

# Technical working group on cross-border observation meeting of 14 October 2014

## Report



### Participants

Prénom	Nom	Organisme	Pays
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Brigitte	BARIOL	FNAU	France
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Olivier	DENERT	MOT	France
Jean-Paul	DUPREZ	IWEPS	Belgium (Wallonia)
Fiorenzo	FERLAINO	Istituto di Ricerche Economiche e Sociali per il Piemonte	Italy
Jean-Michel	FLOCH	INSEE	France
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## Introduction

CGET (General Commission for Territorial Equality) is interested in cross-border areas, territories considered to be affected by specific challenges. Aware of the fact that in certain fields, in-depth analyses of cross-border territories are not possible due to lack of comparable and harmonised hard data, the idea arose of forming a joint information basis and monitoring coordination unit. The results of the FNAU-MOT (2010-2012) studies, confirming the difficulties of monitoring cross-border territories, caused the French public authorities to launch the Nancy initiative in December 2012, where the States (France + neighbouring countries), aware of the impossibility of total harmonisation of cross-border data, they agreed to favour a process of improvement and progressive and pragmatic enhancement of the data and indicator repository that will eventually help provide more precise knowledge of the cross-border context.

This monitoring process, shared concerning the topic of cross-border territories, led to the establishment in 2013 of a two-level mechanism: a political level (the cross-border strategic committee CSC) and a technical level (technical working group TWG).

Thus, during the last cross-border strategic committee meeting on 16 June 2014, it was decided that a meeting of the technical working group would be organised for 14 October 2014, with the following agenda:

- Preparation of a session devoted to cross-border monitoring at a seminar on the obstacles to cross-border cooperation within the framework of the Luxembourg EU Presidency in 2015.
- Presentation of the 4 working topics chosen by the CSC (employment, health, facilities, research/innovation) with employment being the first point of focus.
- Assessment and typology of cross-border obstacles.
- Identification of thematic publications (monitoring, employment) in the regional and national statistic institutions on both sides of French borders to be completed by data relating to cross-border employment in each one of the national and regional institutes concerned.
- Creation of a web platform for cross-border monitoring and an online workspace.

For each point addressed at the meeting, these blue boxes shall set out the elements to be produced by the TWG until the next meeting (January 2015)

### **1 - Session devoted to cross-border monitoring at the seminar during the EU Luxembourg Presidency in 2015**

#### Context:

Within the framework of the Italy-Latvia-Luxembourg trio of EU presidencies, the stress is placed on cohesion and urban policies. Luxembourg focuses specifically on promoting reflection on the link between obstacles to cross-border cooperation as a factor of territorial non-cohesion and the different means (statistical monitoring, legal instruments, right to experimentation in certain localised and temporary areas...) for bringing about a removal of these obstacles.

A seminar on obstacles to cross-border cooperation and the tools and policies for the removal of these obstacles shall be organised on 19 May 2015 in Luxembourg. Within the scope of the seminar, a 90-minute session shall be devoted to the role of quantitative and qualitative cross-border monitoring to identify obstacles and to prepare the establishment of public policies to address them.

This approach of the Luxembourg presidency thus supports the Nancy initiative by echoing the cross-border monitoring activities currently undertaken at the German federal level and the Dutch national level.

#### **Seminar on 19 May 2015:**

Length of the presentation: 90 minutes

Topic links: cross-border monitoring/possibility of identifying obstacles/promotion of cross-border public policies to resolve the obstacles

#### **Presentation of 3 cases:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> example:** Cross-border monitoring exists, it is carried out. It helps to identify the obstacles and advantages of cross-border exchanges, to measure their impact and to lead to decisions in the choice of the adjusted solution that has been implemented.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> example:** Obstacles and advantages are better known by way of experience than by statistical monitoring, and their measurement is fragmentary (information is not available on a proper scale, definitions are different on both sides of the border). Incomplete monitoring may imply questionable choices.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> example:** An example where monitoring cannot be carried out. The potential for cross-border exchanges exists. There may exist data to measure their intensity but monitoring is lacking and therefore it is not possible to understand the leverage of and barriers to development.

One of the examples at least must concern several European borders.

One of the examples at least shall result from the joint collection of data and analysis by the TWG which shall be conducted before May 2015.

Two examples at least shall concern scales of analysis below NUTS 3.

The themes addressed shall focus on employment, accessibility of services, transport and service infrastructure planning; they shall depend on the most common themes of the cross-border programmes during the 2014-2020 period within the scope of the 11 thematic objectives resulting from the EU 2020 strategy.

Participation: CSC and TWG members are invited to actively participate in this session.

Objective: complete a project on the topic “identification of the obstacles and advantages to the development of a territory”.

The “monitoring” session of the seminar may look at the following results:

- Acknowledge that monitoring is indispensable for the removal of cross-border obstacles and draw up a multi-level roadmap:
- Encourage the development of monitoring projects that can be financed by Interreg programmes, if they are connected to the reality of the border and to the programme’s priorities (requirements in terms of indicators etc.); in this context, the representative of DG REGIO has insisted on the need for a typology of borders; cross-border employment is a useful point of entry for such a typology: a cross-border agglomeration calls for an integrated approach, even in terms of monitoring, whereas for a mountain border the issue may be accessibility, seasonal jobs, etc.
- Coordinate national approaches on borders, such as that envisaged by Germany (MORO cross-border projects, international workshop in 2015)
- Promote the possibility of using existing European surveys, such as “Laborforce” (by increasing the size of the sample for large countries), and also national administrative data (annual declaration of social data, etc.)
- Validate the work carried out by the CSC/TWG within the framework of intergovernmental cooperation (“Territorial Agenda”), with the support of the Commission; the following step: Dutch presidency in 2016
- Envisage an ESPON project on the subject

**Here to be produced until the next TWG meeting:** if possible, give an example from your borders corresponding to one of the three cases presented above.

## **2 - Presentation of the 4 topics chosen by the CSC (employment, health, facilities, research/innovation) with a focus on employment**

### ***2.1 Presentation of the 4 topics chosen by the CSC***

The CSC has decided to work on the following four themes:

- Employment
- Health
- Facilities
- Research/Innovation

Initially (until the seminar of 19 May 2015 in Luxembourg), it is the topic of employment that shall be investigated as a first priority. The other topics shall be looked into later.

### ***2.2 Presentation of an initial focus to be investigated until mid-2015: cross-border job “commuting”.***

Since 2008, the consolidated number of cross-border worker flows on the European scale has not been updated. Then, there were over 800,000 cross-border workers in Europe, over 40% of whom were on French borders. This number has suffered a great increase (notably from France) but it is not possible to provide an exact measurement at community level.

The indicator on the flow of cross-border workers is the most important as it provides a measurement of the level of integration of cross-border territories. In fact, these flows have consequences on different territorial aspects (impact on transport infrastructures, on initial training in a country, on the linguistic issue, on the choice of one's main place of residence, on other flows (health, trade, studies, etc.), on civic integration, etc.).

The topic of “cross-border employment” is therefore extremely rich in implications and appears as a priority in relation to the other topics due to the issues cascading from it. It may be divided into more precise sub-indicators:

- Counting the flows
- Flow according to origin/destination (grid to be determined)
- Flow according to age
- Flow according to socio-professional category
- Flow according to branch of activity
- Flow according to gender, etc.

The objective of the work of the TWG for the Luxembourg seminar is to achieve a **European map showing border by border if the data for monitoring cross-border flows is available or not, and which will be presented on this occasion.**

This roadmap of the existing situation shall help convey a political message to national and European authorities to make them aware of the importance of prior knowledge in order to implement the corresponding cross-border policies which contribute to the objective of cohesion of the treaty of the Union, to improve knowledge via new mechanisms and financial means, and at the level of the States to support the required linkage between the works of the administrations in charge of rural and urban planning with those of the statistics institutes.

**To be produced until the next TWG meeting:** Provide a record sheet per border (one for outgoing flows, one for incoming flows<sup>1</sup>; see record sheet model and list of borders on page 7) to be able to draw up the European charter of the state of the art of data on the flows of cross-border workers.

<sup>1</sup> Each institute must first of all be questioned on its own production, namely on outgoing flows. The statistics institutes may respond in a more general fashion on their knowledge of incoming flows across their border (do they know this or not? Do they know who produces this data? etc.)

### 3 – Inventory and typology of cross-border obstacles

Identification of the advantages and obstacles related to cooperation and monitoring priorities to overcome part of these obstacles. In order to raise the awareness of the participants, this table shows indicative examples that should help identify other examples on other European borders.

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Examples of obstacles –</b>	<b>Monitoring: monitored or monitorable?</b>	<b>Public policies to overcome obstacles</b>
<b>Health</b>	<b>France-Belgium</b> No integration of provision of services for disabled persons in Belgium in French medical and social schemes	No for legal, administrative and qualitative reasons	French-Walloon agreement on addressing disabled persons (2011)
<b>Health</b>	<b>France-Belgium</b> Problems harmonising social and health indicators and insufficient quality and quantity.	<b>Monitored:</b> Franco-Belgian health observatory (1999) and Luxlorsan (2002)	Exchange of qualitative information but no overall harmonisation of the definition of indicators as of yet. Joint tables up to date. Cross-border assessment of needs.
<b>Transport</b>	<b>France-Belgium</b> No cross-border instrument to draw up a roadmap of road traffic flows, to assess future development or the effects of new infrastructures.	Monitored: Eurométropole study on mobility and accessibility (2007 then 2011) (Lille)	Taking into account of data collected by border crossing stations, movement survey extended to households resident in France, Flanders and Wallonia in order to assess and meet the infrastructure and public transport needs. A study on the development potential of cross-border public-transport (2012).
<b>Transport</b>	<b>France-Luxembourg</b> Total saturation of road infrastructures.	Partially monitored (road and rail flows, modal part)	Luxembourg-Lorraine Cross-border Mobility Scheme (SMOT) (since 2009): ticketing; subscription; the construction of new lines and management of the Mobiregio infrastructure.

<b>Employment</b>	<b>France-Switzerland</b> Lack of knowledge on the flows of cross-border workers with challenges in training needs, transport infrastructures, economic development and the housing issues it results in.	<b>Monitored:</b> Greater Geneva cross-border statistics observatory; coordination of work	Publications, internet site, collaboration INSEE Rhône Alpes –OCSTAT
<b>Employment</b>	<b>France-Italy</b> No coordination for cross-border employment. offers	<b>Monitorable but not monitored;</b> part-time work and craftsmanship: Eurès closed.	No coordinated policy between the French employment agency Pôle emploi and Italian employment services.
<b>Employment</b>	<b>France-Spain</b> Lack of knowledge on the flows of cross-border workers.	<b>Monitorable but not monitored;</b> inadequacy of INSEE data (destination communes), data no longer being published (collected?) on the Spanish side.	No public policy support (employment offers, training, taxation, transport, housing etc.)

**To be produced until the next TWG meeting:** reference should be made to this table to suggest an example of an obstacle to cross-border operations on one of your borders

#### 4 – Identification of thematic publications (monitoring, employment) in cross-border statistics institutes

Two bibliographical notes were presented at the TWG meeting:

- The first concerns the observatories and cross-border atlas in general (French borders)
- The second lists the publications on cross-border employment available on the Internet sites of the national and regional statistics institutes located on both sides of the French borders

**We would appreciate it if you would adapt or complete these notes with the works you consider the most pertinent**

**To be produced until the next TWG meeting:** Complete/adapt the lists of reference works (see documents attached hereto) on monitoring and cross-border employment.

#### 5 - Creation of a web platform for cross-border monitoring and an online workspace

##### 5.1 – Web platform:

[www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/comite-strategique-transfrontalier](http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/comite-strategique-transfrontalier)

This web platform helps to provide feedback on the CSC's activities. It contains a number of headings:

- Presentation of the approach
- State of the art of cross-border monitoring
- Links to partners in this approach (urban and rural planning administrations, regional and national statistics institutes, cross-border observatories):
  - Observatory of the territories
  - FNAU (France)
  - UMS Riate (France)
  - INSEE (France)
  - SPW (Wallonia)
  - IWEPS (Wallonia)
  - MAT (Luxembourg)
  - BBR (Germany)
  - ARE (Switzerland)
  - Cross-border statistics observatory (Greater Geneva area) (France-Switzerland)
  - ISTAT (Italy)
  - IRES Piedmont (Italy)
  - Osservatorio economico e sociale de la Regione Valle d'Aosta (Italy)
  - etc.

**To be produced until the next TWG meeting:** Provide a logo of your institution in jpg or png format

- Reference publications on cross-border monitoring and on cross-border employment. Once the list of works is complete, the MOT shall submit them to the CSC for validation before publishing them online.

**To be produced until the next TWG meeting:** Complete the lists of reference works in order for them to be published online (cf. point 4)

### ***5.2 – Online workspace for the members of the Strategic Committee and the Technical Working Group***

An online platform for the exchange of information is open to all CSC and TWG members. This working group known as “Ariane” is hosted by CGET and administered by Jean-Luc Frès and Gilles Toutin. It allows the participants to access all the sessions’ documents (agenda, miscellaneous notes, minutes, presentations etc). If you have not already registered, please inform the administrators of your email address.

### **Recap of the works to be provided until the next TWG meeting by the statistics institutes**

#### **1. Gather existing data on the flows of cross-border workers (complete 2 record sheets per border (outgoing flows AND incoming flows) at all European borders**

Example of a record sheet for the French-Belgian border (direction France-Belgium)

<b>Border</b>	France-Belgium
Name of the indicator	
Description of the indicator (method of collection, calculation...)	
Unit	
Scale	
Date	
Periodicity	

Producer	
Access to the data (paying, available)	

Record sheets to be provided for the following borders (initially):

- France-United Kingdom
- France-Belgium
- France-Luxembourg
- France-Switzerland
- France-Italy
- France-Monaco
- France-Andorra
- France-Spain
- Belgique-Netherlands
- Belgium-Germany
- Belgium-Luxembourg
- Germany-Luxembourg
- Germany-Netherlands
- Germany-Switzerland
- Germany-Denmark
- Germany-Poland
- Germany-Czech Republic
- Germany-Austria
- Italy-Switzerland
- Italy-Austria
- Italy-Slovenia
- Switzerland-Austria
- Switzerland-Lichtenstein
- Spain-Andorra
- Spain-Portugal

**2. Provide a statistical form and describe the data collection methodology used for each one of the following countries:**

- France
- Belgium
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Switzerland
- Italy
- Spain

**3. Describe the current way statistical data collection in the country concerned**

**4. Complete the list of publications on the cross-border observatory and the list of cross-border employment** (for the Luxembourg seminar and to feed the web platform)

**5. Reference is to be made to the table of cross-border obstacles in order to present an example of an obstacle on one of the following borders:**

- France-Belgium
- France-Luxembourg
- France-Switzerland
- France-Italy
- France-Spain



- Belgique-Netherlands
- Belgium-Germany
- Belgium-Luxembourg
- Germany-Luxembourg
- Germany-Netherlands
- Germany-Switzerland
- Germany-Denmark
- Germany-Poland
- Germany-Czech Republic
- Germany-Austria
- Italy-Switzerland
- Italy-Austria
- Italy-Slovenia
- Switzerland-Austria
- Spain-Portugal

## Schedule

- Mid-January 2015: CSC meeting (*date to be confirmed*)

- End of January 2015: TWG meeting (*date still to be set*)

- End of March 2015: TWG meeting (*date still to be set*) allowing for a presentation (preview) of the content of the intervention to be delivered at the Luxembourg seminar.

- April 2015: CSC meeting (*date to be set*)

- 19 May 2015: intervention of CSC/TWG at the seminar on the obstacles to cross-border cooperation (Luxembourg)