Issues relating to cross-border workers' social security coverage and taxation emerged as a priority in the responses to be provided locally. They are also a source of collaborative dynamics on a larger scale. First, at the European level by virtue of the coordination of social security systems (Regulation No. 883/2004), which plays a central role in the professional and personal mobility of European residents. Second,

at the cross-border level, with the possibility for the Nord Department to work directly with the neighbouring Belgian provinces on the coordination of information and setting-up of joint advice points.

Following completion of the study, a presentation was made to the ANCT on the issues linked to the opening of France Services advice points in cross-border settings. The MOT advocates sharing the experiences of existing cross-border advice points (Grand Est Cross-Border Workers, the Euroregional portal EMPLEO, the European Cross-Border Grouping, etc.) in order to help cross-border service users to better access their rights, and to respond to their requests within border region France Services centres.

[More info](#) →

INSEE highlights the negative impact of cross-border workers on growth in the Grand Est Region

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022

According to a study by INSEE that has just been published, average GDP growth in the Grand Est Region is the second lowest among mainland France's regions, after Burgundy-Franche-Comté: «In the region, per capita GDP totalled €28,300 in 2017, which was €1,200 lower than the average for provincial France. [...] One explanation for this is the greater increase

in the number of cross-border workers than of workers in employment. Thus, in 1999, 143,000 of the region's residents crossed the border to go to work, i.e. 6.6% of the employed workforce; in 2017, there were 177,000 cross-border workers, i.e. 7.9% of the region's employed workforce. These residents working abroad, as well as those who work

in another region, help to create economic wealth in these other territories, and only contribute to the GDP of the Grand Est Region through their spending.»

[More info](#) →

Taking stock halfway through France's presidency of the Greater Region

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022



In January 2022, the Summit of Greater Region Executives took stock at the midpoint in France's presidency, particularly with respect to the industrial, digital and energy transitions, flood and drought risk prevention, food and promoting short supply chains, culture, youth, sport and tourism, healthcare and security. It was announced that an interim report on crisis management in border regions will be produced by the end of France's presidency of the EU Council. It is expected to set out recommendations aimed at the regional, national

and European levels for better management of future health crises. Clément Beaune, Minister of State for European affairs, outlined by video message the priorities of France's presidency and his desire to «do more», by proposing to restart discussions on the European Cross-Border Mechanism (ECBM) aimed at removing legal and administrative obstacles in cross-border regions, initiated by the European Commission in 2017: «We can start up this discussion again – I remain at your disposal to take this mechanism forward, or other tools with the same purpose,» he declared. The event also was a chance to recall that the town of Esch-sur-Alzette on the Franco-Luxembourg border is «European Capital of Culture 2022».

[More info](#)



War in Ukraine: the French and Spanish Red Cross coordinate on the passage of displaced peoples

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022

«A meeting of the heads of the French Red Cross and their Spanish counterparts took place on 29 March 2022 in the town hall of Hendaye. This meeting, which was initiated by the Mayor of Hendaye, Kotte Ecenarro, in liaison with representatives of the French and Spanish governments, has made it possible to work hand-in-hand on welcoming Ukrainian families arriving at Hendaye station en route for Spain and Portugal.» Source: Sud Ouest, 30/3/22.

A cross-border citizens' forum in Nice

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022

On 24-25 March 2022, at the invitation of the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis, the MOT had the pleasure of facilitating a Franco-Italian citizens' forum against a very positive backdrop: the start of the European Year of Youth, the publication of the findings of the Conference on the Future of Europe, France's presidency of the EU Council and the recent signing of the Quirinal Treaty between the two countries' governments.

Organised within the framework of a participatory process devised by the «Europe Direct» centres in the cities of Cuneo, Genoa, Turin and Nice, the forum brought together more than 130 young people aged between 15 and 27. Its aim was to draw up concrete proposals for the future of Europe and the cross-border territory of the Mediterranean Alps.

Twelve initial proposals put forward by the young people in the areas of economic recovery, social justice and employment were



first prioritised by means of a vote. Next they were reworked with the help of experts, and then presented and debated the following day at a roundtable that brought together representatives of the ALCOTRA programme, the European Commission's Representations in France and Italy, the Italian Chamber of Commerce «Nice, Sophia Antipolis, Côte d'Azur» and the MEP Sandro Gozi.

A consultation of the young people surveyed them about their wishes regarding the future

of their territory, in relation with ongoing Interreg projects. The MOT would like to thank and congratulate its local partners, as well as the elected representatives present from Nice City and Metropolis, Cuneo and the Parco delle Alpi Liguri for the success of this event.

[More info](#)



A study on major retailers in the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022



The Saarbrücken Regionalverband has just published a study on planning and permits regarding projects for sites intended for major retailers in the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict, on the Franco-German border. This assignment was carried out by the MOT and the German consultancy Junker+Kruse. It was produced within the framework of the drafting by the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict of its territorial strategy for the 2021-2027 Interreg programming period and that of a future

concept of regional development and a cross-border planning strategy. To do this, the members of the Eurodistrict focused first of all on planning for major retailers. The objectives set for the study included: presenting and comparing the legal frameworks for planning in France and Germany; elucidating the characteristics of managing major retail sites in both countries; enumerating the tools used to support consultation processes; and setting out recommendations for designing a consultation tool aimed at planning for major retailers in the territory. This comparative study is one component of the model project of spatial planning «MORO»: a Franco-German «Planspiel» one of whose pilot sites is the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict. As part of this MORO project, which is due to be completed in autumn 2022, a design brief for a conurbation

concept for the territory of the Eurodistrict is in the process of being drawn up. In addition to providing the members of the Eurodistrict with a body of documentation on cross-border planning for major retailers, this exploratory work, along with the MORO project, constitutes the first example of concrete implementation of the Franco-German spatial planning set out in Article 20 of the Aachen Treaty: «The two countries shall step up the integration of their economies in order to create a Franco-German economic area with common rules.»

[More info](#)


Cross-border bus services between Catalonia and the Pyrénées-Orientales Department made permanent

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022

The Occitanie Region, the Pyrénées-Orientales Department and the Generalitat de Catalunya have announced that five cross-border bus services launched as part of the European project «ConnECT» are to be made permanent. Initially launched as an experiment, the project (2018-2022) consisted in putting in place public transport provision tailored to the cross-border rural territory between Catalonia and France,



with no interruptions or restrictions linked to the border. In spite of the delay caused by the pandemic, the partners have now reached an agreement to fund these five bus services that enable passengers to go from one country to the other with the same ticket. «We wanted to mark the end of the experimentation period,» explained Jean-Luc Gibelin, Vice-President of the Occitanie Region in charge of transport. «The aim is not occasional trips. We are going to continue these services. We have the impression that these five bus routes are very useful for the local populations, especially in serving the cross-border hospital in Puigcerdà.»

[More info](#)


The Greater Region renews its support for citizens' small cross-border projects

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022

The Greater Region's Cooperation Fund has been extended by the Greater Region Summit with a new call for projects. Its aim: «To bring the inhabitants of the Greater Region closer together

and to enable them to experience the richness of exchanges across borders».

[More info](#)


«Let's have a coffee»: the inhabitants of the Franco-Belgian territory talk with the MOT

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022



On 24 March, at the invitation of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, Thibault Devillard, policy officer at the MOT, took part in a discussion with the inhabitants of the Franco-Belgian territory. Lasting 45 minutes, this format organised within the framework of the European Citizens' Space allows for informal discussion, in order to facilitate meetings between professionals involved in European public action and citizens affected by cross-border issues. Replying to several questions about cross-border workers, Thibault spoke in particular about the work undertaken by the MOT to increase these populations' access to rights.

[More info](#)


A historic Italian train from the 1930s marks the reopening of the Nice-Cuneo railway

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022



«More than 200 passengers left Ventimiglia en route for Cuneo on board a 1930s Italian train known as «Centoposte» to celebrate the reopening of the Nice-Ventimiglia-Cuneo railway, which took place on 22 December 2021 after long months of closure due to the damage caused by Storm Alex.»
Source: Nice Matin, 18/5/2022.

Towards a «Greater Region of healthcare»

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022

The Grand Est Region, which currently holds the presidency of the Greater Region, and the Greater Region Economic and Social Committee, in partnership with the Greater Region Interreg V project «COSAN», organised a seminar on approaches to foster resilience in the Greater Region's healthcare systems on 28 April 2022 in Metz.

The MOT contributed to it by talking about the lessons learned from the pandemic in cross-border territories and to stress the need to define and formally organise cross-border living areas.

Following the seminar, the Economic and Social Committee and the Greater Region drew up recommendations such as creating «cross-border territories of healthcare» and «a greater regional healthcare observatory». They will be submitted to the Greater Region Summit.


[More info](#)


Meetings with cross-border workers in Forbach

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022



As part of a study for the European Commission on the impacts of the measures taken on borders during the pandemic, the MOT went to Forbach on 26 April to meet users of the cross-border territory.

Hosted by the Maison Ouverte des Services pour l'Allemagne (MOSA), the discussion with several employees of German industrial firms near to the French territory was a source of many insights for the study. In particular, they reported difficulties in crossing the border, lack of available information and issues linked to differences in regulations on either side of the border. Particular focus will also be given in the study to the role played by structures that give assistance for administrative procedures. These have emerged from the different accounts

as crucial resources to facilitate cross-border mobility and ensure continuity of public services, which is especially necessary during a crisis period.

[More info](#)


Conference on «Cross-border co-operation through life: from the first smile to the last sigh»

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022

On 5 May 2022 in Metz, the Moselle Department, which has just joined the MOT, and Departments of France hosted a cross-border conference entitled «La coopération transfrontalière à travers les âges : du premier sourire au dernier soupir» («Cross-border co-operation through life: from the first smile to the last sigh»).

Jean Peyrony, the MOT's Director-General, took part in the closing discussion.

Officially sponsored by France's presidency of the European Union, this event brought together around 50 elected representatives, experts and practitioners from different border territories. The testimonies of some 15 speakers demonstrated the positive impact of cross-border cooperation in all stages of life, from childhood to retirement.

Concrete actions implemented in their border territories aimed at different sections of the

public, in the areas of multilingualism, cultural



exchanges, social inclusion, sustainable development, access to healthcare and risk prevention, were presented.

[More info](#)




125,000 cross-border teleworkers in 2020!

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022

Supported by ten of its members, the MOT has published its first multi-partner study on cross-border teleworking and its impacts in terms of co-development. It is the fruit of nearly a year of work.

Having been fairly marginal up until early 2020, teleworking saw a boom in France as in the rest of Europe due to the restrictions linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. This development was particularly marked in border territories, which faced a form of «national lockdown» following the partial or total closure of Europe's internal borders. This led to rapid growth in cross-border teleworking.

Although in this emergency situation Europe and European governments took care to avoid placing any limits on cross-border teleworking, through derogation from established tax and social security rules, no overall analysis has hitherto been carried out of this new phenomenon. The

study aims to fill this gap, and provides three complementary analyses:

- a first analysis of all of the informal agreements that France reached with its neighbours to maintain the tax arrangements for cross-border workers who were working from home as a result of the pandemic, as well as of the derogations granted by the European Union with respect to social security arrangements;

- a second analysis, which draws on the work of Agape (The North Lorraine Urban Planning Agency), aimed at estimating the number of cross-border teleworkers along France's borders both before the pandemic (in 2018) and during its height (in 2020), as the crucial question is to ascertain by how much cross-border teleworking has increased, on which borders and in which sectors;

- and a third analysis of both the positive and negative impacts of teleworking in cross-border territories: while cross-border teleworking has undeniable individual and overall benefits, it also has more nuanced impacts, and raises questions about existing mechanisms with respect to cross-border

A MOT STUDY SUPPORTED BY TEN OF ITS MEMBERS!

The MOT thanks the bodies that directly supported its production: the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois; the Canton of Geneva; the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region; the Ain Department; the Doubs Urban Conurbation; the Greater Besançon Metropolis; the Lorraine Corridor European Metropolitan Pole; the North Lorraine Border Region Metropolitan Pole; the Grand Est Region; and the Alzette-Belval EGTC (and Agape for their methodological advice).

[More info](#) →

co-development. This last analysis focuses on the three territories that supported the study: Greater Geneva, the Jura Arc and the North Lorraine/Luxembourg border.



Les travailleurs frontaliers et le télétravail

Au goût du jour depuis la pandémie, le télétravail est aussi une réalité pour certains travailleurs frontaliers. La Mission opérationnelle transfrontalière (MOT) mène actuellement une étude sur ce phénomène qui draine des enjeux plus complexes qu'il n'y paraît. Aurélien Biscuit, son secrétaire général, nous en dit plus.



Publié il y a 1 mois le 3 décembre 2021
Par **Didier Bros**

The MOT interviewed about the major issues concerning cross-border work

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022

As part of its special report on border exchanges, the Journal des Français à l'étranger has been investigating the difficulties faced by cross-border workers on a daily basis. This was an opportunity to discuss this topic with the MOT, as well as the issue of teleworking, over the course of two interviews:

- The first with Jean Peyrony, the MOT's Director-General: «Nous sommes dans une dynamique européenne».
- The second with Aurélien Biscuit, the MOT's Secretary-General: «Les travailleurs frontaliers et le télétravail».

[More info](#)



The Léman Express has pushed up house prices

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2022

«In French-speaking Switzerland as in neighbouring France, rents and prices for apartments located near to stations on the rail network have, in general, risen more strongly than elsewhere.»

Source : Tribune de Genève, 01/6/2022

Meeting of the Franco-Geneva Regional Committee: a decision on cross-border teleworking is vital!

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2022

On 12 May 2022, a meeting of Greater Geneva's political body for cooperation, the Franco-Geneva Regional Committee, which brings together local elected representatives and decentralised authorities from both sides of the border, met in Geneva. Among the items on the agenda, cross-border teleworking gave the MOT and the arcjurassien.ch the opportunity to present their recent studies on this subject. The end (on 30 June 2022) of the derogations agreed by France and Switzerland that enable many cross-border workers to telework full-time without their social security or tax situation being affected, and the positive effects of the new work habits adopted by cross-border workers, have made the territory's political players fully aware that action to permanently reorganise the working time of these cross-border workers is vital.



This is especially true given that in Geneva agreements with the French side do not provide for authorised days of teleworking for cross-border workers. In the meantime, extending the temporary arrangement would make it possible to organise a system that protects everyone's interests.

Following these discussions, the members of the Committee stressed the urgency of the situation and undertook to refer the issue

to their respective competent national authorities as soon as possible. A joint motion was moreover sent to the French minister.

[More info](#)



«Small Towns of Tomorrow»: a «flash» mission to Bouzonville and Sierck-les-Bains

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2022



Close to the Franco-German and Franco-Luxembourg borders, Bouzonville and Sierck-les-Bains are drawing up their cross-border goals with the help of the MOT.

The MOT was commissioned to carry out an initial individualised assistance mission within the framework of the «Small Towns of Tomorrow» programme run by the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT). It covers the Bouzonvillois Three Borders Community of Municipalities, the town of Sierck-les-Bains and the town of Bouzonville (Moselle).

The mission's first objective is to strengthen dialogue with the border partners and to develop an overall cross-border strategic vision for the territory. A mapping of the French, Luxembourg and German dialogue partners has been produced in order to help understand the different levels of competence on the different sides.

THREE DAYS OF MEETINGS AND MOBILISATION OF PLAYERS

Two days – 10-11 May – were devoted to carrying out interviews in the cross-border territory in order to gather points of view from players on the three sides. Then on 12 May, the MOT ran several workshops that brought together around forty technical partners from the three countries. They were divided into three thematic groups: «environment and mobility», «tourism and attractiveness» and «public services and healthcare provision». The aim was to draw up joint operational proposals based on the issues identified during the interviews: the first step towards a cross-border strategic dialogue.

AN OPERATIONAL ROADMAP

Following the workshops, the MOT summarised their findings in the form of an operational roadmap. The objective for the Bouzonvillois Three Borders Community of Municipalities is now to establish this multi-level strategic dialogue over the long term and to coordinate the levels of action. Another lesson from this first experience is that technical assistance from the «Small Towns of Tomorrow» programme, with the support of the ANCT and the Banque des Territoires, helps new cross-border strategic opportunities to emerge. These particularly concern territories located away from the major cross-border conurbations, whose multi-level governance has long been established.

[More info](#)



NETWORK EVENTS



MOT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A full programme for 2022

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022

More than 120 people, including many elected representatives, came together remotely for the MOT's first general assembly of the year on 9 February 2022.

For Christian Dupessey, MOT's President, Mayor of Annemasse and President of the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois: «our cross-border regions have been at the heart of the pandemic, which has brought about a new awareness that the MOT has greatly contributed to fostering». He noted the greater account being taken of the specificity of cross-border territories, as illustrated by the 3DS bill that has just been adopted: «It is the first time that a piece of French legislation has devoted a whole chapter to cross-border cooperation.»



For the MOT network, the aim is clear: **«Building on this momentum to move towards agreements for cross-border living areas that ensure the rights of their inhabitants and the functioning of cross-border public services, including in times of crisis.»**

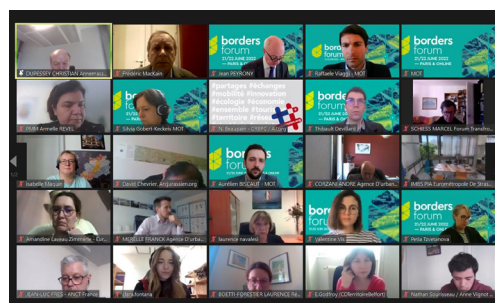
Another major advance highlighted are the bilateral cooperation treaties, which he described as «the right approach to multi-level coordination to effectively escalate information about cross-border

obstacles to the national level». On this topic, the next step was underscored – that of establishing genuine «interministerial coordination on cross-border matters», with the MOT as a technical resource. The President also recalled that cross-border players «are counting on France's EU presidency to continue the discussion about obstacles to cooperation, and to promote the necessary solutions, including the designation in each country of coordination points operating as a network». Now, «the topic of cross-border regions is already on the France's EU presidency's agenda of priorities, with the revision of the Schengen regulation». In this regard, it was recalled that the Commission has asked Member States to designate cross-border regions that should be given special attention in the management of the EU's internal borders.

A full work programme for 2022

Alongside the MOT's core missions, concrete projects are on the agenda, such as:

- participating in the work of France's EU presidency;
- supporting the bilateral treaties;
- supporting experiments relating to «cross-border living areas»;
- the rollout of «France Services» (a programme steered by the National



Agency for Territorial Cohesion) in cross-border territories;

- a study on behalf of DG REGIO on the after-effects of the pandemic in cross-border areas;
- a publication on the impact of cross-border teleworking on co-development, a booklet on cross-border mobility and the production of a second one on healthcare;
- the launch of new working groups;
- the drawing-up of a roadmap for the Alliance that brings together the MOT, the AEBR and CESCI.

An expanding network

It should also be noted that the MOT network is continuing to expand, with two new Italian members: the Valli di Lanzo Ceronza Casternone local action group and the city of Cuneo.

[More info](#)





The first speakers have their says on cross-border co-development

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022

Every month until June 2022, the MOT highlighted a central theme of the 2nd edition of the Borders Forum (21 and 22 June 2022), with **testimonials from speakers**.

What do cross-border territories represent for you?



Christian Dupessey,
MOT's President, Mayor
of Annemasse and President
of the Metropolitan Pole of the
French Genevois.



Karl-Heinz Lambertz,
President of the German-
Speaking Community
of Belgium and President of the
Association of European Border
Regions (AEBR).

Christian Dupessey: They are real shared living areas. The border should not separate or impede; on the contrary, it should foster working relations, journeys by public transport, the fight against crime, the emergence of a cross-border culture policy and romantic and family life. They are also territories of experimentation and continental integration promoting peace, in Europe and elsewhere.

Karl-Heinz Lambertz: It is the territory I personally have lived in for 70 years. And I have held political responsibilities there for over 40 years. For me, they are a veritable laboratory and a powerful engine for European integration that our continent is so in need of, today and in the future even more than in the past.

What are the priorities in cross-border employment areas for economic recovery in the post-Covid environment?

Christian Dupessey: The central issue in the Greater Geneva region is to make permanent the measures taken to regulate teleworking for cross-border workers. The MOT shared its

experience in this regard during the pandemic and will continue to do so. We also need to find new equilibria in these areas with respect to training and employment sectors. We cannot carry on as before. If I take the example on our border of healthcare workers, France cannot continue to provide most of their training without being able to benefit from these professionals in its own hospitals because they have been lured to the other side of the border. In the hotel sector, everyone will only benefit from the economic recovery if it allows a rebalancing of the distribution of jobs.

Greater Geneva is a cross-border conurbation of more than a million inhabitants that straddles the Ain and Haute Savoie Departments (France) and the Canton of Geneva and the District of Nyon (Switzerland). To address the constant increase in flows of cross-border workers (which numbered over 90,000 at the end of 2020 in the Canton of Geneva), the French and Swiss stakeholders cooperate on structural projects such as the Léman Express, the first Franco-Swiss cross-border regional rail network that began operating in 2019, or the cross-border greenway linking Annemasse and Geneva. During the pandemic, the use of teleworking by cross-border workers was an answer to the problems created by the closure of the border.

Karl-Heinz Lambertz: Despite the considerable efforts undertaken over decades to facilitate cross-border mobility linked to employment and economic development, the Covid-19 crisis triggered an immediate reflex to close borders on the part of governments. It was only little by little that this process was reversed. It is vital to protect cross-border areas from the harmful impacts

of this reflex and to make them resilient to this kind of reaction, in order to durably consolidate European cohesion along national borders.

What are you hoping from the 2022 Borders Forum?

Christian Dupessey: That it continues the reflections and work initiated at the first edition, which was a success. And that it underscores even more the role of respect for borders that bring people together to ensure peace, at a time when we express our solidarity with Ukraine. Bringing together local, national and European players over two days allows us to share our experiences, but also to begin a new cross-border chapter that will learn, I hope, the lessons of the pandemic. France's presidency of the EU Council should help us to make heard the importance of cross-border issues, which should be incorporated into the design of French and European public policy.

Karl-Heinz Lambertz: The Borders Forum is an excellent opportunity to allow the voices of border regions be heard, to place them at the heart of European concerns and to send out a strong message at a decisive point in the evolution of the European Union. It also provides a fine opportunity to display the value added of the enhanced cooperation between the MOT, CESC and the AEBR based on the Strasbourg Declaration of 7 October 2021.

[The March press release](#) →

Focus on the ecological transition

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022

Elisa Ferreira, the Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, and **Apostolos Tzitzikostas**, President of the European Committee of the Regions, have their say about a major issue for cross-border areas, but not only: the ecological transition.



What do cross-border territories represent for you?

Elisa Ferreira: One in three of our European citizens lives in a cross-border region. This is very significant. The European Commission has been taking a particular interest in these territories for many years now. Border regions are places where the European integration project is highly visible. The benefits of the single market and the freedoms of movement are there for all to see.

However, this is also where we can observe shortcomings or gaps – some activities such as studying, working, receiving health care can still be too complex and sometimes even more costly in border regions, especially when they are rural and suffer from demographic decline. As Commissioner for regional policy, I am keen to ensure that border regions are not left behind when it comes to socio-economic development and the twin transition Europe is currently undergoing.

Apostolos Tzitzikostas: Cross-border regions are the places where the European Union is most visible, in both the positive and the negative sense. In recent decades, after centuries of hard borders, we have seen borders disappear, but not always entirely.

For the past two years with the pandemic, and now with the war in Ukraine, borders are resurfacing. We still see a number of unnecessary legal and administrative barriers. The day when citizens and businesses from border regions no longer feel the effects of borders in their daily lives will be the day we can say that we have truly created a United Europe.

How can cross-border territories be levers for the European Green Deal?

Elisa Ferreira: In July 2021, the European Commission issued a report on border regions, calling them “living labs of European integration”. In that report, we highlight the key role border regions can play in implementing the European Green Deal.

There are many Green Deal priorities that require action across borders. For instance when restoring biodiversity, we must ensure that there are enough ecological corridors for wild life to freely move around our continent. Risk prevention and management needs to be looked at in a cross-border context too: neither floods nor fire will stop at national borders.

Border regions can also play an important role in renewable energy production, if we let them access local and regional electricity grids across borders and foster stronger citizen energy communities. All of these actions can and should be supported by our Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes, which are being adopted this year.

Apostolos Tzitzikostas: The Green Deal requires tackling the climate and eco crisis systematically. Only with a transformative approach to managing and living in our local areas can we ensure an effective green transition and synergies with the digital transition. Much of the Green Deal requires actions that cross borders, e.g. ensuring that natural ecosystems thrive and support climate change. These regions can be test-beds for a local approach to the Green transition and can thus boost cross-border cooperation.

What do you expect from the Borders Forum 2022?

Elisa Ferreira: In 2020, the Borders Forum took place whilst we were still very affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the particularly serious consequences it had for border populations. This year, the Borders Forum takes place in an even heavier context, with the consequences of war on the European Union's doorstep, something that none of us could have imagined.

I would like the Borders Forum to be the place where we can exchange views on our core European values and reiterate how committed we all are to live in peace, in a Union of democracy and solidarity, across all borders. United in diversity is our motto. Let us remind ourselves of how powerful those words are in cross-border cooperation.

Apostolos Tzitzikostas: In 2020, despite the difficult situation, the Borders Forum set new standards for events on cross-border cooperation. This year's programme looks even more interesting and highly relevant, as we finalise our recommendations for the Future of Europe, which must include improvements in cross-border cooperation and in the overall quality of life in border regions. I expect fruitful discussions and a showcase of what border regions can bring to the EU's development in different policy areas.

[The April press release](#) →

Three testimonies on cross-border governance

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022



Sandro Gozi, MEP.



Jean de Béthune, President of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis.



Christoph Schnaudigel, President of the PAMINA Eurodistrict.

What do cross-border territories represent for you?

Sandro Gozi: Thanks to the European Union and its single market, cross-border territories offer great opportunities in terms of cultural and economic exchanges between Member States. Every day, millions of Europeans cross borders to go to work, do their shopping or take their children to school. However, many linguistic, legal and administrative barriers hamper this huge potential. That's why fresh attention needs to be given to these territories, also with a view to rolling out at European level enhanced integration mechanisms trialled at local level.

Jean de Béthune: For centuries, border territories served as barriers between European countries. Since the 1990s, notably thanks to the EU, these territories have developed as places where populations meet and cooperate. But the work is not over. With the Memorandum to France's presidency of the EU signed by the three EGTCs along the Franco-Belgian border, I wished to draw attention to the ongoing importance of cooperation along the EU's internal borders, in the light of the legitimate concerns of populations that face obstacles linked to the border.

Christoph Schnaudigel: Cross-border territories are often cross-border living areas, in which the inhabitants regularly

cross the border. It's here that European integration takes place on a daily basis and where we become aware of the obstacles that impede and restrict cross-border cooperation. But these territories represent an enormous richness for Europe, since we can create major synergies there for our citizens and for territorial development.

What model of cross-border governance are we moving towards in Europe?

Sandro Gozi: In cross-border territories, there are still too many barriers that hamper social development and prevent completion of the single market. To overcome them, we need to strengthen cooperation and try out new forms of integration.

The proposal to introduce a European Cross-Border Mechanism (ECBM) aims precisely to facilitate exchanges between cross-border regions, with the possibility for a local authority to adopt the other region's legislation. Its adoption must become an absolute priority.

The Quirinal Treaty signed by Italy and France aims to promote cooperation between the two countries in many areas. It will significantly strengthen the shared sense of European belonging and will enable a coordinated approach to address the new economic and political challenges.

Jean de Béthune: Thanks to the European Commission, in the Franco-Belgian territory we have structures (EGTCs) and resources (ERDF) that allow us to promote cross-border cooperation. But for these instruments to be used optimally, good cross-border relations are of crucial importance. Investing more in bilateral and multilateral dialogue without making the existing models more cumbersome will enable us to implement projects more effectively for the benefit of the cross-border territory.

Christoph Schnaudigel: Each cross-border living area is different, with its own history, and models of governance must take account of this. In addition, the existing systems must move towards greater recognition of the specificities of our territories, notably with appropriate competences for cross-border

structures such as EGTCs. Another important element is complementarity between the different levels and players in this governance.

What are you hoping from the Borders Forum 2022?

Sandro Gozi: At a time when Europe is facing a war on its soil, even before it has overcome the crisis of the pandemic which devastated it over the past two years, it will be an opportunity to address and explore issues such as citizenship, the sense of European belonging, the green transition and the economic recovery from the point of view of cross-border territories. The Borders Forum 2022 is an excellent forum for reflection and a tool to discuss concrete outcomes, organisational solutions and the tools to be used to win this crucial battle on the road to progress.

Jean de Béthune: That Europeans can finally meet and gather again in person to get to know one another, exchange views, inspire one another and, above all, to continue cross-border cooperation. Recent events (terrorist attacks, Brexit, the pandemic and the war in Ukraine) show that borders remain vulnerable and that cooperation is more necessary than ever.

Christoph Schnaudigel: A fruitful exchange between the participants, with new ideas and inspirations for cross-border territories, especially regarding the upcoming challenges. I am convinced that the Forum will help to demonstrate the key role of cross-border living areas in the construction of a resilient, innovative and smart Europe.

[The May press release](#) →

Joint interview on: European citizenship and solidarity in times of crisis

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2022



In these regions, active European citizenship is not a concept but something that can be lived on a daily basis. The inhabitants of these territories have a lot to contribute to the development of this citizenship, by showing its benefits but also sometimes the areas in which practical aspects need to be improved. They are also places of democratic experimentation. The first multilingual citizens' assemblies, bringing together citizens selected at random from all backgrounds, took place in cross-border settings, and it is thanks to this experience and the lessons they provided that were able to embark on pan-European assemblies for the Conference on the Future of Europe.

What do cross-border territories represent for you?

Gaëtane Ricard-Nihoul: At a time when borders are again the focus for attention in a way that we thought long past, cross-border territories are incredible laboratories for the European Union's motto: "united in diversity". Today the Union represents more than ever shared values and fundamental rights and the attachment to the common good that is peaceful democratic dialogue. And diversity enriches this dialogue, it enhances it, makes it more interesting and creative. This is what all of the experiments in transnational dialogue that have been conducted within the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe have shown, of course the European Citizens' Panels but also many cross-border experiments.

María Ángeles Elorza Zubiría: The «Nouvelle-Aquitaine - Euskadi - Navarre» Euroregion (NAEN), is an EGTC comprising three regions in two countries. It covers 101,678 km², with a population of 8,744,648 inhabitants. It is an area of cooperation that aims to improve the well-being and quality of life of its citizens, by contributing to economic, social and cultural development at the cross-border, interregional and European levels. The territories that are part of it work with the dual objective of overcoming obstacles to advance towards a common cross-border area and of promoting it as an area of sustainable

human development, thereby contributing to greater integration of the European project. Around 30% of EU citizens live in cross-border settings, which underscores the importance of the cohesion of cross-border territories in making European construction as harmonious as possible.

Moreover, cross-border territories are a paradigm for the large-scale obstacles faced by European integration, and a prime laboratory for seeking solutions.

How can citizens be given a greater say in decision-making processes on either side of a border?

Chantal Jouanno: French law gives the right to any person, regardless of nationality, the right to be informed and to take part in the designing of projects that have an impact on their environment. The CNDP is the guarantor of this right. In fact, the border does not exist for the CNDP – the only thing that matters is the interest shown in a project. The person needs to feel concerned by it by virtue of their geographical proximity or the nature of the project.

What role can the inhabitants of border regions play in developing a sense of European citizenship?

Gaëtane Ricard-Nihoul: Cross-border regions are clearly laboratories for the development of a living sense of European citizenship, in addition to national citizenship and local identities.

What is the role of cross-border players in receiving displaced people that transit through the territory?

María Ángeles Elorza Zubiría: The crisis sparked by the Covid-19 pandemic confronted us with an unprecedented situation in which all aspects of our lives were put to the test, including realities as unquestionable as the free movement of people and workers within the EU. As a result, border regions and their inhabitants suffered more than others from the effects of the pandemic. This situation was prolonged by national security border controls that particularly affected migrants in transit.

Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU recognises the challenges faced by border regions and stipulates that the EU should give these regions special attention. Border regions are places where the process of European integration should be perceived most positively, but living in different administrative and legal systems is complex and expensive. Indeed, the European Commission estimates that if only 20% of the existing cross-border obstacles were removed, border regions could increase their GDP by 2%.



→ In this context, it is vital to strengthen collaboration between border territories to respond to migratory crises, in order to give people fleeing their country a decent welcome. Cross-border territories should strive to ensure that people migrating enjoy their fundamental rights in terms of human dignity and respect for the law. The Basque Country is working actively to do this with its cross-border territorial partners. One example is the collaboration initiated between the Basque Government and the Basque Country-Euskal Hirigune Elkargoa Conurbation to help migrants in transit around the border.

What are you hoping from the Borders Forum 2022?

Gaëtan Ricard-Nihoul: We need to be aware more than ever how precious a cross-border territory that lives in peace is, one that can build bridges rather than destroying them. That might have seemed banal a short time ago, on a European continent that we thought was sheltered from war. That is no longer the case today. I hope that the Borders Forum will be a fresh opportunity to realise that our democracies need to be cherished on a daily basis, and that diversity and dialogue are two of its fundamental drivers. Cross-border territories are the foremost places where these two drivers can be strengthened and regenerated, through concrete projects that connect

people on a daily basis. There are so many public and civil society players who invest in these projects with great commitment. I therefore hope that the Forum will be an opportunity to spotlight them, to learn good practices and to give them the means to become ever more numerous.

María Ángeles Elorza Zubiria: That it's an appropriate and enriching forum for discussion which enables us to take advantage of the best practices in the different border areas, bearing in mind that each cross-border reality is different, but that they have important realities in common that can be shared and moved forward.

[The June press release](#) →

2ND EDITION OF THE BORDERS FORUM, 21 & 22 JUNE 2022

In the programme: nearly 50 speakers, 9 round tables, a citizens' voices, and a high level of animation with Caroline de Camaret, editor-in-chief Europe at France 24, alongside our new partner Res publica.

The event is organised by the MOT in the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union*.

* This event is not organised by the French Government. It is however authorised by the French Government to use the emblem of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

[More info](#) →



[Programme](#) →



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RESPUBLICA
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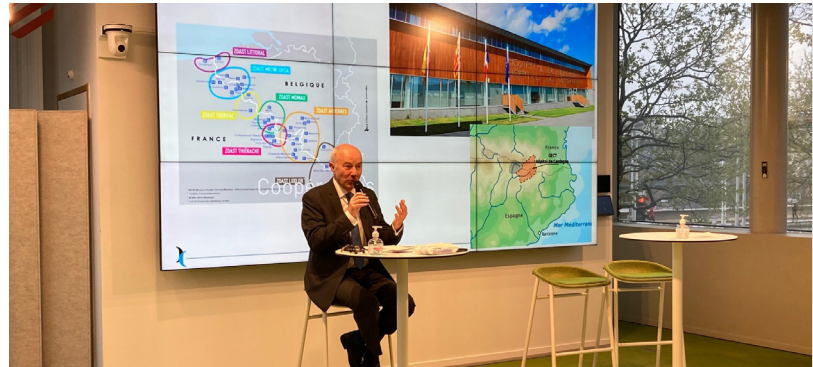
Hub/Banque des Territoires

A breakfast show devoted to cross-border cooperation

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022

During this sequence programmed on 8 April as part of the Banque des Territoires and its Hub's «Europe and Territories» breakfast shows, Jean Peyrony, the MOT's Director-General, highlighted the major challenges of cross-border cooperation.

«Cross-border areas represent 40% of the EU's territory and cover 20,000 km of borders, including some 40 major conurbations. A third of Europeans live in these 'peripheries' that are often far from the concerns of countries' capitals. They also represent 2 million workers who cross a border each day, including nearly 500,000 French commuters who travel notably to Luxembourg and Switzerland. It is the numerous difficulties of daily life that cooperation has sought to remove for the past 30 years, with a few outstanding



examples such as the Cerdanya Hospital, the Strasbourg-Kehl tramline and the Léman Express in Greater Geneva...»

The Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis, which co-facilitated the sequence with the MOT, has succeeded in using the instruments available to its advantage: «The Interreg programmes make it possible to experiment jointly [...]. Having launched a raft of projects between 2014 and 2020, the metropolis has set out a genuine strategy, as required

by the 2014 MAPTAM Act, through its 'cross-border cooperation strategy' [...] with funding from the government-metropolis pact and assistance from the MOT,» points out Sébastien Viano, former head of European funding for the metropolis and now Deputy Director-General in charge of Europe for the Sud Region.

[More info](#)


The MOT launches a transit office

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022

In order to strengthen its presence in the territories through ad hoc regional offices, on 14 March the MOT held its first session in Strasbourg.

This presence, which is intended to be regular, once or twice a month, is part of the huge network of cross-border players present across the Strasbourg-Kehl area. One of the aims is to strengthen the consistency of their practices and approaches, especially in the implementation of the Aachen Treaty.

[More info](#)


On 10 May 2022, the MOT received the Mayor of Strasbourg, Jeanne Barseghian, and the President of the Eurometropole, Pia Imbs, at the Strasbourg town hall, to discuss their cross-border priorities and MOT support.

Meetings of the MOT network's working groups

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022



Between late April and early May, three important topics for cross-border territories were the subject of discussions for the network's working groups: the impact of cross-border projects on the environment; the issue of social security with respect to cross-border employment; and the definition and recognition of «cross-border living areas». Below is a preliminary summary of the discussions.

«Ecological Transition» working group

What is the acceptability of projects that have an impact on the cross-border environment?

With 40 participants online, the second meeting of the «Ecological Transition» working group took place on 27 April 2022. After framing the concept of «acceptability» by citizens, the co-facilitators, Pia Gerzmann (Basel Trinational Eurodistrict) and Pierre Clap (Besançon Centre Franche-Comté Urban Planning Agency – AUDAB) opened up the

discussion for players from the Franco-Swiss border area to share local experiences. Yannick Nancy, Director of the Watchmaking Doubs Regional Nature Park, set out different avenues for strengthening synergies in the area of the ecological transition in the Jura Arc, particularly with respect to water management: «It seems crucial to create frameworks for structured dialogue with neighbouring countries to address the need for mutual knowledge of legal, political and management aspects, and to understand consultation procedures in the different countries.»

Anna-Karina Kolb, Director of the Department of European, Regional and Federal Affairs for the Canton of Geneva, illustrated the issues around cross-border acceptability with examples of infrastructure projects planned within Greater Geneva: sediment

management on the Rhône, nuclear energy, the motorway network and commercial infrastructures.

The second part was devoted to public survey procedures and consultation processes in a cross-border context. Gaëlle Chevreau, who had been in charge of the consultation process for the Celtic Interconnector project for RTE France, set out the lessons learned from the consultation relating to the undersea electricity interconnector between France and Ireland, which showed up very different approaches with regard to consultation and acceptability, in spite of the common European regulatory framework.

Michael Umhey, a policy officer at the Regierungspräsidium Freiburg, explained the process carried out for the Upper Rhine, which led to the publication of a Guide to the procedure for cross-border consultations concerning projects, plans and programmes that have significant impacts on the environment.

[More info](#)


«Solidarity and co-development» working group

What is the issue of social security with respect to cross-border employment?

Around thirty participants met online on Friday 6 May for the next session of the «Solidarity and Co-development» working group focused on the topic of cross-border work and social security.

Aurélien Biscuit, the MOT's Secretary-General, and the two co-facilitators, Jérôme Marchal (Lorraine Corridor Metropolitan Pole) and Simon Jodogne (Lille European Metropolis), introduced the aims of the meeting. The discussions then focused on the topic of unemployment benefit for cross-border workers, with a presentation of the UNEDIC study «Indemnisation des frontaliers par l'assurance chômage»

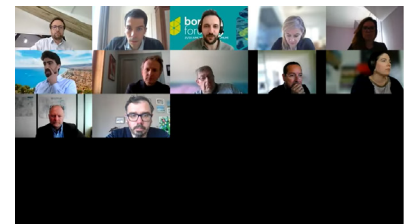
(«Compensation of cross-border workers through unemployment insurance») by Céline Jaeggy and Adrien Calas. Having set out the current regulations concerning cross-border workers' unemployment benefit and the profile of these workers, UNEDIC discussed the proposed revision of European regulations in this area. This is crucial for UNEDIC, for which the current regulations generate an additional cost estimated at a total of €6 billion.

In the second part of the session, Aurélie Brière and Gaëlle Nahmani (Centre des Liaisons Européennes et Internationales de Sécurité Sociale – CLEISS) presented the missions of the CLEISS and set out the issues related to the European mechanism for the coordination of social security systems. The foundation for cross-border work and mobility, this mechanism is an example of the integration of national systems.

This first meeting of the year of the working group prompted many reactions from all the participants, particularly about the long-term economic impact of cross-border workers' unemployment benefit and the changes

needed to the regulations concerning cross-border teleworking in Europe.

A real momentum was generated by this session, which will be the subject of a report and of further discussions to address in greater depth these major issues for border areas. Another meeting will be held in the second half of the year.

[More info](#)


«Cross-border governance» working group

How can «cross-border living areas» be defined and recognised?

On 20 April, a session of this working group took place on the topic «shared living areas» and «cross-border mobility areas». Researchers and actors on the ground met to work on formulating a common concept for the benefit of cross-border territories and their inhabitants. The idea was to bring together different approaches being used derived both from domestic normative acts and European programmes, as well as reflections on certain borders about bilateral commitments of the cross-border living area agreement type (e.g. France-Switzerland).

As areas where administrative, legal, economic and other standards of countries and local domestic entities meet, they

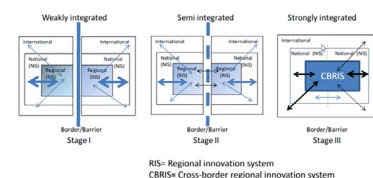
encounter many obstacles since these standards are very diverse and differ according to each country's domestic organisation. This is why the concept of cross-border living areas, once it has been recognised and its features defined, should help to overcome these obstacles, notably by drawing on the interactions and projects of different players along the borders, but also all the types of mobility that take place there. It was about these obstacles and the possible ways to recognise cross-border living areas that Professor Joachim Beck, from Kehl University of Applied Sciences in Germany, spoke. His talk was followed by accounts from the field by the Directors of the Pamina and Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai EGTCs, who corroborated and reinforced the ideas set out by Professor Beck by providing a practical perspective both on the specific status that might be envisaged for these shared border areas and the local governance to be put in place.

All of these reflections were complemented by a contribution from the Ambassador for Intergovernmental Commissions, Cooperation and Border Issues, Philippe Voiry, on the initiatives and support proposed by the

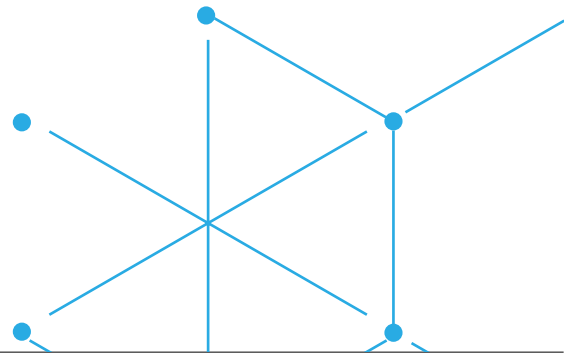
French government to recognise cross-border living areas. Lastly, some perspectives for the future were outlined by the MOT's Director-General, Jean Peyrony.

[More info](#)


Vers l'innovation territoriale : les types idéaux de territoires transfrontaliers (Lundquist and Trippi, 2009)



FRANCE/ BILATERAL

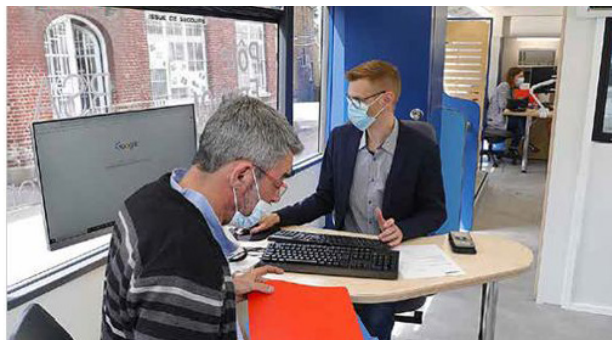


42ND CONFERENCE OF URBAN PLANNING AGENCIES

Spotlight on cross-border public services

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022

At a time when the closure of borders highlights the issues relating to cross-border living areas and their cohesion, the provision of public services specific to these territories was the subject of a dedicated workshop at the FNAU's national conference.



Co-facilitated by the MOT and the Atlantic-Pyrenees Urban Planning Agency (AUDAP), the workshop posed the question both of the provision of public services in territories at the edges of scopes of competence and that of measures designed to ensure their accessibility to all of the populations concerned.

Starting with the presentation of concrete experiences, notably: the account taken of access to Belgian public services by France Services in the Nord Department, the setting-up of an information and support portal for cross-border jobseekers in the Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euroregion, and local cross-border facilities in the Sare municipality (schools, medical centre, wastewater treatment plant, swimming pool, etc.), the discussions went on to look at ways to facilitate these measures and make them permanent.

In particular, these services endeavour to address the problems encountered by users in cross-border territories, such as assistance with administrative procedures, finding local schools, access to healthcare and emergency services, access to employment, and shelter for vulnerable populations. In this way, they contribute to and ensure social and territorial cohesion across the cross-border territory. They are also places of interaction between institutions and users that aim to improve the way the problems experienced by citizens are listened to and communication within institutions about the cross-border obstacles faced.

Beyond the issue of territorial cohesion and interaction with users, putting these public services in place is underpinned by multi-partner cooperation at several levels, which needs to be supported. A challenge for border-region urban planning agencies: are they «trusted third parties» able to stimulate

local cross-border dialogue? At the least, prior to the structuring of partnerships, the importance of the development and observation of cross-border territories has been highlighted by the experiences of the AGUR (Flanders-Dunkirk Urban Planning Agency) and AUDAP, which were also discussed during the workshop.

[More info](#) →



Jean Rottner,
President of the
Grand Est Region and
President of the FNAU



With the start of the 2022 marking the launch of France's presidency of the European Union, it is an important time to champion the construction of a Europe

that is closer to its citizens, a Europe of daily life, notably embodied by the cross-border territories, which contribute to cementing the European edifice.

The Aachen Treaty has opened up new possibilities and perspectives for cross-border cooperation. It is up to everyone to take this opportunity to build concrete cooperation initiatives and I hope that urban planning agencies will participate fully in this. The new urban planning agencies that have joined the MOT are a sign that their partnerships and missions are increasingly extending beyond national borders.

Building territorial cooperation in cross-border living areas means first of all building up knowledge and a shared culture. This is one of the core missions of urban planning agencies, but the cross-border context makes it more complex due to the disparities in available data and the diversity of the players that need to be mobilised.

Building cross-border projects also means constructing shared living areas and taking

action. For example, the pandemic has highlighted the need to put cooperation in place in the area of healthcare, to enable greater resilience. Cooperation also involves working together on cross-border forms of mobility in order to make them more efficient and more integrated. Cross-border projects are also about creating a "shared story". Each time legal, regulatory and cultural barriers have to be overcome. But it is in the DNA of urban planning agencies to be able to get players around the table and to help projects get off the ground.

In June 2022, UN Habitat's World Urban Forum is also hosted in Europe, in Katowice, Poland. In the run-up to this, the MOT undertook to steer one of the working groups of the Partenariat Français pour la Ville et les Territoires (PFVT – French Partnership for Cities and Territories), which the FNAU coordinates, and whose mission is to formulate French players' contribution to the world urban agenda: an opportunity to remind people of the importance of cross-border cooperation initiatives for more sustainable and inclusive territories.

The MOT partner in the research project GeRTrUD

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022

A large proportion of new urbanisation is concentrated in areas, more or less densely spread out, located on the edges of major urban conurbations. This phenomenon of «scattered» urbanisation encompasses scenarios as varied as the construction of periurban housing estates on the outskirts of big cities, the setting-up of economic activities far from urban centres and the development of small rural towns between two conurbations.

In this respect, cross-border situations constitute both a fertile framework for international comparisons of planning systems and means of studying the specific forms of regulation of scattered urbanisation that evolve within an urban region that straddles national borders.

The research project GeRTrUD (Gestion et régulation transfrontalière de l'urbanisation diffuse – Cross-border management and regulation of scattered urbanisation), coordinated by the Urban Planning Laboratory at Gustave Eiffel University (France), was launched in 2020-21 to study these phenomena in detail.

Given the issues that it is addressing, the MOT agreed to become a partner in it and assists the research team in its work as necessary. In particular, it actively participated in a webinar on «The limitation of land consumption by urbanisation in cross-border territories» on 6 December 2021.

MIDPOINT WEBINAR

On 18 May, a webinar marking the project's midpoint was held to take stock of the project's progress and to present and discuss the findings yielded by the research among players and researchers involved in this field.

In particular, several «player-researcher» sessions were an opportunity to discuss the regulation of economic activity zones in cross-border areas. The MOT took part in the final roundtable focused on urban and spatial planning practices in cross-border areas, and in particular talked about its recent work in the Saarland-Moselle territory concerning commercial spatial planning practices between France and Germany.

[More info](#)



En route for Katowice to talk cross-border cooperation!

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022



The PFVT (Partenariat Français pour la Ville et les Territoires – French Partnership for Cities and Territories) is French urban development players' platform for discussion and promotion of their expertise internationally.

In the same way as a think tank, its members mobilise through workshops to draw up proposals for international events such as the World Urban Forum on cities and sustainable territories. With the 11th World Urban Forum taking place in June 2022, during France's presidency of the EU, in the border territory of Katowice in Poland,³ the MOT agreed to co-facilitate with the ESPON programme a working group on «territorial and cross-border cooperation initiatives».

This multi-player partnership, whose technical secretariat is provided by the FNAU (French Network of Urban Planning Agencies), is supported by the Ministries of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Territorial Authorities, the Ecological Transition and Culture.

The working group coordinated by the MOT met three times during 2021. It was the only one to bring together both French and European and international partners, notably: the Lille, Strasbourg and Nice metropolises; the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs; the

canton of Geneva; Villes de France; CESCO; the University of Victoria (Canada); the AFCCRE – French Section of the Council of the European Municipalities and Regions; and DG REGIO. Using a forward-looking approach aimed at rethinking and implementing the «New Urban Agenda» and meeting sustainable development goals, and at projecting a desirable urban future and the tools to be employed to achieve it, the group explored the following set of issues: In a world of «growing interdependencies» confronted by a «functional mismatch» between the reality of development and administrative constraints, what scenario(s) can be envisaged for territorial cooperation up to 2050? How can these scenarios be reflected, how can they be transposed in cross-border territories, veritable laboratories for interterritoriality? A booklet to be published in the coming weeks in French and English will set out the group's findings with respect to the following three questions:

- What are the issues for today and up to 2050?
- What is/are the possible and desirable future(s) over this period?
- What are the pathways and strategic milestones that should not be missed?

[More info](#)


Conference on urban sustainable development

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022



The MOT took part in this conference organised within the framework of the French Partnership for Cities and Territories. It led one of its four workshops, on cross-border and European cooperation initiatives, and was able to get across the following message: sustainable development also needs to cross borders and requires cross-border cooperation.

Chaired by Christian Dupessey, the MOT's President, **the workshop drew up four recommendations that came out of the forward-looking work carried out in 2021 by the group jointly coordinated by the MOT and ESPON**; they will be put forward at the next World Urban Forum, in Katowice:

- To incorporate cross-border issues into the European Urban Agenda.
 - To take advantage of the revision of the Schengen Code to recognise cross-border living areas.
 - To give cross-border groupings appropriate competences and democratic legitimacy.
 - To give cross-border territories resources by promoting the conclusion of contracts between Europe, national governments, territorial authorities and cross-border groupings.
- Some dates for your diary: in a few weeks, the booklet that will set out the group's proposals will be ready, and in June, the World Urban Forum in Katowice.

[More info](#)


Conference on «What dynamics for cross-border territories?»: the recordings are online

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022



Jean Peyrony, Director-General of the Transfrontier Operational Mission, spoke on the subject of innovation at this conference organised by the Think Tank Territoire (TTT), at the Senate, on 3 January 2022.

[More info](#)




Adoption of the 3DS bill in France: tangible progress for cross-border territories

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022

The 3DS bill (standing for differentiation, decentralisation, deconcentration and simplification of local public action) was adopted in its final reading at the Assemblée Nationale and the Senate in France on 8-9 February. The MOT is delighted about the inclusion for the first time of a chapter devoted to cross-border cooperation in a piece of legislation.

Several tangible advances for cross-border territories should be noted, some of which were proposed directly by the MOT:

- In the area of healthcare, under a government proposal, the organisation of continuity of care, access to urgent treatment and coordination with France's border neighbours in times of crisis will be incorporated into Regional Health Agencies' healthcare plans. In addition, the MOT's proposal to enable the setting up of Territorial Communities of Healthcare Professionals to bring together professionals practising in foreign border territories was taken up.

- In the area of education and training, under a government proposal, cross-border apprenticeship will now be set out in the

labour code, and the implementing measures will be the subject of bilateral agreements with partner countries, as well as an ordinance by the end of 2022. The MOT will monitor these developments closely.

- In the area of territorial planning and development, the MOT's proposal to involve foreign border region territorial authorities in the deliberations of the Departmental Commercial Spatial Planning Commissions – thereby taking into account cross-border catchment areas – was also adopted. Furthermore, in liaison with several associations of elected representatives and transport players (France Urbaine, Intercommunalités de France, the Grouping of Authorities Responsible for Transport, the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois and the MOT), the metropolitan poles may now be authorities in charge of mobility.

- To address different cross-border obstacles, under a proposal by parliamentarians from the Franco-German Cross-Border Cooperation Committee, **the organisation of cross-border sporting events** will be facilitated, and flexibility will be granted for the translation of commercial documents at trade fairs in border regions.

Lastly, thanks to the mobilisation of many players in the network on this issue, foreign territorial authorities will be able to hold a stake in all forms of local public companies, up to a ceiling of 50%.

These measures testify to the progress made in terms of the cross-border dimension being taken into account in national policy. They are in part the fruit of the network's contributions and the reflections drawn up by the MOT's different bodies.

Going forward, we need to continue to strive together to ensure that account is taken of cross-border issues in the future.

[More info](#)



Meeting of the Franco-Luxembourg consultative committee attended by the MOT

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022

On 23 February, the MOT was invited for the first time to take part in the “Tax and Teleworking” working group of the consultative committee on Franco-Luxembourg co-development. In particular, this gave it an opportunity to talk about the preliminary findings of its investigations into cross-border teleworking and its impacts. The Franco-Luxembourg consultative committee was set up by the French Government at the request of local stakeholders following the last Franco-Luxembourg Intergovernmental Commission in October 2021. Since the start of 2022, it has regularly brought together five working groups on: tax and teleworking; mobility; the economy and environmental safety; training and education; and healthcare and medical-social matters.

[More info](#)

A Franco-Swiss declaration to strengthen cooperation in healthcare

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022



On the sidelines of the Franco-Swiss Dialogue that took place on 11 March 2022 in Belfort, a «Franco-Swiss declaration on bilateral

cooperation in the area of healthcare» was signed between the two countries. It was emphasised on this occasion that «bilateral cooperation in the area of healthcare has become a central issue for Franco-Swiss cooperation. Healthcare services on either side of the border face the same challenges. Their staff and patients belong to the same shared living areas. We need to develop a common vision of this issue in order to provide concrete and effective responses to it.»

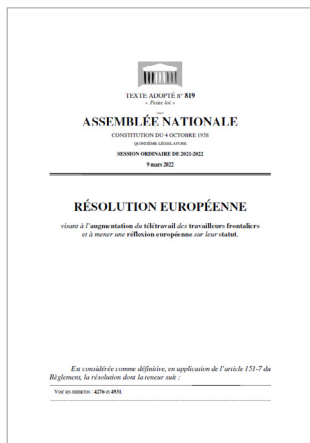
[More info](#)

Teleworking: the Assemblée Nationale opens the way to a European reflection on the status of cross-border workers

PUBLISHED IN MARCH

On 9 March, the French Assemblée Nationale adopted a draft resolution aimed at promoting teleworking for cross-border workers. The objective is to submit this text to the European Commission within the framework of France's presidency of the EU.

This draft resolution aims to increase the number of days teleworking authorised for cross-border workers, and to carry out «a European reflection on the status of cross-border workers».

[More info](#)

Decentralised cooperation

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2022

SEVERAL CALLS FOR PROJECTS

The Delegation for the External Action of Local Authorities (DAECT) of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs has launched several calls for projects – general, thematic and geographical – to support decentralised cooperation projects. They must be submitted between mid-March and mid-April.

THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS' EXPE-CT LABEL INCLUDES CROSS-BORDER SETTINGS

The French Ministry's Delegation for the External Action of Territorial Authorities (DAECT) renewed in 2022 its programme to promote the expertise of territorial authorities, known as EXPE-CT. Among the recipients in January 2022, for the category «Europe/ Cross-Border Cooperation», is the Grand Est Region with the theme «multi-sectoral cross-border cooperation (governance, organisation, cooperation)».

The MOT was awarded the label in January 2021 for a three-year period, also for «Cross-Border Cooperation». Within the framework of this programme, recipients of the label will be able to carry out cooperation missions abroad, at the request of the Ministry, and to showcase their know-how.

The programme's aims are to help French territorial authorities and their associations to promote their competencies and expertise internationally, to respond to specific and urgent requests for cooperation from foreign territorial authorities, and to develop decentralised cooperation initiatives in countries where French territorial authorities do not have a high profile. It therefore covers cross-border cooperation projects.

[More info](#)

Major bilateral progress on the Pyrenean border

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022

On 8 March 2022, the MOT took part in Franco-Spanish working seminar that took place in Paris with Paco Boya, the Spanish State Secretary for the Demographic Challenge, and Joël Giraud, the French Minister for Territorial Cohesion.

In the presence of the Director-General of the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT), Yves le Breton, and the Ambassador for Intergovernmental Commissions, Cooperation and Cross-Border Issues, Philippe Voiry, the meeting was an opportunity to take stock of the formulation of a bilateral Franco-Spanish strategy, and to review the key issues for the Pyrenean border. Drawing on feedback from the MOT's network and its latest territorial meetings, the association, in the person of its Director-General, Jean Peyrony, outlined several major themes intended to inform the strategy (multilingualism, transport, healthcare, functional areas and adapting to climate change). The ANCT set out to the

Spanish State Secretary its instruments to support the attractiveness of rural and mountain areas (the Rural Agenda, Mountains Programme, Small Towns of Tomorrow, France Services, New Places New Links, Industrial Territories, etc.). Lastly, the seminar contributed to a joint reflection aimed at improving the account taken of the issues of declining and ageing populations and the attractiveness of territories, which Spain is strongly impacted by. The link with European cohesion policy, in line with the European Commission's communication of 30 June 2021 on a long-term vision for the EU's rural areas, was highlighted.



In anticipation of further meetings desired by both sides, the MOT wishes them every success with this work, in coordination with and for the benefit of the Pyrenees territories.

[More info](#)



Meeting of the Franco-German Cross-Border Cooperation Committee

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022



The Franco-German Cross-Border Cooperation Committee met on 12 March in Strasbourg, under the co-chairmanship of Clément Beaune (France), Minister of State for European Affairs, and Anna Lühmann, Minister of State for Europe and Climate (Germany). The MOT officially took part in the meeting as a Committee «expert». «In the context of the war in Ukraine, we can never stress enough the historical importance of Franco-German reconciliation for peace in Europe,» declared the German Minister on this occasion.

We may recall that the role of the Committee, within the framework of the implementation of the Franco-German Aachen Treaty, is to promote resolution of the obstacles encountered in the daily lives of citizens living in the Franco-German border region.

[More info](#)



Quirinal Treaty: Franco-Italian cross-border cooperation committee about to be set up

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022

Cross-border co-operation was at the heart of the first of the four meetings devoted to the advances of the Quirinal Treaty.

This bilateral treaty between France and Italy was signed by the two countries on 26 November last year. Organised by the French embassy in Italy, in collaboration with the Italian institutions the Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale, the CNR and the ISSIRFA, and in partnership with the DITER programme of Côte d'Azur University, this first

TRAITÉ ENTRE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE ET LA RÉPUBLIQUE ITALIENNE

POUR UNE COOPÉRATION BILATÉRALE RENFORCÉE



La République française
et
La République italienne

Ci-après conjointement dénommées « les Parties » et individuellement « la Partie ».

Considérant l'ampleur et la profondeur de l'amitié qui les unit, ancrée dans l'histoire et la géographie, reaffirmant dans cet esprit leur attachement commun à la Méditerranée, comme carrefour de civilisation et trait d'union entre les peuples d'Orient et d'Occident, d'Europe et d'Afrique;

Rappelant que leur communauté de destin est fondée sur les principes fondamentaux et objectifs inscrits dans la Charte des Nations Unies et dans le Traité sur l'Union européenne, et que cette communauté repose sur les valeurs de paix et de sécurité, de respect de la dignité humaine, des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales, de la démocratie, de l'écologie et de l'État de droit;

Déterminées à combattre le déclin démographique et à préserver la biodiversité; conscientes que les progrès économiques, sociaux et environnementaux sont indissociables; et conscientes que la sécurité et la prospérité de nos sociétés requièrent une action urgente pour sauvegarder notre planète, qui est notre mission commune;



meeting took place on 5 May 2022.

At the meeting, the President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, and former Mayor of Turin, Piero Fassino, saluted the outcome of «a very ambitious text accompanied by a concrete action plan».

Christian Masset, France's Ambassador in Italy, spoke of the need for a formal framework: «Cross-border co-operation is a new element introduced by this treaty. Up until now, we haven't had an overall vision for the development of the territories along Franco-Italian border. The Cross-Border Cooperation Committee [Comité de Coopération transfrontalière – CCT]

is designed precisely to create these synergies, including between representatives of very diverse sectors.»

In the area of research, Giulio Salerno, Director of the ISSIRFA, recalled the opportunity presented by «bringing face-to-face two systems of state organisation that are more or less decentralised. And drawing on methods of flexibility and experimentation for this multi-level governance.»

Andrea Cavallari, Plenipotentiary Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Italy), quoted the first lines of Article 10 of the treaty: «The Franco-Italian land border constitutes a continuous living area in which the French and Italian

populations share a common destiny. The Parties undertake to facilitate the daily lives of the inhabitants of these territories.» They will be charged with guiding the action of the future CCT. He also recalled the importance of developing territorial observation in order to base public policy on concrete data, citing the MOT as a strategic player to monitor this work.

Philippe Voiry, Ambassador for Intergovernmental Commissions, Cooperation and Cross-Border Relations (France), wished to recall that the CCT should first and foremost be «the voice of local authorities» (cross-border structures, territorial authorities, metropolises, etc.). The MOT will be part of the committee from the →

→ outset, as will representatives of the two Interreg programmes (ALCOTRA and Marittimo).

Lastly, Jean Peyrony, the MOT's Director-General, saluted the personal involvement of French and Italian elected representatives and diplomats, recalling that «nothing lasts without institutions». In the absence of cross-border governance, «ETC programmes have played a major role on this border

by inventing tools such as PITER (Integrated Territorial Plans in the ALCOTRA programme), which anticipated the current advances in terms of territorial strategies and functional areas in Interreg programmes».

By way of conclusion, the representatives of the French and Italian ministries explained that the make-up of the CCT is in the process of being finalised, following the principle of effectiveness and the representative nature

of all of the bodies concerned. In particular, it remains to determine the role of the Principality of Monaco and of Switzerland, notably the Canton of Valais, which takes part in the Mont-Blanc Cross-Border Conference.

[More info](#)


Health crisis: why do the border territories seem to have been over-impacted?

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2022

On 30 May, the MOT co-ran a webinar offered by the Observatory on the Territorial Impacts of the Crisis (OITC) focusing specifically on border territories.

Conscious of the specific nature of the impacts of the crisis on border territories, the OITC wished to run a thematic webinar on this topic in order to illustrate, through its preliminary work, the effects of the crisis and the recovery in cross-border territories, as well as their exposure to the effects of the current geopolitical crisis. It was an opportunity to understand the reasons for this greater impact; to analyse their behaviour during the phase of recovery in 2021; and to assess the

degree of exposure of their local economic fabric and the households to the rise in energy costs. These issues were discussed with the MOT, but also with Enrico Bolzani, the Attaché in charge of Cross-Border and European Issues for the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and Michael Vollot from the North Lorraine Urban Planning and Sustainable Development Agency (AGAPE). Further webinars are planned for the future.

[More info](#)


The MOT network pays tribute to Michel Delebarre

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022



Michel Delebarre at the conference to mark the MOT's 20th anniversary on 30 November and 1 December 2017 in Brussels, and at the MOT's general assembly in Nice on 22 May 2018.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Michel Delebarre. He was a great servant of the State, of decentralisation and of Europe, for which he chaired the Committee of the Regions.

His untiring passion for his city and his region naturally led him to take up the cause of cross-border cooperation. He was a great President of the MOT between 2008 and 2018. It is a great honour to have worked with him.

[More info](#)


EUROPE / INTERNATIONAL



France's presidency of the EU: what place for cross-border territories?

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022

From 1 January until 30 June 2022, France holds the presidency of the European Union Council, for the 13th time. At a press conference on 9 December, President Emmanuel Macron set out the presidency's three main themes: «recovery», «power» and «belonging». On this last point, he emphasised that the feeling of belonging to the European region had «declined» in France, as in other EU countries.

Border territories have a crucial role to play in this work of strengthening the European feeling of belonging. That is why the MOT and its network of players are calling for the voice of these territories to be fully taken into account during the presidency. The next Borders Forum – an event officially backed by France's presidency – will take place on 21-22 June in Paris. It aims to be an important opportunity to highlight these issues and the role to be played by cross-border territories.

THE MOT'S VIEWS HEARD

In order to prepare the work of France's presidency, a report was submitted to the Minister of State Clément Beaune a month before the launch of France's presidency.¹ Entrusted to an independent committee of reflection



chaired by Thierry Chopin, a special adviser at the Institut Jacques Delors, this 300-page document contains a year of deliberations. In addition to an assessment that recommends for example «making renewed progress with France's European ambitions», and «better embedding Europe in France», the report makes many proposals. The views of the MOT, as well as of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, were heard in this context; and cross-border cooperation is discussed on several pages (in a chapter entitled «Borders and the feeling of belonging»).

The report talks about the prospect of recognising cross-border living areas, defining a status for their inhabitants, experimenting with bespoke solutions there, and developing a local Erasmus programme.

¹ «Une Europe pour aujourd'hui et pour demain», La Documentation française, 2022.

[More info](#)



Cross-border regions in the Commission's proposed reform of the Schengen Area: A major step forward!

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022

On 14 December 2021, the European Commission presented to the European Parliament its proposals for new rules to strengthen the governance of the Schengen Area. The draft regulation, which sets forth a «Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders», specifically takes account of «cross-border regions».

The Covid-19 pandemic and the closure of many borders in Europe compromised the principle of free movement in Europe, and the inhabitants of cross-border territories were the first victims of this. Now, with this proposed reform, the Commission is putting cross-border issues back at the heart of the European project. It is a major step forward which the MOT is very pleased about. The proposed reform aims to achieve greater European coordination and gives Member States the means to meet the new challenges posed by the management of the Schengen Area's internal borders, and that of the common external border. Its objective is to ensure that the reintroduction of internal

border controls remains a measure of last resort. The new rules also introduce common tools to manage the external borders more effectively in the event of public health crises, drawing on the lessons learned from the pandemic.

The impacts of the reintroduction of such border controls on cross-border regions are given particular attention in the draft regulation. This is a victory for the MOT

network, which has been campaigning for this recognition since the start of the crisis.

MOT STUDY QUOTED

The MOT's study «Analysis of the impact of border-related measures taken by Member States in the fight against COVID-19» carried out for DG REGIO in 2020 is quoted extensively in the impact analysis in the draft legislation.

To be noted in the draft regulation:

• Article 26 - Criteria for the temporary reintroduction and prolongation of border control at internal borders:

«To establish whether the reintroduction of border control at internal borders is necessary and proportionate in accordance with Article 25, a Member State shall in particular consider: [...] the likely impact of such a measure on: [...] the functioning of the cross-border regions, taking into account the strong social and economic ties between them. [...] Where border controls at internal borders have been reintroduced or prolonged, the Member States concerned shall, where necessary, ensure that they are accompanied by appropriate measures that mitigate the impacts resulting from the reintroduction of border controls on persons and the transport of goods, giving particular consideration to the cross-border regions.»

• Article 33 - Report on the reintroduction of border control at internal borders

«Within four weeks of the lifting of border control at internal borders, Member States which have carried out border controls at internal borders shall present a report to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the reintroduction and, where applicable, the prolongation of border control at internal borders. [...] The report shall outline, in particular, the initial and follow-up assessment of the necessity of border controls and the respect of the criteria referred to in Articles 26, the operation of the checks, the practical cooperation with neighbouring Member States, the resulting impact on the movement of persons in particular in the cross-border regions, [...]»

• Article 42b - Notification of cross-border regions

«By [two months of the entry into force of this Regulation] at the latest, Member States shall notify the Commission the areas of their territory considered as the cross-border regions. Member States shall also inform the Commission of any relevant changes thereto.»

[More info](#)


The three Franco-Belgian EGTCs sign a memorandum addressed to France's presidency

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2022

On the initiative of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, the three EGTCs working along the Franco-Belgian border signed a memorandum addressed to France's presidency of the EU.

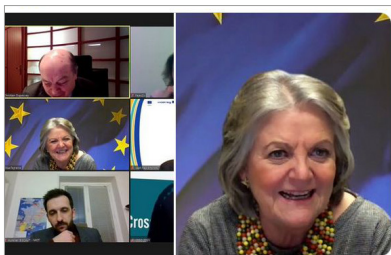
«Europe must play its role of facilitating and supporting the daily lives of border region inhabitants and cross-border workers, who represent one in three people across Europe. The three EGTCs wish France to focus European policy on the development of cross-border regions, which is still hampered by many obstacles.»

«EGTCs are innovative and pioneering structures on the European Union's 40 internal borders, which are created by Europe itself. It would be natural for the European Union to invest more in the cooperation initiatives that enable their cross-border living areas to develop and flourish more. They are a local key to European construction. It is they that forge the strongest and most lasting links between the countries of the EU, in close contact with its citizens.»

[More info](#)


Meeting with Commissioner Elisa Ferreira

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022



On 25 January, a videoconference brought together the European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira, the MOT's President, Christian Dupessey, the AEBR's President Karl-Heinz Lambert, and CESC's Vice-President, Zsuzsanna Fejes.

The three founding partners of the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance presented the Commissioner with their Strasbourg Declaration of 7 October 2021, recalled their ambition

to keep cross-border cooperation at the heart of the European project, and reiterated their commitment for their organisations to work ever more closely together.

They recalled that cooperation has been able to develop thanks to support from the EU: freedom of movement, but also the Interreg programmes. They proposed to pool resources in order to facilitate the work of the Commission and other institutions (Committee of the Regions, Council of Europe, etc.). They undertook to draw up, as early as spring 2022, an operational roadmap to this end.

The Commissioner congratulated the three organisations, which together have a considerable reservoir of experience. She recalled how the pandemic has confirmed the need to recognise cross-border economic and social communities, and to support cross-border

labour markets, the ecological transition, and cross-border governance and public services.

She initiated a discussion that focused on the role of Interreg programmes and EU tools, as well as on the need for a new European tool to overcome cross-border obstacles.

Christian Dupessey highlighted the issues of cross-border citizenship at the heart of European citizenship, and the need for account to be taken of cross-border regions in the revision of the Schengen Code, one of the priorities of the French presidency. He renewed his invitation to the Commissioner to the second Borders Forum on 21-22 June 2022 in Paris, which has the endorsement and support of France's EU presidency.

[More info](#) →

A brand-new MOOC on European Territorial Cooperation!

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022

More than 30 years after the creation of the INTERREG programme, the European Commission has teamed up with some of the most renowned experts in the field of ETC to produce the very first MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) entirely dedicated to European Territorial Cooperation!

This online course is divided into four chapters which provides an exhaustive overview on territorial cooperation in Europe:

- The first chapter guides through the foundations of territorial cooperation by questioning its origins, its evolution and its theoretical framework since its development after the end of the Second World War.
- A second chapter depicts the existing European policies in the field of territorial cooperation: Interreg, Neighbourhood Policy, Macro-regional strategies, etc., with the goal of analysing decision-making procedures, their implementation, their geographical dimensions and their impact.
- In the third one, a thematic approach is being proposed. For each of the 5 identified topics (health, spatial planning, environment, culture, mobility), the aim is to discover how they have been tackled at the local level, to which cooperation needs they responded and how the different stakeholders intervened and interacted (multi-level-governance).
- Finally, a fourth chapter explains how territorial cooperation is concretely implemented by local stakeholders, which difficulties they encounter



and which means and tools were activated in order to overcome them.

Each course is composed of several sequences, which are complementary and contain several videos, thought-provoking learning material, case-studies and stakeholders' interviews.

The course is provided in English.

At the end of the curriculum, certifications will be issued to participants:

- for attendance to 50% of the course (Statement of Participation).
- for completion of at least 90% of the course (Certificate of Achievement).
- for success of at least 60% of the tests (Certificate of Success).

The first session starts on 7th March 2022, and lasts 6 weeks.

The partners in charge of the production of the MOOC: MOT, Strasbourg University, Artois University, Thessaloniki University, MOT, CESC, the Euro-Institut and the TEIN Network.

[More info](#) →

EGTC Award 2022 – Call for applications

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022

The European Committee of the Regions invites the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation to submit their applications for the 2022 edition of the award «Building Europe across borders» – Award for EGTCs. Only EGTCs established before 1 January 2021 can participate.

[More info](#) →





The European Commission has just presented its 8th Cohesion Report

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022

Every three years, the Commission publishes a report on the economic, social, and territorial cohesion in the EU, presenting the progress and the EU's role as a driver for regional development. It analyses the evolution of cohesion in the EU according to a wide range of indicators, such as prosperity, employment, education levels, and accessibility and governance.

The 8th Cohesion Report will feed the discussions at the upcoming Cohesion Forum (on 17-18 March), which brings together representatives of EU institutions, national, regional and local authorities from all Member States, social and economic partners, non-governmental organisations and academia. The Forum will debate how Cohesion policy can ensure that no region is left behind in the ongoing structural changes, and that all regions can reap the benefits of the green and digital transitions.

Cross-border cooperation is mentioned in particular in the «highlights» at the beginning of the report (page XXVII):

«Cross-border Strengthening cross-border and interregional cooperation. The pandemic highlighted the difficulties of having to cross a national border for work, education, healthcare and other services. Road and rail transport performance are lower in border regions. Addressing these issues requires better governance of functional border areas, a stronger coordination of services, infrastructure and investments, and exchange of experience supported by pan-European research.»

[More info](#)



JOINT ACTION PLAN SIGNED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE COR

Strengthen cross-border cooperation in Europe

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022



On 25 January, the European Committee of the Regions and the European Commission signed a Joint Action Plan signed to enhance cooperation to support regions in the transition towards a more inclusive, sustainable and digital Europe.

The aim is to support local and regional authorities in effectively using the €500 billion available in EU structural funds and national co-funding and secure their consistency and complementarity with the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira, underlined that «both during the crisis and now in the midst of recovery, cohesion policy proved to be the backbone of the EU development and solidarity models. Whatever the challenge, from green and just transition to digital revolution, from demographic changes to the vision for rural areas, cohesion policy is there to ensure that all regions benefit fully, and that no region is left behind.»

Cross-border cooperation is one of the five priority areas of the plan:

- Support local and regional authorities managing the EU funds
- Promote synergies and avoid overlaps between structural funds and other financing sources such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility
- Promote the idea of cohesion as an overall and fundamental value of the European Union
- Strengthen the cross-border cooperation
- Communicate the cohesion's added value on the ground.

[More info](#)



Study on public transport in cross-border regions

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022



With about 30% of the EU population living in internal border regions, the new DG REGIO publication contributes to the growing recognition of the importance of cross-border public transport services (CBPT) and their role in facilitating cross-border activities central to the development of border regions. The study consists of an inventory of cross-border public transport services, which is also accessible via a web-viewer; an inventory of obstacles to CBPT provision; a set of 31 case studies detailing selected CBPT services and a toolbox indicating possible ways forward to overcome obstacles.

[More info](#)



Detail of Interreg programmes published

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022

On 19 January 2022, the European Commission published in the EU's Official Journal the detail of Interreg programmes for the period 2021 to 2027.

A first decision that sets out:

- the list of Interreg programmes;
- the amount of the total support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and from each external financing instrument of the Union;
- the list of the amounts transferred between strands (as a reminder: cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation, interregional cooperation and cooperation involving the outermost regions) for the period 2021 to 2027.

And a second decision that sets out the list of Interreg programme areas to receive support from the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments of the Union, broken down by strand and Interreg programme under the European territorial cooperation goal.

[More info](#)



Five new b-solutions' publications

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022

The three thematic publications (2021)



The illustrated storytelling booklet (2021)



AEBR and the European Commission's DG REGIO have released a series of publications aiming at raising awareness of cross-border cooperation. These showcase relevant information gained through the implementation of the b-solutions initiative, which AEBR has managed on behalf of DG REGIO for the past four years.

- Two compendiums and one annex showcasing the obstacles and relative solutions of the 90 cases identified between 2018 and 2021.

- Three thematic booklets containing analyses of the common obstacles and solutions in the following fields: Cross-border Public Services, Education and Employment, European Green Deal.

- An illustrated storytelling booklet that showcases 7 stories of border obstacles and their impact on citizens in border regions. Launched in 2017 to overcome such obstacles, the b-solutions pilot initiative aims to address specific legal and administrative obstacles hindering cross-border cooperation

along the EU internal land borders. Since the launch of the initiative, the MOT has been commissioned to produce a legal analysis of six cases, relating to the recognition of the training and qualifications of healthcare staff, the schooling of pupils in border regions, the mobility of jobseekers for internships, the border crossings of emergency vehicles, and the legal structuring of a cross-border park.

[More info](#)



Call for proposals for b-solutions 2.0

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022

A new call for proposals in the framework of the «b-solutions 2.0: Solving Cross-Border Obstacles initiative» has been launched. The deadline of the call is 21 October 2022. Public entities and cross-border structures, located along EU internal land and maritime borders are invited to submit their applications. Starting from June 2022, selected entities will benefit from the technical support of cross-border experts -including MOT- to define precisely the obstacles and elaborate potential solutions to overcome them.

[More info](#)



LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FOLLOWING TWO YEARS OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT ALONG BORDERS

A new European assignment for the MOT

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022

After a preliminary study carried out in 2020, the MOT has been commissioned by DG REGIO to conduct another study on the consequences of the pandemic and the impact of the measures taken by countries to combat it in cross-border territories.

This new mission aims to analyse the whole period from spring 2020 to spring 2022, by investigating in-depth – by means of interviews and online surveys – the following aspects:

1. The impact of the guidelines published by the European Commission between March and April 2020 on national border restrictions (removal of restrictions, exemptions, special regimes, etc.). These guidelines relate

to the free movement of workers during the epidemic as well as cross-border cooperation in healthcare.

2. The developments that took place between the first wave of Covid-19 and the subsequent waves concerning the border measures taken in the context of managing the pandemic.

3. The effects of these measures on cross-border interactions and the daily lives of border region inhabitants, identifying in particular the emergence of new obstacles (drawing notably on the questions submitted by citizens via the YourEurope portal).

4. The role of all levels of governance and of the main stakeholders such as EGTCs and Euroregions in facilitating (or not) cross-border life in these exceptional circumstances.

The MOT will draw up its conclusions and recommendations for the future, particularly regarding the governance of cross-border



territories. It will do this in the context of the ongoing revision of the Schengen Border Code, which for the first time mentions the need to identify cross-border regions in each Member State, in order to ensure that better account is taken of local issues that are very specific to these territories in times of crisis. The final results of the study are due to be ready by June 2022.

[More info](#)


New protected areas: cross-border cooperation in the Commission's criteria

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022



On 28 January, the European Commission published the «criteria and guidance» aimed at supporting Member States in identifying and designating new protected areas, with an objective of legally protecting 30% of land in the EU by 2030. The added value of cross-border cooperation is highlighted in them. «The strategy highlights the importance of setting up ecological corridors in order to have a truly coherent and resilient Trans-European Nature Network, and of promoting and supporting investments in green and blue infrastructure, as well as cross-border cooperation among Member States [...]» Concerning the criteria for the identification of areas under legal protection: «in border

regions there can be a significant added value of a cross-border approach, contributing to increased management effectiveness, as differing national approaches may undermine management effectiveness. Establishment of European legal bodies of a cross-border nature, such as European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs), may be considered for the joint management of cross-border protected areas.»

[More info](#)


Europe and border territories unite in support of Ukraine



PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022

The European Union and all of its Member States have strongly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The humanitarian emergency highlights the importance of joint mobilisation, but also of cooperation and the role of territories located along borders in supporting the Ukrainians.

«The process of European and cross-border integration is essential for promoting peace and security and respecting fundamental rights and freedoms.» can be read in the AEBR's resolution on Ukraine. The MOT network, alongside its European partners, fully supports this mobilisation.

[More info](#)


The AEBR Cross Border Award: in 2022

«Youth Overcomes Borders»

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022



The AEBR has launched its 2022 Cross Border Award «Sail of Papenburg» on the theme: Youth Overcomes Borders. Awarded shall be one or more outstanding activities in/ of a border or cross-border region. The award ceremony will be held during the AEBR Annual Conference in autumn.

[More info](#)


A label for European cities

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022



In January 2020, the association Young Europeans France created the «European Cities Label» with the aim of promoting European democracy and bringing the European spirit alive in cities, towns and villages.

100% citizen-led and transcending political parties, its aims are to encourage cities to spread information about the EU and its policies, the promotion of linguistic and cultural diversity and the active participation of citizens in the regions in awareness-raising events.

The MOT has got involved in this project in order to promote the label for border and cross-border towns and cities, like Strasbourg, which has already adopted the label.

The «European Cities Label» network now includes around 40 municipalities – so go ahead and join them!

[More info](#)


In Eupen, the MOT, AEBR and CESCOI together for a stronger partnership

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022



Following on from their Strasbourg Declaration of 7 October 2021, the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), the MOT and CESCOI met in Eupen, in Belgium, on 5-6 April 2022, at the invitation

of Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the Parliament of Belgium's German-Speaking Community and President of the AEBR.

The three associations discussed the major issues of the moment: the need to restore peace in Europe and the neighbouring regions after Russia's invasion of Ukraine; the resilience of «cross-border living areas» in the face of health or security crises and their recognition by governments and the EU; the climate and ecological transition; and the construction of multi-level governance to foster European cohesion. They reaffirmed their commitment to combine forces and to work together to address these issues; and they embarked on the drafting of a roadmap of actions they propose to implement together, which will be presented to governments and the European institutions.

[More info](#)


Interact explores the increased «territoriality» of cooperation programmes

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022

Under the motto «Bringing territoriality into Interreg», the technical assistance programme Interact is carrying out ever more in-depth work on strengthening the territorial dimension of Interreg cooperation, both at programme and project level. This dynamic started already in 2020 with seminars on the concept of territoriality and functional areas – to which the MOT contributed – and in 2021

focused on the linkages between Interreg and the Territorial Agenda 2030.

With the two events on 23 March (conference officially sponsored by France's EU presidency) and 5 April, Interact has moved through the stage of awareness-raising and conceptual discussion to the level of practical

implementation, showing that the notion of territoriality in Interreg is not only a concept but something that is already tangible and at work in several European territories.

[More info](#)


If you are wondering how to integrate and strengthen the territorial dimension of your cooperation programmes or projects, Interact has just published a «Territorial Package» aimed at all cross-border players.

It consists of a set of fiches drawn up by an informal focus group made up of representatives of Interreg programmes, as well as national and regional territorial players, covering the following aspects:

- Fiche #1 – Why territoriality?
- Fiche #2 – Territoriality – What is it all about?
- Fiche #3 – A truly territorial project – Some examples
- Fiche #4 – Interreg and the Territorial Agenda 2030
- Fiche #5 – Functional areas as living labs for territoriality
- Fiche #6 – Programme and project life cycle – Promoting territorial projects
- Fiche #7 – Programme and project life cycle – Promoting territorial partnerships
- Fiche #8 – Programme life cycle – Focus: Project selection

A new European strategy for Europe's outermost regions

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022

On 17-19 May the conference of Europe's outermost regions (ORs) took place in Martinique.

This meeting was an opportunity for the European Commission to present its strategy for the ORs, published on 3 May, for the coming year.

Chapter 3 is devoted to «cooperation with other European regions, neighbouring countries and beyond» (see page 20 of the strategy).

[More info](#)


A DG REGIO call for projects to support «New European Bauhaus local initiatives»: EGTCs can apply!

PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022



The call selects inspiring projects focused on the transformation of infrastructures or public spaces that promote

the three complementary values of the «New European Bauhaus»: sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion. Towns (or groupings of municipalities) of fewer than 100,000 inhabitants can apply. EGTCs are also eligible.

[More info](#)




Results of the Conference on the Future of Europe: what about cross-border territories?

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022

On 9 May 2022, at the closing ceremony of the Conference on the Future of Europe, the three Presidents of the EU institutions, Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, and the French President, Emmanuel Macron, received the conference's final report.

Resulting from the discussions among citizens conducted over a year, the report focuses on 49 proposals and over 320 measures which the EU institutions have to follow up on. According to Ursula von der Leyen, some proposals will be implemented as early as this June; then in September she will announce new proposals in her address on the state of the Union.

For his part, the French President spoke of the «oath of Strasbourg». He is in favour of a revision of the treaties and of a «European Political

Community» to include democratic European nations that are not yet members of the EU.

A multilingual digital platform brings together all of the work carried out over the year including the final report.

But while the final report and the intermediate reports* contain some positive elements, the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT – Transfrontier Operational Mission) considers that cross-border issues do not have the place in them that they deserve – given that the EU's internal border regions cover 40% of EU territory and represent 30% of the European population who are affected by the cross-border context, i.e. around 150 million people. The MOT notes that regarding many emerging themes, such as education, healthcare, taxation, energy and so on, the cross-border dimension is at the heart of the issues at stake, but is hardly explicitly identified.

The MOT recalls in this context the setting-up of the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance between the MOT, the AEBR and CESCI, which has been joined by the European Committee of the Regions. The CoR, together with the members of the Alliance, organised public consultations on a shared vision for the long-term future of cross-border cooperation in the EU, which served as the basis



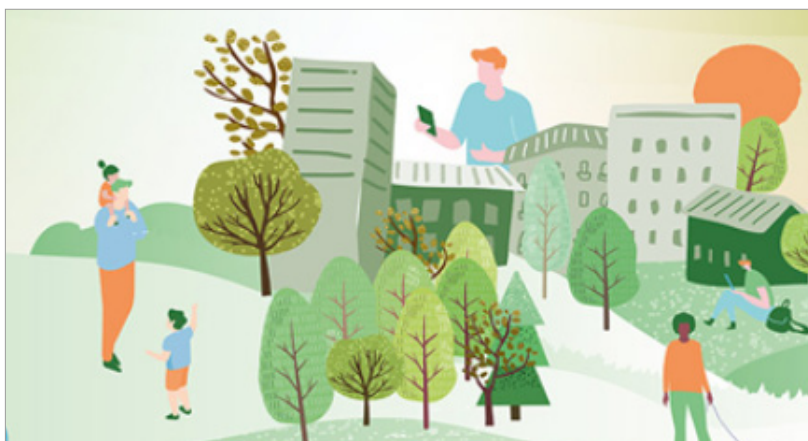
TO BE NOTED

The MOT analysed the cross-border dimension in:

- the February 2022 Report «Multilingual Digital Platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe» (Reporting -> Platform Report – February 2022),
- the report «Contributions per Member State on the Multilingual Digital Platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe» (Reporting -> Report on contributions per Member State – February 2022).

for a CoR resolution adopted in July 2021. This resolution sets out concrete proposals for the future of cross-border cooperation as an engine of future European integration and constituted the official contribution of the CoR, and of the members of the Alliance, to the Conference on the Future of Europe («Public Consultations on the Future of Cross-Border Cooperation»). The MOT, together with its European partners, will continue to mobilise for the future of cross-border cooperation.

[More info](#)

MOT and TEIN workshops at the next «European Week of Regions and Cities»

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2022



The MOT is running a workshop entitled "Building cross-border university alliances as drivers for border regions" at the next European Week of Regions and Cities organised by the European Committee of the Regions and DG REGIO, which will take place on 10-13 October 2022. Among the speakers are representatives from the University of the Greater Region, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Euskadi Navarra Euroregion and the Pro Europa Viadrina Euroregion (DE-PL).



Another workshop «Digital training for cooperation: new ways of capacity building» is being run by the TEIN network. It will notably be an opportunity to present the MOOC on European territorial cooperation produced by the MOT and its partners (Strasbourg University, Artois University, Thessaloniki University, CESCI, Euro-Institut, TEIN network). The second session of this MOOC (October to November 2022), will be launched on this occasion.

[More info](#)



For a Europe of co-ordinated healthcare

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022

On 12 April, France's Economic, Social and Environmental Council adopted an opinion entitled «How to construct a Europe of healthcare». It sets out 17 recommendations to establish as a political priority on the agenda of European bodies and countries «the construction of a Europe of Healthcare, based on a single model, in line with Europe's values and tailored to the needs of citizens».

[More info](#)



Launch of the «LKT» Eurometropolis's European Citizens' Space

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2022

At the invitation of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis Agency, the MOT went to Tournai on 25 May 2022 to take part in the launch of the first «European Citizens' Space». Designed in a 100% cross-border spirit, this initiative brings together ten Walloon, ten Flemish and ten French citizens, all selected at random, as well as ten representatives from European institutions, MEPs, think tanks, etc. A logical follow-up to the three consultations «Europe : Je t'aime... Moi non plus ?» organised by the Eurometropolis between 2018 and 2019, this first meeting put ecology at the heart of the discussions.

These discussions, which were facilitated using collective intelligence methods, focused on the ecological future of the Eurometropolis territory: air quality, territorial food supply plans, public transport, raising the awareness of the youngest citizens of ecological issues, food, and so on. With this initiative, the Eurometropolis Agency is hoping to succeed in building, together with



motivated citizens, a permanent forum for dialogue capable of raising issues and making concrete proposals to be submitted to the highest European bodies.

[More info](#)



Progress in the area of cross-border monitoring?

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022



Summary of the conference held on 24-25 May by CESCO, in partnership with the MOT and the French Institute in Budapest.

Statistics more often than not stop at the border and thus building comparable datasets which are essential for proper cross-border spatial planning is extremely difficult. This is why CESCO together with its partners, the MOT and the French Institute in Budapest organised between 24-25th of May an international conference with the participation of several of the most esteemed experts of the topic to map out what tools are in place already and also what still needs

to be jointly done to improve the spatial monitoring in the EU.

In particular, the challenges and initiatives regarding spatial monitoring carried out at local, national and European level were discussed.

The European Commission's DG REGIO presented its programme to support cross-border cooperation – in addition to Interreg – within the framework of the CBCRII pilot project funded by the European Parliament. This comprises work looking at the impacts of the measures taken on borders linked to the pandemic on cross-border regions and cross-border public services; and upcoming

work: setting up an online European platform for cross-border services, EGTCs and other cross-border structures, and solutions to cross-border obstacles; and lastly, an experiment regarding co-development, cross-border spatial planning and multi-level governance.

The DG REGIO representative emphasised that this programme can only be implemented with the support of all of the players. Its ultimate goal is to contribute to the redesigning of the multi-level governance of the management of borders (as «lines» but also as «cross-border regions») within the framework of the legislative processes embarked on by the EU.

The pilot project carried out by the Commission will require the involvement of local and regional players in cross-border territories, but also governments and public technical assistance structures (such as the MOT, the AEBR and CESCO).

The presentations can now be viewed on the event's website.

[More info](#)


University cooperation transcends borders PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2022

Focus on two border initiatives at the heart of the European project:

A «UNIVERSITY COOPERATION STRATEGY» FOR THE NOUVELLE AQUITAINE-EUSKADI-NAVARRA EUROREGION

Published following the first forum for universities of the Euroregion that took place in March 2022, this strategy, which was co-designed with players in the sector, highlights «the potentialities and needs of Euroregional university cooperation». «This cooperation will make it possible to promote education and research without borders in the Euroregional academic sphere and to facilitate the mobility of students, teaching staff and researchers. The Nouvelle Aquitaine Euskadi Navarra Euroregion EGTC is taking on a key role in this strategy, as a promoter, catalyst and facilitator of Euroregional university cooperation.»

FOUR «CROSS-BORDER PROFESSORSHIPS» FOR THE UPPER RHINE

During the visits of the Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg, Winfried Kretschmann, to Strasbourg and Kehl in March and April 2022, four cross-border professorships that are being created at Eucor – The European Campus were presented. Set up in 1989, Eucor is a grouping of five universities located in the Upper Rhine region: Basel, Freiburg, Haute-Alsace, Strasbourg and the Karlsruher Institut für Technologie. With over 117,000 students, it offers ten or so joint courses that lead to double or triple degrees, while all students are able to attend the courses of their choice in the five institutions without having to duplicate administrative procedures or pay additional fees. «With the creation of four cross-border professorships, Eucor – The European Campus is succeeding with a pioneering project at European level,» declared Minister-President Winfried Kretschmann during his visit to Strasbourg.

[More info](#)


EUCOR Université Freiburg.
© Sandra Meyndt

THE MAPS

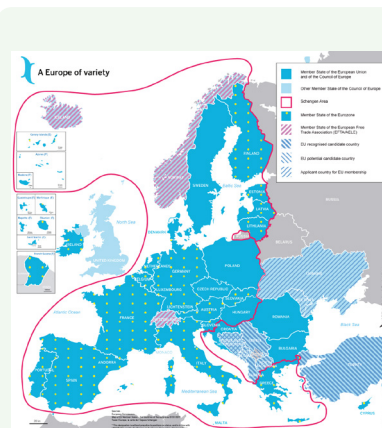
A cross-border map every Monday with #lundicarto

Since November 2021, the MOT publishes each Monday on Twitter a map on cross-border territories and cooperation in Europe.

All these maps can be consulted on the MOT website:

[More info](#)

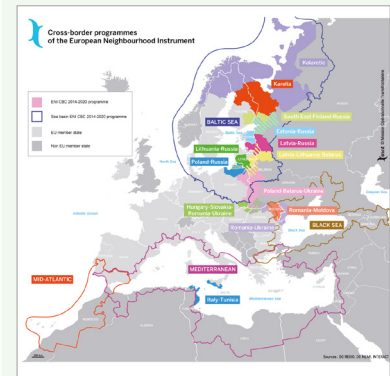
BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE 2022,
HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED:



A EUROPE OF VARIETY: EUROPEAN UNION, EUROZONE, SCHENGEN AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE

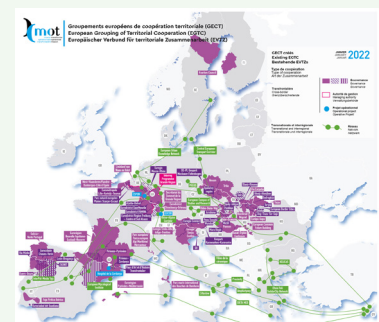
DID YOU KNOW THAT?
cross-border regions are included in the reform of the Schengen area

[More info](#)



CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMES OF THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD INSTRUMENT

[More info](#)



THE EUROPEAN GROUPINGS OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION (EGTC) IN EUROPE

DID YOU KNOW THAT?
the Eurometropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai is the 1st EGTC created in Europe

[More info](#)



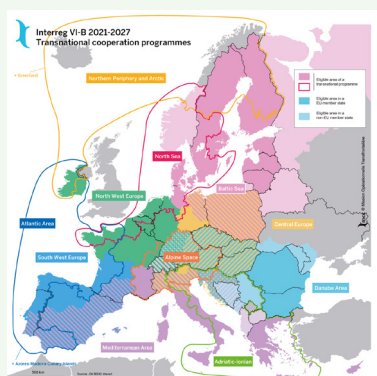


TWIN-TOWNS, MUNICIPALITIES OR ASSOCIATIONS PARTNERSHIPS

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

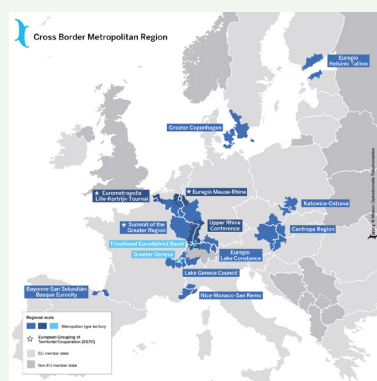
there are 37 agglomerations in Europe, including 11 on the French borders

More info



**INTERREG TRANSNATIONAL
COOPERATION PROGRAMMES
IN EUROPE**

More info



CROSS BORDER METROPOLITAN REGION

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

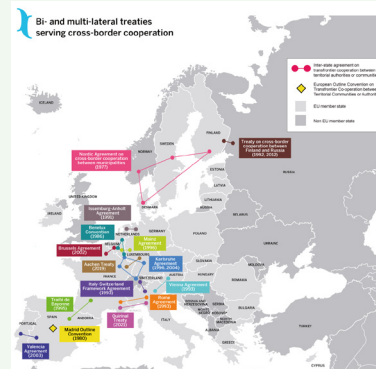
3 of them have set up an EGTC

More info



STRAITS AS CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES

More info



BI- AND MULTI-LATERAL TREATIES SERVING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPE

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The Madrid Outline Convention of 21 May 1980 is the founding act of the legal framework for cross-border cooperation in Europe

More info

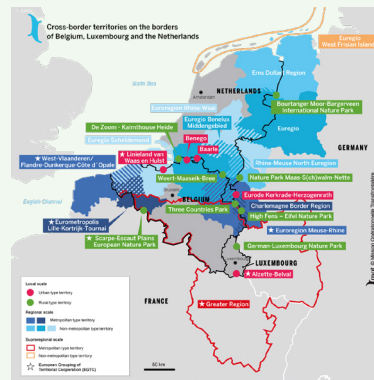




CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES ON THE BORDERS OF GERMANY

DID YOU KNOW THAT?
**a cross-border
dimension has been
integrated into German
spatial planning policy
by both the Länder and
the federal level**

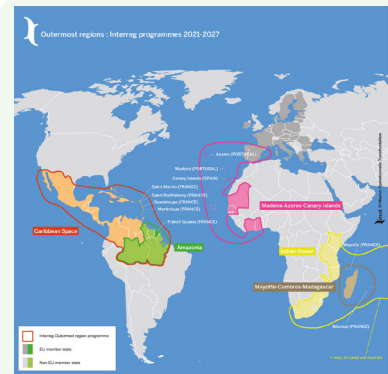
More info → 



CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES ON THE BORDERS OF BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND THE NETHERLANDS

DID YOU KNOW THAT?
**the Benelux countries
have almost 120,000
cross-border workers in
2020**

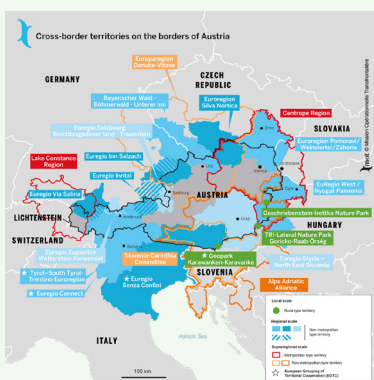
More info → 



OUTERMOST REGIONS: INTERREG PROGRAMMES 2021-2027

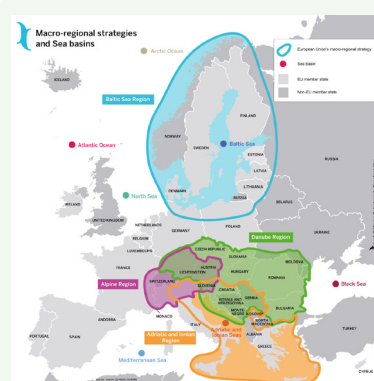
DID YOU KNOW THAT?
**the EU has 9 outermost
regions that are
geographically very
distant from the
European continent**

More info → 



CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES ON THE BORDERS OF AUSTRIA

More info → 



MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND SEA BASINS

More info → 



CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES ON THE BORDERS OF ITALY

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Italy has more than **130,000** cross-border workers, most of whom are employed in Switzerland (64%), in **2020**

More info →



CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES ON THE BORDERS OF SPAIN

DID YOU KNOW THAT?
the cross-border areas between France, Andorra and Portugal represent more than **12** million inhabitants

More info →



CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES ON THE BORDERS OF HUNGARY

DID YOU KNOW THAT?
Hungary holds the European record of **23** EGTCs at its borders

More info →



CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES ON THE BORDERS OF POLAND

DID YOU KNOW THAT?
Poland has more than **200,000** border workers (in 2021)

More info →



CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES ON THE BORDERS OF ROMANIA

DID YOU KNOW THAT?
130,000 border workers reside mainly in the north-east of the country near Moldova and Ukraine (in 2021)

More info →

THE DOCS

MOT PUBLICATIONS



THEMATIC FOCUS

Cross-border public services

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2022

To coincide with the updating of the section of its website devoted to public services, the MOT has published a new edition of its thematic brochure «Focus» (in French).

[More info](#)



PRESS KIT OF THE 2ND BORDERS FORUM

Cross-border territories: fatalism or resilience?

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022

In the face of the crises that we have been dealing with for the past 20 years, should we resign ourselves to a situation where borders are reduced to mere dividing lines? Or are we capable collectively of demonstrating resilience and of regarding borders as shared territories that are sources of progress?

[More info](#)



MULTI-PARTNER STUDY

Impacts of cross-border teleworking: «From marginal to essential»

PUBLISHED IN MAY 2022

Supported by ten of its members, the MOT has published its first multi-partner study on cross-border teleworking and its impacts in terms of co-development.



Having been fairly marginal up until early 2020, teleworking saw a boom in France as in the rest of Europe due to the restrictions linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This development was particularly marked in border territories, which faced a form of «national lockdown» following the partial or total closure of Europe's internal borders. This led to rapid growth in cross-border teleworking.

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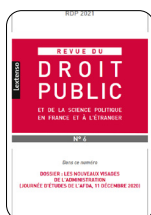
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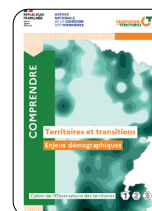


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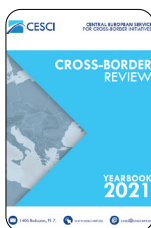


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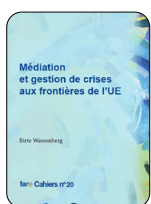
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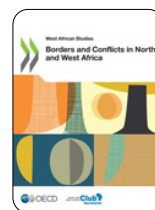
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Documentary portal

This publications are available in the MOT's documentary portal. Specialising in cross-border cooperation, this contains over 4,800 documents and documentary references (2500 available online).

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Cross-border News

Retrospective #02
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