

# Cross-border News

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July – December  
2021



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# IN THE TERRITORIES

**BASEL TRINATIONAL EURODISTRICT:**

## Involving inhabitants in thinking about the future of their trinational region

PUBLISHED IN JULY 2021

The health situation threw up a major challenge – that of providing a suitable format for citizens' participation in the middle of a pandemic. In collaboration with the Euro-Institut and the MOT, the Basel Trinational Eurodistrict (ETB) developed a concept organised around a questionnaire and several virtual events. The aim was both to ensure broad participation from the population and to facilitate real exchanges between citizens from the three countries.

The large number of participants and very high proportion of responses to the questions posed attest to the great desire of the population to take part in the thinking about the future of the trinational region. Indeed, living in the border region is regarded as an asset by 88% of the people questioned. In order to fully benefit from the region's potential, citizens wish above all to see improved cross-border mobility and reliable cross-border information. With 402 concrete wishes and ideas for diverse projects – whether it be bus services, a cross-border volunteering platform or a big post-Covid trinational celebration – the



region's citizens have made promising suggestions for the future. In workshops preceding the main event, the citizens' forum, the participants themselves chose the themes that seemed particularly important to them for the future of the cross-border region. It was these themes that around 50 citizens discussed in trinational groups at an online forum with a view to proposing concrete projects. The results of this participatory process will inform the discussions about the

ETB's Strategy 2030 within its political and technical working groups. In these groups, the right interlocutors and the feasibility of project ideas will be identified.

[More info](#) →



**Thomas Zeller,**  
President of the Basel  
Trinational Eurodistrict,  
Vice-President of  
the Saint-Louis  
Conurbation and  
Mayor of Hegenheim



The Basel trinational conurbation is a genuinely shared living area that is strongly interconnected. In designing our Strategy 2030, it seemed extremely important to us to set our goals in accordance with what matters to the region's population. What are the concerns of the inhabitants of our territory? How can their ideas inform our cross-border projects? As experts in daily life, the region's inhabitants, with their wealth of experience, know exactly which areas of cross-border cooperation need improvement. In this very unusual year, it has been very difficult, even impossible, for the region's inhabitants to come together. It therefore seemed all the more important to give the population an opportunity to discuss the future

of their common region. To enable them to discuss what works, but also the obstacles they encounter in their daily lives. And to enable them to put forward their ideas to build their future together. These discussions strengthen the feeling of belonging to a region that only realises its full potential when neighbours work hand-in-hand. We have been excited by the interest that the population has shown in our citizens' consultation. Some 1200 people have shared their experiences regarding the cross-border obstacles they face and have sent to us their ideas for our fruitful coexistence across borders. It is now up to us to make good use of these many ideas and we are already looking forward to continuing a lively dialogue with the population.

## Online survey – Franco-Belgian border: share your experience of the Covid-19 crisis

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2021



The health crisis put the inhabitants of border regions in an unprecedented position that placed a strain on all aspects of their daily lives. In this case, the daily lives of the inhabitants of the cross-border living area of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis were seriously disrupted. The concrete effects of these restrictions need to be analysed in greater depth to learn the lessons in order to act better in the future. In this context, your experience as a citizen, worker or entrepreneur living or working in this cross-border territory is indispensable! The contributions received will inform work carried out by the Lille Metropolis Development and Urban Planning Agency (ADULM) and the MOT, in partnership with the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis.

[More info](#)



## Development of healthcare cooperation in the Greater Region

PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2021



On 31 August 2021, the Belgian and Luxembourg Ministers of Health signed a declaration of intent with a view to negotiating a framework agreement on cross-border healthcare cooperation between the two countries.

The aims of this cooperation comprise:

- improving access to high-quality healthcare for residents in border areas and continuity of care for these residents;
- improving the performance of both healthcare systems by pooling the treatments on offer on both sides of the border to take advantage of complementarities;

- developing exchanges of good practices and cooperation between healthcare professionals;
- and pooling knowledge and practices in the healthcare sector.

The press conference with the Belgian Minister of Health, Frank Vandenbroucke, that followed can be downloaded on the websites of the GEIE OEST and the Interreg V GR COSAN project.

[More info](#)





## THE DOUBS URBAN CONURBATION:

# "We need to develop local cross-border cooperation"

PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 2021

Seven years after its creation, the LGCC of the Doubs Urban Conurbation (Agglomération Urbaine du Doubs – AUD) has shown its effectiveness in helping local elected representatives to get to know one another better, which has enabled them to set out joint projects while at the same time speaking with one voice on behalf of the binational territory.



An urban and economic centre at the heart of the Jura Arc, the cross-border interactions here are numerous. The area is unusual in having an economy based on identical and complementary sectors in the fields of microtechnology and micromechanics. However, while there is a steadily growing number of cross-border workers and a buoyant tourism sector bringing in visitors with purchasing power, its incomplete road network and a rail link that struggles to meet users' needs constitute barriers to its accessibility. This need to improve mobility, both internally and externally, is now a priority.



The AUD is also active in other areas that are vital for its attractiveness, such as spatial planning, healthcare and citizenship, in liaison with the higher and competent authorities concerned. The aim is to arrive at a competitive and sustainable balance, while remaining faithful to the framework agreement adopted by Neuchâtel Canton, the Burgundy – Franche-Comté Region and the Doubs Department.

"It is our duty to develop local cross-border cooperation by involving civil society. With no linguistic barrier, we can only strengthen our common identity, by encouraging the

spread of information about cross-border activities in areas such as training, culture and youth. It is also our role to support cross-border micro-projects and events. Our new website<sup>1</sup> is a first response to this need. Today it's a crucial challenge within our societies that are tending to turn in on themselves," Pierre Vaufrey President of the Doubs Urban Conurbation and Deputy Mayor of Morteau, explains.

[More info](#) →

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.agglomeration-urbaine-du-doubs.com/>



## Pierre Vaufrey, President of the Doubs Urban Conurbation and Deputy Mayor of Morteau



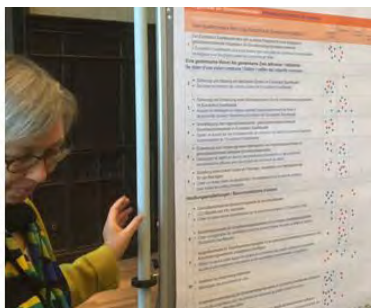
The Doubs Urban Conurbation was set up in 2006. Initially an informal collaboration, it led to the creation of a local grouping of cross-border cooperation, the only one in the Franco-Swiss Jura Arc running between the Basel Trination Eurodistrict and Greater Geneva. Today the LGCC comprises the Val de Morteau group of municipalities and the towns of Chaux-de-Fonds and Le Locle.

This binational area of over 68,000 inhabitants, a real shared living space, represents 37,000 jobs on either side of the border and nearly 10,000 cross-border workers. The largest economic and residential centre in the Jura mountain range, the cradle of Swiss and French watchmaking and ideally located on the route from Besançon to Bern,

this territory with a strong industrial vocation is developing high-level expertise in a well-preserved natural setting. Our goal is to contribute to balanced, socially-equitable, competitive and sustainable development in a context where mobility (rail services, road infrastructure and eco-friendly transport) is a major challenge due to the mountainous terrain. In parallel, we are working to promote a shared territorial identity with the aim of creating a genuine sense of cross-border citizenship in order to end a mode of operating based solely on economic opportunism. We are therefore extremely happy to be hosting the MOT's general assembly this year, and to acquaint you with our territory and its challenges.

## Two Franco-German "Planspiele" devoted to border regions

PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2021



Concrete expressions of the Aachen Treaty, two MORO1 pilot projects on the Franco-German border aim to strengthen the cross-border dimension of territorial development practices, using an innovative method that has been widely tried out in Germany – the "Planspiel"<sup>2</sup>:

- In the Upper Rhine region, the work of the Planspiel is focused on the "design of a cross-border multi-site hub for businesses". The aim is to draw on integrated development of the territory to strengthen the economic attractiveness of the border region and take advantage of the Upper Rhine's specific development potential. Its authorised representative is the Grand Est Region. Two project groups have been set up: a "multi-site business hub" group and an "economy" group.
- In the Greater Region, the work took place on 7-8 September and 4-5 October in the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict. It focused on "the development of an integrated

cross-border conurbation". The aim was to devise a process to enable the drawing-up of a cross-border coordination strategy for the conurbation, which, although it has been structured as an EGTC since 2010, currently does not have any such strategy. Its authorised representative is the Saarbrücken Regionalverband. Three project groups have been set up around the three predefined priorities: a "conurbation concept" group; a "commerce" group; and a "mobility and territorial development" group. The MOT has provided an external contribution to the former two and was an observer at the SaarMoselle Planspiel.

The two pilot projects are structured around a common schedule and timeframe, which ensures the comparability of their findings and makes possible their mirroring

[More info](#) →

## "Towards the setting-up of a spatial observation system for Germany and its neighbouring regions"

On 14 September, the MOT presented "France's activities in the area of cross-border observation" at the final conference of the MORO spatial planning demonstration project "Towards the setting-up of a spatial observation system for Germany and its neighbouring regions" organised by the BBSR. The recommendations of this project are as follows: to create a cross-border database on Germany's borders; to create an app to allow the data to be viewed; and to establish this system of cross-border observation at the federal level. An ambitious and inspiring programme for French players involved in spatial observation!

[More info](#) →

<sup>1</sup> "Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning" (MORO) conducted by the BBR/BBSR (German Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning).

<sup>2</sup> The "Planspiel" is a kind of role play that uses "flash mob" methods to involve a large number of players around two sessions each lasting two days.

## FRANCO-LUXEMBOURG ICG:

# Progress notably in the areas of transport and teleworking

PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER 2021

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Following the sixth Franco-Luxembourg Intergovernmental Commission (ICG) that took place on 19 October in Belval in the presence of the Minister of State Clément Beaune, agreements between the two countries were reached notably with respect to transport and teleworking.

Among the advances made:

- 34 days of tax exemption instead of 29 for French teleworkers employed in Luxembourg;
- improvements in mobility and an additional €110 million invested by Luxembourg in its rail links;
- improving cross-border security;

- extension of the area of free transport;
- agreements regarding the training of healthcare professionals, as well as in the area of scientific and academic cooperation.

[More info](#)


## Health crisis: a tool to facilitate cross-border movements between France, Germany and Switzerland

PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER 2021



At a time when the pandemic is on the rise again in Europe and health measures are being strengthened on both sides of the Rhine, the European Territorial Authority of Alsace and the Grand Est Region, in cooperation with the Centre Européen de la Consommation (European Centre for Consumer Protection) and the INFOBEST network, have made available a digital tool to aid with crossing borders. Comprising a web form, it is designed to inform the user about the rules to be complied with when going to the neighbouring countries, depending on the reason for their journey. The aim is to make travel in the Franco-German-Swiss area easier

[More info](#)


## A new strategy for the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Euskadi Navarra Euroregion

PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER 2021

On the 10th anniversary of its creation on 27 October, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Euskadi Navarra Euroregion presented its new strategic plan.

This plan, which covers the period 2021-2027 marked by the beginning of the exit from the health crisis, incorporates an approach based on a territorial model of resilience to crisis situations.

Its priorities are aligned with the European agenda, the goals of ETC and the major current issues: energy-environment, new technologies-digital and demography-social action.

Drawn up with input from a large number of citizens, it aims to remove obstacles to the development of the cross-border area and to turn them into opportunities.

[More info](#)




# TERACTION: proactive Franco-Italian partners join the MOT's network

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021

On 5 November 2021, the MOT team had the pleasure of hosting the partners of the integrated territorial plan known as GraiesLab – Active And Innovative Rural Generations – in their offices for a work meeting.

Supported by the Interreg programme ALCOTRA, GraiesLab is made up of four projects: InnovLab, ExplorLab, SocialLab and Mobilab, all contributing to a joint cross-border strategy through a multi-thematic approach. The work methodology used is based on open co-creation approaches and Living Labs set up for each project. This Franco-Italian integrated territorial plan (PITer) is now working to create a new cross-border structure to deepen and expand the existing cooperation over the coming years. Following the same logic, the five entities involved in this integrated territorial plan



(the Cœur de Savoie and Versants d'Aime groupings of Savoie municipalities, the Italian Local Action Groups of the Canavese and the Lanzo, Ceronda and Casternone Valleys, and the Grand Paradis Union of Val d'Aosta municipalities) have recently joined the MOT network in order to benefit from its assistance in the legal structuring of this initiative. The first stage in this

process consists in setting up a cross-border association under Italian law called TERACTION.

The MOT will follow this initiative closely in order to support its new members in their work aimed at building links across the Alps.

[More info](#)



## Towards greater cooperation around Monte Viso

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021



Continuing a collaboration going back 30 years, the territories located south of Monte Viso (3,841 metres), the iconic mountain in the Southern Alps, are structuring their cooperation within the framework of an integrated territorial

plan supported by the ALCOTRA programme, known as "Terres Monviso".

This cross-border development plan brings together no fewer than 25 partners, including the three French groupings of municipalities (the Guillestrois and Queyras, Serre-Ponçon and Ubaye-Serre-Ponçon Valley groupings of municipalities), six mountain federations of the Province of Cuneo and six municipalities from the Plain of Saluzzese, representing a total of 155,000 inhabitants and 68 municipalities. On 7 September 2021, a focus group brought together in Caraglio (Cuneo, IT) all of the partners involved in "Terres Monviso", with the aim of discussing the recommendations drawn up by the Fondazione Santagata regarding the cultural economy and by the MOT with respect

to the legal and financial feasibility of the available governance tools, at the request of the cross-border coordinator of the project. This work yielded a conclusion pointing towards a flexible structure taking the form of a cross-border association, whose scope will be discussed soon by the partners. Over the coming months, the Franco-Italian partnership will set out the operational modalities to facilitate progress towards ever-greater cooperation.

[More info](#)





# Micro-projects to involve cross-border civil society

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021

Launched in 2017 for a five-year period, the project "Civil Society in the Upper Rhine" presented its final assessment at the closing day held by the PAMINA Eurodistrict EGTC on 9 November 2021 in Lauterbourg. Funded within the framework of the Interreg VA Upper Rhine programme, it aimed to "involve civil society players more in the joint construction of cross-border daily life".

It was led jointly by the four Eurodistricts in the Upper Rhine, under the responsibility of the Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict.

After five years, the assessment is positive: "A total of 62 micro-projects were carried out by civil society players and 19 Franco-German encounter projects by the Eurodistrict themselves, thus bringing together a total of 10,200 citizens in the Upper Rhine region." Several micro-projects were spotlighted for having made use of innovative approaches to keep their activities going in spite of the temporary closures of the borders.

These Franco-German projects could be a source of inspiration for other Interreg programmes, particularly in the context of the 2021-2027 ETC Regulation, which encourages the emergence of this type of "people-to-people" fund that can constitute up to 20% of the programme's overall budget.

[More info](#)



## TO NOTE

There are other innovative cooperation initiatives in terms of citizens' participation on other borders, such as between the Pyrénées Atlantiques Department and the Diputacion Forale de Gipuzkoa<sup>1</sup>, or between Tomiño and Cerveira (Spain-Portugal)<sup>2</sup>, each of which is running a "cross-border participatory budget" project involving civil society. These projects demonstrate the important role played by Eurodistricts and local cross-border structures in leading this type of project.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.le64.fr/lactualite-du-departement/convention-de-cooperation-transfrontaliere-entre-le-departement-des-https://www.mediabask.eus/fr/info\\_mbsk/20210419/le-departement-et-le-gipuzkoa-lancent-un-budget-participatif](https://www.le64.fr/lactualite-du-departement/convention-de-cooperation-transfrontaliere-entre-le-departement-des-https://www.mediabask.eus/fr/info_mbsk/20210419/le-departement-et-le-gipuzkoa-lancent-un-budget-participatif)

<sup>2</sup> <https://participacerveiratomiño.eu/>



# NETWORK EVENTS



ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT THE FRANCO-SWISS BORDER

## In Morteau, the MOT network calls for greater recognition of "cross-border living areas"

PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2021

In the presence of Joël Giraud, Minister of State for Rural Affairs under the Minister for Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local Government, more than a hundred participants from all of France's borders gathered for the MOT's general assembly on 21-22 September in Morteau and La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the invitation of the Doubs Urban Conurbation.



Indeed, the discussions highlighted the need of players on the ground to see better account taken of their cross-border issues, and their wishes with respect to the "3DS" bill – an opportunity that the network has not failed to seize by putting forward concrete proposals, like explicitly mentioning "cross-border living areas" or designating "national coordination points".

The location in which the assembly took place the field visits organised for the participants illustrated the concrete reality of the Franco-Swiss Jura Arc shared living area.

The four roundtables highlighted the experience of other cross-border territories with respect to the issues that they have in common. The first asked the question of how to reconcile residential attractiveness

and preservation of natural resources; the second that of the economic recovery: can it be cross-border and mutually supportive?; while the third, which elicited many questions from the audience, was devoted to cross-border citizens' and territorial inclusion. The fourth roundtable addressed mountain-related issues, and took place in the presence of the Doubs MP, Annie Genevard. These discussions can be (re)watched on the MOT's YouTube channel, as can the meetings of its bodies, which presented an assessment of the past year, approved the activity and financial reports, and elected the new representatives on the association's Board.

[More info](#)



**"I know your commitment and the MOT's missions: to support cross-border territories and to promote their collaboration as a network and their recognition. This is crucial work. Your role should be better recognised."**

**Joël Giraud**, MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL AFFAIRS UNDER THE MINISTER FOR TERRITORIAL COHESION AND RELATIONS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AT THE MOT'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY



**Christian Dupessey,**  
Mayor of Annemasse,  
President of the Met-  
ropolitan Pole of the  
French Genevois,  
re-elected the MOT's  
President



It is a great honour for me to be re-elected President of the MOT, and to be able to continue to champion with you the cross-border and European cause.

Over the past year, I have appreciated the value of our association, its network and its technical team.

The pandemic put back certain deadlines, but it has also given us an opportunity to review our working methods, and the MOT has reinforced its value added and continues to be a major reference point with regard to cross-border issues.

The crisis has highlighted the importance of the cross-border dimension in the lives of our fellow citizens, and the ability of our elected representatives to invent new solutions.

Cross-border identity has been strengthened, but the obstacles encountered by "cross-border living areas" remain. France's presidency of the EU must put cross-border issues at the heart of the European project. National coordination points need to be designated that function as a network along each border and across Europe, as is advocated by the proposed ECBM regulation on the resolution of cross-border obstacles. It is by continuing to work together at all levels that we will succeed in giving local players what they need to implement their projects, to overcome obstacles and to build in each territory cross-border governance capable of meeting the needs of citizens.

Conference

## "Cross-border rail connections" on 10-11 June

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2021

The MOT, in partnership with the PAMINA Eurodistrict and with the support of the European Committee of the Regions, held a high-level event on existing and missing cross-border rail links.

Taking place within the framework of the European Year of Rail, it enabled local, national and European rail and cross-border players to share experiences. It provided an opportunity to discuss the current challenges and obstacles regarding mobility in European cross-border territories, since no fewer than 13 EU countries were represented during the four roundtables.

The morning of 10 June was devoted to the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on cross-border rail transport. The first roundtable focused on functional urban areas with major commuter flows, such as the Øresund line (Copenhagen-Malmö) and the Léman Express. The second addressed small

rail-lines that link less densely populated areas, with the focus on their needs and current economic models.

The second morning was devoted to the missing links in Europe. First of all, the social, ecological and economic issues relating to certain missing links, such as the Colmar-Freiburg or Zaragoza-Canfranc-Pau lines were presented. Designed as a response to the previous one, the fourth roundtable brought together several political decision-makers and strategic players, who set out the path towards a more connected and greener Europe. They all took this opportunity to reiterate their support for local players that wish to see an end to these missing links, and they all, like Karl-Heinz Lambert, President of the AEBR, called for "enhanced cooperation to connect Europeans across borders".



The conference, which was simultaneously translated into three languages (FR-EN-DE) thanks to the support of the CoR, was followed by over 200 people from different European countries, including many cross-border and rail players.

[More info](#) →

# The MOT took part in the fifth European conference on participation

PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2021



The European conference on participation, organised by the "Décider Ensemble" network, took place in Amiens from 13 to 17 September.

Designing public services, involving citizens in the ecological transition and strengthening the European Union's representative institutions and democratic legitimacy were among the themes spotlighted at this conference of participatory democracy players.

The MOT made a contribution at a workshop co-organised by the French National Coordination of Development Councils and Democratic Society entitled: "Is it possible for cross-border civil society to form part of a collective narrative?" As well as the experiences of the development councils of the Lille and Strasbourg metropolises, the fostering of a feeling of belonging to a shared living area was discussed, to bolster user participation in the design of cross-border policies.

[More info](#)


**19<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES**

11-14 OCT 2021

**Together for Recovery**

SPEAKERS:

**Ádám Karácsony**  
  
 Member of the European Committee of the Regions, Rapporteur for air policy

**Françoise Schaetzel**  
  
 Vice President of ATMO Grand Est ; Vice President of the Eurométropole of Strasbourg in charge of air quality

**Raphaële Deprost**  
  
 Head of Transboundary, European and International Projects Unit at ATMO Grand-Est

**Lioba Markl-Hummel**  
  
 Director of the Ortenau Energy Agency; former project Manager at the EGTC Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict

**Loïc Delhuyenne**  
  
 Managing director of the EGTC Eurometropolis Lille Kortrijk Tournai

#EURegionsWeek

## EURegionsWeek – "Breathing without borders": the MOT's workshop

PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2021

At a time when environmental health is a growing concern for citizens and the Commission is launching its ambitious "Zero-pollution action plan" within the framework of the European Green Deal, the MOT and its network decided to organise a workshop entitled "Breathing without borders: challenges in improving air quality in cross-border regions" during the European Week of Cities and Regions.

[More info](#)


**19<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES**

13 OCT 2.30 PM

**A WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE MOT**

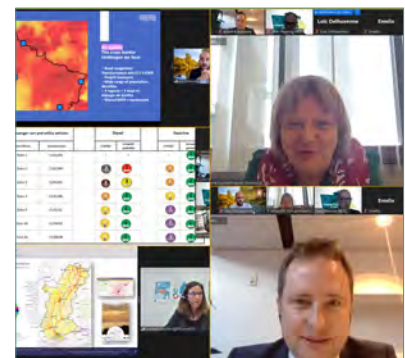
**BREATHING WITHOUT BORDERS:**  
 CHALLENGES TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN CROSS-BORDER REGIONS

#EURegionsWeek



### TO NOTE

The MOT also took part in the workshop of the TEIN network: "Citizens at the forefront of the development of cross-border living areas".

[More info](#)




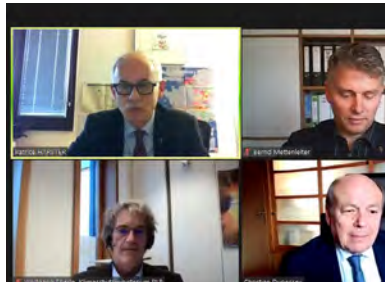
# Towards a cross-border circular economy?

PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER 2021

On 18 November, the PAMINA Eurodistrict, in partnership with the MOT, held a seminar on the circular economy in the cross-border setting.

With contributions from regional institutions (the Grand Est Region, Baden-Württemberg Landtag, Land of Rhineland-Palatinate and Canton of Basel-Country), national institutions (Luxembourg Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning) and European ones (the Commission, DG Environment and DG REGIO), the day was an opportunity to highlight the cross-cutting approach and different levels of action that the circular economy is based on.

While studies and initial cooperation initiatives can be supported by the forthcoming Interreg programme cycle, this will not be sufficient to deal with all of the issues of research and development, or of convergence of processing and transformation infrastructures that the circular economy in a cross-border setting requires. To address this, players



need to formulate effective common strategic commitments. The challenge is a major one, as is illustrated by the initial work carried out across the Greater Region to align in the cross-border setting objectives with respect to conservation of soil and resources, cohesion and employment, economic development and agriculture. The representatives of the European Commission reaffirmed Europe's commitment to expand its work in this area, within the framework of the Green New Deal.

The MOT's President, Christian Dupessey, concluded the discussions by highlighting



the usefulness of the MOT's network and the pioneering work of Greater Geneva on this issue. He underlined that "the circular economy isn't a fashion, it's a different way of seeing development", and emphasised the need to support economic players in order to foster the implementation of cross-border approaches for the sector. This initial series of discussions will thus be the first of many!

[More info](#)



## Launch of a working group on the ecological transition

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021

A new MOT working group was launched on 14 December 2021, with 35 participants from varied backgrounds and sectors (protected natural areas, energy, transport, etc.). This first participative session was held under the title "Co-creating the 'Cross-border Ecological Transition' Group". It was led by two active members of the MOT network – Trinational Eurodistrict Basel and AUDAB (Besançon centre Franche-Comté Urban Planning Agency).

Its objective: to identify the challenges, the difficulties, and the keys to success to be taken into account in the implementation of cross-border projects related to the ecological transition.

Thanks to the many testimonies from participants and initial work focused on three key issues – governance, citizenship and co-development – the participants can now move forward in identifying the priority issues for the group's work during its subsequent meetings. Enough to fuel constructive collaboration for 2022!



The Rhine between Basel, Huningue and Weil am Rhein, with the "Dreiländereck" (border between the three countries which illustrates cross-border cooperation) in the background and the port of Basel, one of the challenges of which is to adapt to climate change through a terminal that will allow more goods to be transported by rail; and on the front, the green banks of the Rhine in an urban environment. © Hager Partner AG.

[More info](#)



# Bringing together cross-border territories in preparation for 2022!

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021



For the second consecutive year, the MOT organised nine "territorial meetings", so as to keep in close contact with the members of its network, and involve them in preparing its annual programme.

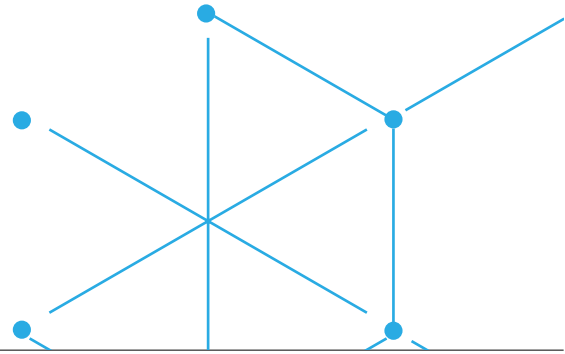
Held successively in Besançon, Strasbourg, Lille, Annemasse, Charleville-Mézières, Nice, Urrugne, Perpignan and Metz, both virtually and in person, the meetings brought together close to 200 participants in total. The aims were twofold: to bring together multi-stakeholder partnerships, within each cross-border territory, in order to identify the needs and expectations of all concerned, while taking into account their specificities; and then to determine the MOT's capacity to provide support and take action alongside the territories over the course of 2022.

These work meetings brought together local members of the network as well as key players in cross-border cooperation. For the first time, these meetings were also open to local elected officials and decision makers. After identifying the priority cross-border issues for each territory, a session entirely dedicated to the setting up of projects allowed the MOT team to sketch out several projects, in accordance with the expectations of the MOT's members and partners. A number of ideas spanning across several territories were highlighted, such as the need for a global or systemic strategy

on mobility, or the need for mutual recognition of qualifications to encourage cross-border training and employment. In matters of governance, several participants expressed the need for training on cross-border issues for local elected officials. The necessity for agreement on the definition of cross-border living areas was also raised multiple times. The topic of citizenship was raised several times, and the MOT was asked to provide methodological support in facilitating cross-border citizen dialogue. Finally, participants identified the need for more structured and more ambitious approaches with regard to cross-border observation across the territory. These propositions were presented during the MOT board meeting held on 9 December, so that they can be disseminated to all network members and submitted to a vote at the General Assembly in early 2022.

[More info](#)


# FRANCE/ BILATERAL



## Berlin Franco-German Declaration and implementation of the Aachen Treaty

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2021

The latest Franco-German Council of Ministers, which met on 31 May 2021 alongside the meeting between Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel, took stock of the implementation of the Aachen Treaty and the substantial advances in Franco-German cooperation over the past few months. It was also an opportunity to launch new cooperation initiatives, notably in the areas of healthcare, culture and youth, as well as to prepare for the major upcoming international and European events.

Two documents were published on this occasion: the Berlin Franco-German Declaration which enshrines strengthened implementation of key bilateral projects; and a second document devoted to implementation of the Aachen Treaty and to new projects.

[More info](#)



### TO NOTE

The Franco-German Cross-Border Cooperation Committee, established by the Aachen Treaty in order to “create enhanced decision-making capacity for cross-border cooperation involving all of the stakeholders concerned at all federal and administrative levels on both sides of the border” has launched a website.

### 4D bill: The MOT's proposals to strengthen the cross-border component

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2021

In anticipation of the reading of the 4D bill in Parliament, the MOT, on behalf of its network, has sent to the co-rapporteurs of the Senate's Law Commission on this legislation proposed amendments aimed at strengthening its cross-border component. The MOT intends to mobilise throughout the parliamentary process to enhance it, with the aid of this contribution.

[More info](#)



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## The interministerial "Future of mountains" plan unveiled

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2021

On 27 May 2021 the French Prime Minister, Jean Castex, presented the interministerial "Future of mountains" plan. In an interview with the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT), Joël Giraud, Minister of State for Rural Affairs, sets out the major components of this large-scale plan that will mobilise nearly €650 million.

He also presents the supporting programme "Future of mountains technical assistance",

which the ANCT and its five mountain range commissions are going to put in place to support around 60 territories in 2021 and 2022.

We may recall that mountain areas represent more than 40% of France's borders.

[More info](#)


## Meeting between the MOT's President and the Minister Clément Beaune

PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 2021

The MOT's President, Christian Dupessey, met the Minister Clément Beaune on 25 August to discuss the issues facing cross-border living areas and the MOT's role in supporting them.

[More info](#)


# In France, the cross-border dimension in the Conseil d'État's proposals to improve the use of the "state of emergency"

PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2021

The use of the state of emergency in three of the past six years has led the Conseil d'État, in the context of its 2021 annual study, to analyse the lessons learned from this exceptional measure.

It is proposing to establish principles of use with 15 proposals for improvement. Among them is the inclusion under France's presidency of the EU in the first half of 2022 of an "action plan drawing on the lessons of the terrorist crisis and the health crisis", including as "the main points: [...] stepping up cooperation around the issues

affecting cross-border workers; and the signature of bilateral or multilateral agreements on administrative cooperation between the administrations of border countries in areas useful in the management of major crises."

[More info](#)


## Small border towns: the MOT is involved alongside the ANCT

PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER 2021



As an “action partner”, the MOT is playing an active role in the “Small Towns of Tomorrow” programme being led by the ANCT (Agence Nationale de la Cohésion des Territoires – National Agency for Territorial Cohesion). On 25 October, it took part in the programme’s national conference, aimed at the

1600 participating towns. Bringing together no fewer than 600 participants, it provided an opportunity for numerous political and technical discussions between all of the stakeholders. The ministers Jacqueline Gourault, Joël Giraud and Brigitte Bourguignon recalled the fundamental aspects of the framework of intervention, notably the “bespoke” aspect of the programme: the means used are tailored to meet the needs identified by the recipient towns and groupings of municipalities. One of the main measures currently available is technical support to local authorities, with subsidies to help recruit “Small Towns of Tomorrow project managers” in the target territories.

In parallel with the plenary sessions, a forum of the partners took place, a space that enabled representatives of the recipient towns to meet the associations and public bodies that are partners in the programme. This forum gave the MOT the opportunity to present to more than ten border towns the possibility available to them to request technical assistance from the MOT and support in drawing up their regeneration projects in order to incorporate cross-border issues and actions into them.

[Plus d'infos](#) →

## The Quirinal Treaty: a historical advance for Franco-Italian cross- border cooperation

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021

On the eve of France’s presidency of the EU, the French President, Emmanuel Macron, and the head of the Italian government, Mario Draghi, have signed in Rome a bilateral cooperation treaty, the “Quirinal Treaty”. Sixty years after the signature of the Franco-German Élysée Treaty, this “friendship pact” is historical and marks the desire, at the highest level of state, to advance Franco-Italian cross-border cooperation.

The Quirinal Treaty comprises twelve articles. It is accompanied by a roadmap that “sets out the areas for cooperation and projects that the two countries intend to put in place”. Article 10 of the Treaty is devoted to cross-border cooperation. It emphasises recognition of the Franco-Italian border as a “continuous living area in which the French and Italian populations share a common destiny”, and establishes a “border cooperation committee” dedicated to cross-border issues in the same vein as the Franco-German committee set up by the Aachen Treaty. The MOT will engage fully with these advances, especially with respect to the issues of governance (cooperation committee) and observation, where its network and expertise constitute a major asset.



[More info](#) →

### Article 10 sets out the following concrete objectives:

1. to facilitate “the daily lives of the inhabitants of these territories”;
2. to give players “the appropriate competences to stimulate exchanges and cooperation”, to support “projects that foster the integration of this area and the realisation of its human, economic and environmental potential”, “to strengthen cross-border cooperation in the area of healthcare and assistance from emergency services”,<sup>1</sup> to adopt “the regulatory changes and [submit] to their parliaments the legislative changes needed to remove obstacles to border cooperation, including for the creation of joint public services in the areas of social services, healthcare, the environment, energy, education culture and transport”;
3. to extend cooperation in the area of security;
4. to develop a more integrated “rail, road and maritime cross-border transport network”;<sup>2</sup>
5. to promote “the training of bilingual French- and Italian-speakers”;
6. to study “developments in the border region through the creation of a network of their territorial observation bodies”.
7. The Treaty also provides for the creation of the “border cooperation committee”: “chaired by the Parties’ competent ministers, [it] brings together representatives of local authorities, border territorial authorities and border cooperation bodies, parliamentarians and representatives of central government. [It] meets at least once a year, may propose border cooperation projects in all areas of public policy, and any type of solution to implement them, including where necessary legal, legislative or regulatory ones. [It] may meet [...] in the event of a crisis liable to affect both sides of the border.”

<sup>1</sup> The roadmap develops the area of “providing emergency assistance on either side of the border” and proposes “to begin negotiations on a cross-border agreement on cooperation between hospitals”, designed to be operational “in case of emergency or crisis”.

<sup>2</sup> The roadmap emphasises the improvement of cross-border transport links.

## A cross-border component for the Sambre-Avesnois-Thiérache Pact

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021

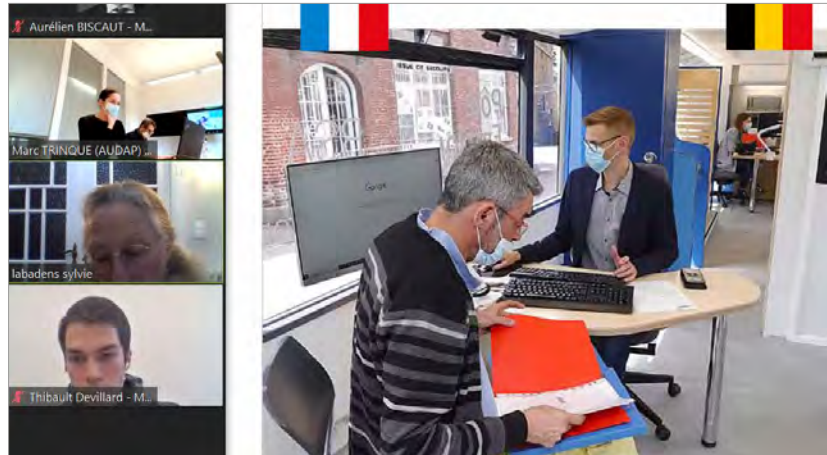


On 19 November 2021, the French President Emmanuel Macron came to the Avesnois and the Thiérache to sign a second-generation contract between the French state and the territory. Via the assessment carried out and the actions programmed, several “cross-border reflexes” are identified, with strategic impacts for the French-Belgian territory, which include: the establishment of a cross-border cooperation committee, railway interoperability, a common waterways plan, cross-border district heating loops, employment market governance, tourism, and healthcare cooperation. The President of the Maubeuge Val de Sambre Conurbation Community (CAMVS), Benjamin Saint-Huile, is one of the signatories of the Pact. In parallel, the CAMVS has initiated a process supported by the MOT for the development of a cross-border strategy.

[More info](#) →

## The MOT facilitated a workshop on public services during the FNAU national meetings

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021



On the occasion of the 42<sup>nd</sup> national meetings of the FNAU, the MOT jointly led a workshop with the Agence d'Urbanisme Atlantique et Pyrénées (AUDAP) on the topic of public service provision and access in cross-border contexts.

The session was introduced by Jean-René Etchegaray, President of the Basque Country Conurbation Community.

The session saw the presentation of innovative public-sector approaches for strengthening cross-border cohesion: support centres for administrative procedures (EMPLOE portal of the Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre EGTC, “France Services” of the Nord department), public services and

emergency services provided jointly on both sides of the border (schools, nurseries, housing, etc. of the Sare municipality, and the Nord and Pyrénées-Atlantiques departments).

In conjunction with the work of the urban planning agencies, the workshop also highlighted the development of cross-border mobility provision (Basque Country-Adour Mobility Union) and the observation of public service access issues (Agence d'Urbanisme Flandres Dunkerque – AGUR).

[More info](#) →

## New resolution adopted for “effective cross-border hospital cooperation”

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021



On 25 November 2021, a new resolution submitted by Antoine Herth, MP for the Bas-Rhin, for the development of better cross-border health cooperation between France and its neighbouring countries, has been adopted by the French National Assembly.

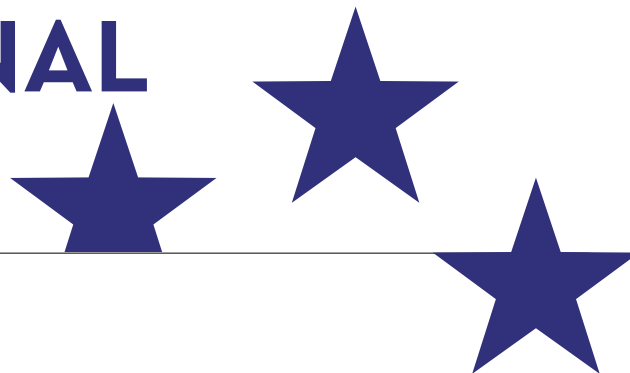
Restating the necessity of a comprehensive and coordinated approach going beyond “only

local initiatives” notably for deepening hospital cooperation in border regions, the goal is also to give impetus to “links and connections with neighbouring countries that have been lifesaving in a context of healthcare chaos”.

[More info](#) →



# EUROPE / INTERNATIONAL



## Cross-border players come together to relaunch cross-border cooperation

PUBLISHED IN JULY 2021

Organised by the European Committee of the Regions in association with the other founding partners of the European Cross-Border Citizens Alliance (the MOT, AEBC and, CESCO), on 5 July the Conference on the Future of Cross-Border Cooperation brought together nearly 200 participants.

During the event, the participants reviewed the effects of the health crisis, while at the same time identifying the current and future challenges for cross-border regions and setting out a forward-looking vision for cross-border cooperation, as a driver of integration for the future of Europe.

The event took place several days after the adoption, at the CoR's plenary session, of a resolution on the long-term future of cross-border cooperation, which will serve as its official contribution to the Conference on the Future of Europe.

This resolution had been preceded by a broad consultation conducted by the CoR, in which the representatives of border regions had cited cross-border transport and accessibility, as well as bureaucratic obstacles for citizens and businesses, as being the biggest obstacles faced by inhabitants in their territories.



The ECBM is regarded as being an essential tool to provide concrete solutions to these obstacles that are specific to the cross-border context. Despite the lack of consensus at the level of Member States, this conference was an opportunity for DG REGIO to reaffirm its determination to pursue the negotiations on the proposed regulation, pointing in particular to the results of the "b-solutions" initiative, which so far has made it possible to identify and respond to over 90 cases.

As the MOT's representative, Jean Peyrony stressed the lessons to be learned from the recent crisis on national borders, from the level of "cross-border living areas" to the European level, by way of the national level, which is decisive in the coordination of border restrictions.

[More info](#) →

## COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON THE RESTRICTION OF FREE MOVEMENT AND EC COMMUNICATION

## On drawing lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2021



© Alex LMX



On 14 June, the EU Council published a recommendation amending that of 2020 (No. 1475) on a coordinated approach to the restriction of free movement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It should be noted in point 15: "Member States should not require persons living in border regions and travelling across the border on a daily or frequent basis [...] to undergo a test or quarantine/self-isolation. If a testing requirement on cross-border travel is introduced in these regions, the frequency and type of tests on such persons should be proportionate [...]. If the epidemiological situation on both sides of the border is comparable, no travel-related testing requirement should be imposed."

More info



At the same time, on 15 June, the European Commission (EC) published a Communication to the Council, European Council, European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled: "Drawing the early lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic". It only deals marginally with the issue of border regions.

More info



## NEW REPORT BY THE COMMISSION:

## "EU border regions: living labs of European integration"

PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 2021

This European Commission report, published on 13 July, looks at the lessons of the Covid crisis and the initiatives carried out since the publication of its 2017 Communication "Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions".

It recalls the need to strengthen cross-border cooperation to make these regions more resilient and develop their potential in the face of persistent obstacles.

The 2017 Communication highlighted the remaining obstacles to cross-border cooperation. Ten actions were proposed to address them. These actions are reviewed in the Commission's new report with a view to strengthening the role of cross-border territories as major drivers of European integration.

The report sets out the progress made over the past few years through examples of good practices and the setting-up of initiatives such as the b-solutions initiative launched in 2017, which has helped to identify the main causes of legal and administrative obstacles and to put forward solutions to tackle them.



The actions proposed to strengthen cross-border cooperation are grouped into four main clusters:

- 1) **Resilience** through deeper institutional cooperation
- 2) More and better **cross-border public services**
- 3) Vibrant **cross-border labour markets**
- 4) Border regions for the **European Green Deal**

For each area, the report sets out the current situation, the actions carried out by the Commission to tackle the obstacles and the future actions planned.

More info

Special report  
of the European Court  
of Auditors on Interreg

PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 2021

In early July 2021, the European Court of Auditors published a report on the implementation of Interreg programmes. It highlighted that "the programmes have clear strategies for addressing the challenges facing the cross-border regions", but that they are "limited [in their ability] to unlock the potential of these regions".

They set out a number of recommendations to programme authorities and the Commission to better focus programmes, and to prioritise and support projects based on merit, as well as to define indicators that capture the cross-border effect of projects.

More info



## RESOLUTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS (CoR):

**"On a vision for Europe: the future of cross-border cooperation"**

PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 2021



Adopted on 1 July, this resolution constitutes an official contribution from the CoR to the Conference on the Future of Europe. It sets out the concrete proposals of the CoR and the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance (AEBR, MOT and CESC)

to put cross-border cooperation back at the top of the EU's policy agenda after a year disrupted by the pandemic.

The resolution calls on the European Commission to present a proposal for maintaining land and maritime cross-border cooperation and cross-border life in the event of an EU-wide or regionalised crisis.

Among the main points highlighted:

- A review of the existing legislation and treaties is needed in order to improve their implementation and to enable more effective cross-border cooperation.
- Regarding cross-border governance, it is crucial that cross-border structures, such as Euroregions and EGTCs, be given a more prominent role to facilitate the setting-up of joint cross-border projects. This requires in particular that all

European Commission services be aware of the existence of cross-border structures, especially EGTCs.

- In its resolution, the European Committee of the Regions also regrets that the discussions on the proposed European Cross-Border Mechanism (ECBM) have failed, as many legal and administrative obstacles continue to put serious limits on cross-border cooperation and the quality of life of citizens living in border regions.

The CoR is therefore calling for a new Commission initiative to revise the ECBM regulation that takes into account issues raised by Member States.

[More info](#)


# AEBR, MOT and CESC sign the "Strasbourg Declaration"

PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2021



## "Maintaining cross-border cooperation at the heart of the European project"

is the ambition of the "Strasbourg Declaration", signed on 7 October 2021, in Strasbourg, by the three founding partners of the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance. Placed under the auspices of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, this signature aims at affirming the commitment of AEBR (Association of European Border Regions), MOT (Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière) and CESC (Central

European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives) to establish "ever closer cooperation [...] to preserve what has already been achieved along the internal and external borders of the EU and to facilitate their further development". As set out in the first article of the Declaration: "The unprecedented outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 led national governments to apply certain measures with a view to protecting their citizens. These measures lacked coordination and had a devastating impact on the primary achievement of the EU: free movement. These measures had a particularly harmful effect on the lives of border citizens, many of them cross-border commuters, and on the health and social institutions in which they worked." This signing took place on the sidelines of the research seminar entitled "The model of the Franco-German border – Reconciliation, cooperation, integration", organised by the Jean Monnet FRONTM network, the aim of which was to study

the Franco-German border as a place of reconciliation and a model for European integration. The MOT contributed actively to it.

[More info](#)


## A FRANCO-GERMAN MANIFESTO

At this research seminar organised by the FRONTM network, a "Manifesto on the future of cross-border cooperation in Europe", addressed to France's presidency of the EU, and to the Conference on the Future of Europe, was published.

[More info](#)




PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2021



**“CONFERENCE ON CBC”** co-hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CESC and the Council of Europe, on 9-10 September in Budapest. Bringing together the V4 countries (Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, represented by their ambassadors in Hungary), representatives of DG REGIO and the Committee of the Regions, and the Alliance partners (MOT, AEBR and CESC), it provided an opportunity to discuss the legal and administrative obstacles between the four countries in the group, to present the V4's cooperation in terms of regional integration, and to raise awareness about the issue of overcoming obstacles to cooperation and the opportunities offered by the draft ECBM regulation.

More info



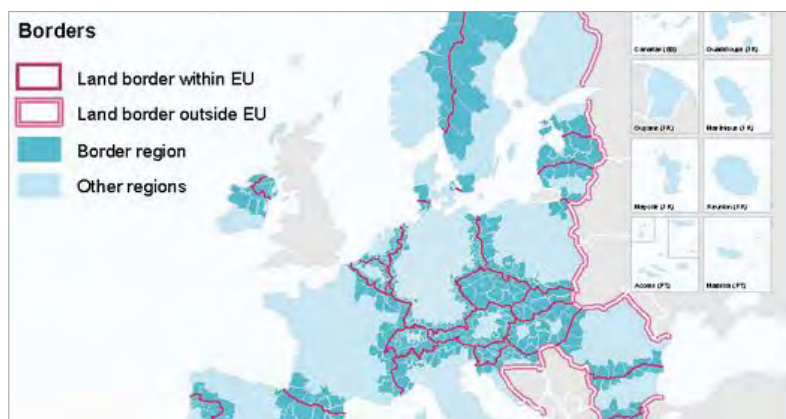
**“LEGAL ACCESSIBILITY AMONG THE VISEGRAD COUNTRIES”**, hosted by CESCI on 14-15 September in Visegrad, on the occasion of Hungary’s presidency of the Visegrad Group (V4). Its aim was to promote the Council of Europe’s instruments with respect to cross-border cooperation, on the occasion of Hungary’s presidency of the Council, and to promote exchanges of good practices among the member countries. It also brought together representatives from Ukraine, Armenia, Serbia and other countries in the Balkans. The MOT addressed the conference to present the “cooperation toolkit”, examples from France’s borders (the Franco-German Aachen Treaty), and the draft ECMB regulation.

[More info](#)

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and methodological reasons. Nevertheless, as this is a growing need, and some good examples are already set in place, the opportunity to scale up and build up a comprehensive, pan-European cross-border observation and monitoring approach is being supported at many levels, from European to local, as it could play an important role in removing obstacles and enhancing cohesion.”

More info



Together with its partners (Strasbourg University, Artois University, Thessaloniki University, MOT, CESCO, the Euro-Institut and the TEIN Network), the MOT is currently working on behalf of the European Commission to produce the first MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) devoted to European Territorial Cooperation (ETC).  
Registration opened in February 2022 for a first session in March 2022. The MOOC takes place over a six-week period. Each lesson is made up of several complementary sequences containing videos, teaching materials, case studies and interviews with actors. It is taught in English and leads to certification.

More info

2

# Conference on the Future of Europe

PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER 2021

## CREATION OF A NETWORK OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS

In order to involve the greatest number of citizens in the Conference on the Future of Europe, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) has initiated the setting-up of a "European network of regional and local councillors for the EU".

It is inviting regional and local authorities across Europe to nominate one of their members as a councillor in charge of European affairs, and is proposing to work closely with them to make the voice of territorial authorities heard within the Conference on the Future of Europe.

[More info](#)

## THE MOT'S PROPOSALS TO PROMOTE CROSS-BORDER ISSUES

The Conference on the Future of Europe, launched on 9 May 2021, is an unprecedented exercise in participatory democracy open to all the citizens of the 27 Member States. An interactive and multilingual digital platform enables everyone to take part in the discussions, express ideas and organise events.

Many other citizen-initiated proposals relating to cross-border issues are online in the platform's thematic sections.

The MOT invited players involved in cross-border cooperation to take part in it and to support these proposals.

It wishes to ensure that account is taken of cross-border cooperation in these discussions and, to this end, it is advocating cross-border citizens' consultations.

The Conference on the Future of Europe delivered its conclusions during France's presidency of the EU in the first half of 2022.

[More info](#)

In order to highlight cross-border issues in the challenges for tomorrow's Europe, the MOT has published four proposals there:

- To foster more ambitious cooperation in the area of higher education and research in cross-border regions.
- Air pollution: setting up a single European system of environmental display stickers for all vehicles.
- Greater investment to create a genuine "Europe of rail" in order to connect up border regions.
- To develop places to inform European citizens about cross-border public services and to listen to their border-related difficulties.

The Committee of the Regions has also highlighted a number of proposals from its resolution on the future of cross-border cooperation up to 2050, which constitutes its official contribution to the Conference on the Future of Europe.

## EGTCs meet in Innsbruck

PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2021

You're part of it! It was under this motto that the 11th EGTC Platform meeting opened on 30 September, hosted by the Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino Euroregion (Austrian-Italian border), on the occasion of its 10th birthday.

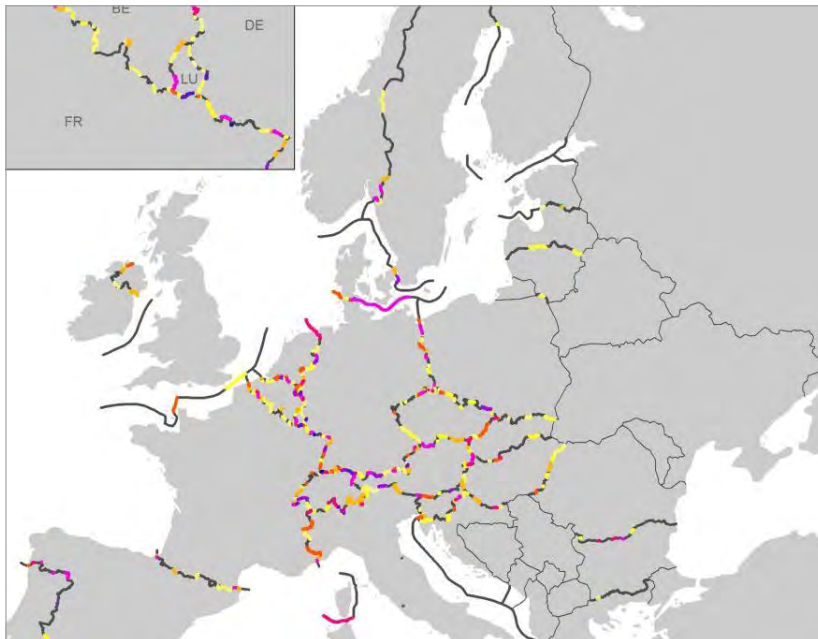
The MOT took part in this event that showcased the initiatives implemented by the EGTCs, whether in terms of pioneering approaches (CLLD\* within the framework of Interreg, the role of an EGTC as coordinator for a candidacy for "European Capital of Culture"), or in the area of crisis management or economic recovery, with the example of the two Franco-Spanish Euroregions.

The EGTC network also welcomed three new members: the Kvarcken Council, the first EGTC to be set up in the Nordic countries; the Karawanken Geopark between Austria and Slovenia; and the new Eurodistrict Region Freiburg – Centre et Sud Alsace, which is intended to play a central role as a "co-actor" to address the high political expectations in the territory (post-Fessenheim, Colmar-Freiburg rail-link).

[More info](#)

# DG REGIO reveals the first results of its study on cross-border public transport services

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021



Europe, in the Pyrenees, and along the Portuguese-Spanish border. Nevertheless, some of these non-permeable border sections do not present any specific demand for CBPT, as the absence of services often coincides with an absence of demand.

The study also identifies the main obstacles to the development of CBPT: a lack of coordination on ticketing, inadequate information for travellers, uncoordinated timetables, etc. With the help of 31 case studies, it details the most widespread and efficient management methods in order to provide recommendations for future CBPT services.

With this initiative, DG REGIO is reaffirming its “borderless mindset” and its commitment to making cross-border regions into true “functional areas open in all directions”, allowing these territories to overcome the “geographical discrimination” linked to the presence of a national border.

[More info](#) →

Lack of accessibility by public transport remains a major obstacle to opening up isolated European border regions. It is on the basis of this observation that the European Commission launched in 2020 a comprehensive study to identify all existing services on European borders. The “Beyond Borders Breakfast Debate” of 2 December 2021, in which the MOT took part, was the occasion for DG REGIO to present the initial results of this unprecedented study. An online data visualisation platform<sup>1</sup> was unveiled, with information on nearly 7000 cross-border public transport (CBPT) services operating along all internal borders of the EU, as well as borders

with Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom<sup>2</sup>.

The study has allowed the calculation for the first time of a permeability index of border sections, by linking the supply of services (the number of CBPT services) to the demand<sup>3</sup> in order to identify the border segments with high stakes in terms of needs. For example, the study concludes that despite the high permeability between the Benelux countries, between France and Germany, and Germany and Switzerland, there are sections that would benefit from increased transport provision. Permeability is generally low for the long border zones in Scandinavia, in the Baltic countries, between countries in Eastern

1 [www.crossbordertransport.eu](http://www.crossbordertransport.eu). This platform provides very comprehensive information: details on the origin and destination of each service (train, bus, ferry, tram), name of the line, operator, location of stops, frequency of service. This data is completed by additional layers providing a general overview of cross-border public transport provision: the results of the permeability analysis showing the relationship between CBPT services and latent demand in a given border section; categorised information on the number of CBPT services per border section; information on the total number of CBPT services by country, with France having the second highest figure in Europe, after Germany.

2 It should be noted that, given the current and ever-changing context and its significant impacts on the transport sector, the study refers exclusively to the period preceding the pandemic (up to the end of 2019), including data on service timetables and passenger numbers.

3 Population density, presence of conurbations, increase in the border population, etc.





## Launching of the EP's pilot project "Cross-Border Crisis Response Integrated Initiative" (CBCRII)

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 2021

Initiated by Anne Sander MEP, the European Parliament's pilot project "Cross-Border Crisis Response Integrated Initiative" (CBCRII) has been approved. It can now be implemented by DG REGIO.

The pilot project is expected to deliver four results:

- a report on the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis in border regions;
- the development of an IT infrastructure to host and update information on cross-border public services in cross-border regions;

- the development of an action plan to systematise solidarity and crisis management in EU cross-border regions;
- a boost in the potential of border regions through co-development, cross-border spatial planning and multi-level governance.

[More info](#)



# MOT partner in a global network for border studies

PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 2021



Following on from the "Borders in Globalization" (BIG) project, this new network, "21st Century Borders: Emergent Challenges Among and Within States", brings together nine intergovernmental and transnational organisations including the MOT, as well as leading universities (from 15 countries<sup>1</sup>). Led by researchers at the University of Victoria (Canada), it has just received funding of over \$9 million. This new network explores the changing nature of borders – physical, virtual or mobile (pre-clearance, etc.) – in the 21st century. It includes the issue of indigenous communities

whose territories are cut across by borders (like the Sami people in the north of Europe). The researchers who set up the project are at the University of Victoria (Canada). They have recently received funding of over \$9 million from the federal government. They have also received additional funding of \$2.5 million allocated to the project by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The project is led by Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, a professor at UVic's School of Public Administration, and Jeff Corntassel, a researcher in human sciences at UVic. The

aim is to create a network made up of policy-makers and academics. Since 2014, the BIG network has launched over 130 research projects relating to borders in globalisation.

[More info](#)



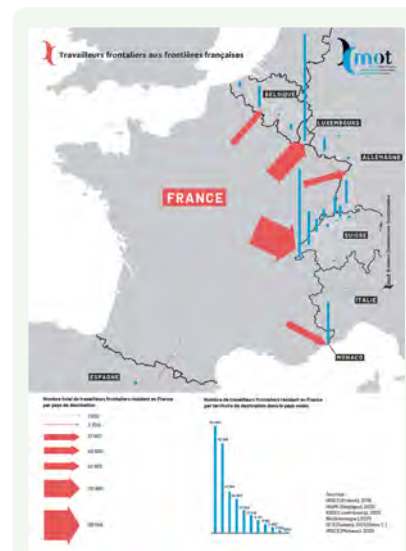
<sup>1</sup> 16 universities in 15 countries in Australasia, Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa and South Asia.

# THE MAPS

## A cross-border map every Monday with #lundicarto

In November 2021, the MOT has taken the initiative to promote every Monday on Twitter a map visualizing the reality of flows and cooperation in the cross-border living areas.

IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2021, HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED:



### CROSS-BORDER WORKERS AT FRENCH BORDERS

DID YOU KNOW THAT?  
**almost 430,000 people live in metropolitan France and work in a border country?**

More info →



### CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES ON FRENCH BORDERS

DID YOU KNOW THAT?  
**over 38 million people live in these territories?**

More info →



### CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FRANCE-BELGIUM

DID YOU KNOW THAT?  
**more than 37,000 people live in FR and work in BE?**

More info →



### CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FRANCE-ITALIA

**The Quirinal Treaty:**  
a major step towards  
the cross-border  
integration of border  
territories

More info



### CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION GREATER REGION

**DID YOU KNOW THAT?**  
this #cross-border  
cooperation area has  
more than 250,000  
border workers?

More info



### CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FRANCE GERMANY

**DID YOU KNOW THAT?**  
this territory has 5  
#eurodistricts and  
2 #cross-border  
tramways?

More info



### CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FRANCE-SWITZERLAND

**DID YOU KNOW THAT?**  
more than 192,000  
border workers live  
in France and work  
in Switzerland?

More info





# THE DOCS

MOT

## PUBLICATIONS



### MOT ACTIVITY REPORT

#### Review of a year marked by the health crisis

PUBLISHED IN JULY 2021 - IN FRENCH

The MOT has published its activity report for 2020, a year marked by the closure of many borders, placing cross-border territories on "the front line" of the health crisis.

[More info](#)


### SUMMARY OF THE WORKING GROUP "TERRITORIAL SOLIDARITIES"

#### Border crises: joint responses and imbalances

PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 2021 - IN FRENCH

What have been the different forms of border crisis since the start of 2020? Alongside the joint initiatives to manage the crises, what are the obvious imbalances they have revealed? To answer these questions, the MOT has published a summary of one year of reflections by its "Territorial Solidarities" working group.

Focused on the role of local players in the management of the crisis in cross-border areas, and with the involvement of ten or so participants, the working group has looked in detail at the specific issues relating to the impacts and management of the border crisis. Among the main findings are the need to put in place crisis coordination systems with the help of players on the ground, and the importance of better documenting the major structural imbalances (political, economic, social, tax-related, etc.) identified in these areas, with the aim of strengthening the public authorities' responses to them.

[More info](#)


### RESTITUTION BOOKLET OF THE SEMINAR ON CROSS-BORDER RAIL LINKS

#### Proceedings of the seminar on cross- border rail links: towards better mobility in cross-border living areas

PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER 2021

The conference on cross-border rail links organised in June 2021 by the MOT and the PAMINA Eurodistrict, with the support of the Committee of the Regions, brought together nearly 200 participants.

Taking place within the framework of the European Year of Rail, this event was an opportunity for local, national and European players to share experiences, and to discuss the challenges and obstacles with respect to mobility in cross-border territories.



The booklet highlights concrete recommendations to ensure that better account is taken of mobility needs in cross-border living areas.

[More info](#)


## Proceedings of the MOT's annual conference

PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER 2021

The four roundtables held during the MOT's annual event on 21-22 September 2021 gave rise to rich discussions among the 200 participants present in Morteau and La Chaux-de-Fonds.

They focused on:

- RT#1 The ecological transition: "Towards cross-border sobriety?"
- RT#2 Co-development: "Can the economic recovery be cross-border and mutually supportive?"
- RT#3 Citizenship: "How can cross-border citizens' and territorial inclusion be promoted?"
- RT#4 Resilience: "The Jura mountains: what are the (re)sources of recovery and adaptation?" ce: La montagne jurassienne.

More info



## EWRC WORKSHOP "BREATHING WITHOUT BORDERS"

### Three project factsheets

PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER 2021

Following on from the MOT's workshop "Breathing without borders" held on 13 October during the EURRegionsWeek, the MOT has published three project factsheets corresponding to the examples of good practices presented during the workshop:

- The project "Atmo-VISION: strategies for better air quality in the Upper Rhine"
- The project "TransfAIR: improving air quality across the cross-border area"
- The project "B-solutions: recognition of anti-pollution vehicle stickers"

More info



## OTHER

## PUBLICATIONS



### Guidebook on registering EGTCs

COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DES RÉGIONS, SPATIAL  
FORESIGHT, T33, 2021



### An empirical approach to cross-border spatial planning initiatives in Europe

ANTOINE DECOVILLE, FRÉDÉRIC DURAND,  
IN REGIONAL STUDIES, APRIL 2021



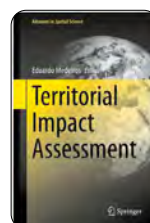
### La frontière comme ressource pour la région métropolitaine trinationale de Bâle

CHRISTOPHE SOHN, IBA BASEL, APRIL 2021  
- IN FRENCH



### Will reducing border barriers via the EU's b-solutions lead towards greater European territorial integration?

EDUARDO MEDEIROS, MARTIN  
GUILLERMO-RAMIREZ, CINZIA  
DELLAGIACOMA, GIULIA BRUSTIA,  
IN REGIONAL STUDIES, 2021



### The Bottom-Up Approach: Experiences with the Impact Assessment of EU and National Legislation in the German, Dutch and Belgian Cross-Border Regions

MARTIN UNFRIED, LAVINIA KORTESE,  
ANOUK BOLLEN-VANDENBOORN,  
IN TERRITORIAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT, 2020



### Mapping the cross- border cooperation 'galaxy': an exploration of scalar arrangements in Europe

JIANNIS KAUCIC, CHRISTOPHE SOHN,  
EUROPEAN PLANNING STUDIES, MAY 2021



## Reading European borderlands under the perspective of legal geography and spatial justice

ESTELLE EVRARD, EUROPEAN PLANNING STUDIES, MAY 2021



## Border Cities and Territorial Development

EDUARDO MEDEIROS, ROUTLEDGE/TAYLOR & FRANCIS GROUP, 2021

**mot**

Avec contribution de la MOT



## Quels enjeux et perspectives pour un espace métropolitain Strasbourg-Karlsruhe?

ADEUS, VILLE DE KARLSRUHE, EUROMÉTROPOLE DE STRASBOURG, JUNE 2021 - IN FRENCH



## Engaging civil society in cross-border regions for the future of Europe

RAPPORT FINAL DU PROJET TEIN4CITIZENS, TRANSFRONTIER EURO-INSTITUT NETWORK, JULY 2021



## Policy Brief: Cross-border monitoring and observation in Europe

PROGRAMME ESPON, AUGUST 2021

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Avec contribution de la MOT



## Public consultation on overcoming cross-border obstacles - Summary report

COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE, DG REGIO, MAY 2021



## L'Europe et ses territoires

JEAN-FRANÇOIS DREVET, DANS FUTURIBLES 2021/5, N°444, PP 91-98, CAIRN.INFO, MAY 2021 - IN FRENCH



## Quand les mécanismes de coopération sont mis à l'épreuve. L'épidémie du Covid-19 et la fermeture de la frontière franco-allemande au printemps 2020 comme stress test pour la coopération transfrontalière

LES PAPIERS DE RECHERCHE DE L'ENA, COLLECTION ADMINISTRATION ET GESTION PUBLIQUES, JUNE 2021 - IN FRENCH



## Guide pratique - Les fonds européens au service des projets communaux et intercommunaux

AMF, JULY 2021 - IN FRENCH





## Citizens' awareness and perception of EU regional policy

FLASH EUROBAROMETER 497,  
COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE,  
OCTOBER 2021



## L'impact du Covid-19 sur les relations transfrontalières européennes: focus sur la Région Grand Est

MÉMOIRE PROFESSIONNEL  
DU MASTER ÉTUDES EUROPÉENNES  
ET INTERNATIONALES, UNIVERSITÉ  
D'AIX-MARSEILLE, AMÉLIE VIGNEAU,  
SEPTEMBER 2021



## Impacts de la crise de la Covid-19 sur l'Arc jurassien franco-suisse

OBSERVATOIRE STATISTIQUE  
TRANSFRONTALIER DE L'ARC JURASSIEN  
(OSTAJ), 2021



## Frontières, entre histoires et géographies

MICHEL FOUCHER, LES EDITIONS  
DE L'OEIL, AUGUST 2021. CATALOGUE  
DE L'EXPOSITION DE LA ROCHE-GUYON,  
19 MAY/28 NOVEMBER 2021



Avec contribution de la MOT



## Zoom sur... Le travail détaché, une activité de premier plan au Grand-Duché

AGENCE D'URBANISME  
ET DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE  
LORRAINE NORD (AGAPE),  
SEPTEMBER 2021



## Étrangers familiers: Les travailleurs frontaliers en Suisse: Conceptualisation, Emploi, Quotidien et Pratiques

SOUS LA DIRECTION DE CLAUDIO  
BOLZMAN, ISABELLE PIGERON-PIROTH  
ET CÉDRIC DUCHENE-LACROIX,  
L'HARMATTAN, OCTOBER 2021



## Cross-border cooperation in healthcare

RESEARCH FOR REGI COMMITTEE,  
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN, FABIENNE  
LELOUP, OCTOBER 2021



## Restoring « lost connections » between the EU and the UK as a consequence of Brexit through local and regional authorities

COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DES RÉGIONS,  
SEPTEMBER 2021

## Documentary portal

Find all of the publications on cross-border cooperation listed in the MOT's documentary portal. More than 4800 referenced documents, of which 2500 are available online!

[More info](#)





# Cross-border News

Rétrospective #01  
July - December 2021.

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