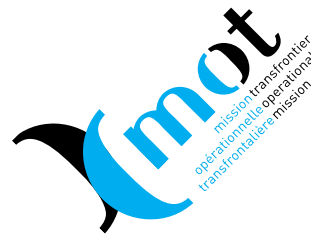


No. 130/ JUNE/JULY 2017

CROSS BORDER NEWS



P. 2

Events

**Finalisation of the report of
the cross-border obstacles
working group
In brief**

P. 3

Europe news
Network news

P. 4

Press review
Publication

Launch of the Greater Region's new geoportal

More user-friendly and better suited to players in the Greater Region but above all to the general public is how the new version of the Greater Region's geoportal, which was officially presented on 23 May, in the presence of Camille Gira, Luxembourg's Secretary of State for sustainable Development and Infrastructure, can be summed up. A showcase for territorial observation in the Greater Region, since 2010 the geoportal has allowed people to view the geographical data produced by the geographical information system on diverse topics (territorial development, the environment, tourism, mobility within the Greater Region and the labour market).

The new version, which is more intuitive, helps to highlight the progress made and the concrete advances that have led to this new geoportal. The latter, which has been developed in cooperation with the Luxembourg Centre for Government Information

Technologies, the Luxembourg Land Registry and Topography Administration and the Rhineland-Palatinate Landesamt für Vermessung und Geobasisinformation, makes it possible to capture cross-border flows and territorial dynamics with greater accuracy than before.

At this event, the participants, including the MOT, were able to address the issue of territorial observation within the Greater Region more broadly. They stressed the need to reinforce the role of territorial observation in political decision-making, notably at the cross-border level, with the maps providing "better visibility of the dynamics of territorial development and facilitating the interpretation of statistical indicators". [More info](#)



Encouraging young people's cross-border mobility in the Greater Region

This is the aim of the project FagA/Centre d'aide à la mobilité transfrontalière (CAMT – Centre for Assistance with Cross-Border Mobility) launched on 1 July 2016 in the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict.

The territories of the Greater Region (particularly Saarland, Rhineland-Palatinate and the catchment area of the Nancy-Metz education authority) display great disparities in terms of demographic development (youth unemployment, need for

qualified labour, etc.). Focusing mainly on young people, the target group as they represent future labour, the project aims to increase their likelihood of having practical cross-border experiences in the form of internships and periods of training in the neighbouring country. The objective is therefore to foster and reinforce the employability of these young people on the cross-border labour market, while at the same time promoting intercultural links.

In order to facilitate the different stages of participation in the mobility programme, the CAMT gives the young participants practical help (with administrative and financial dossiers, assessment of and capitalising on skills acquired, looking for companies and transport, accommodation and catering solutions) as well as financial help (transport, accommodation and meals).

[More info](#)

EVENTS

Save the date :
20th anniversary of the MOT
"Building cross-border territories:
Europe for citizens" 30 November
 and 1st December 2017
 Registration coming soon!

 **Event in the network with the**
"20 years of the MOT" label

Workshop EWRC PASSAGE project
 "Regional and intermediate policy
 makers, drivers for maritime
 cooperation", 10 October 2017 in
 Brussels
[More info](#)

Conference "Conférence
Francophone de l'information
géographique", 4 and 5 September
 2017 in Strasbourg

URBACT City Festival, from 3 to 5
 October 2017 in Tallinn (Estonia)

EWRC Workshop « Enhancing
 Capacities of Regions and Cities for
 Better Cross-Border Cooperation »,
 Atelier TEIN/ARFE/ MOT/CESCI, 10
 October 2017 in Brussels

7th Annual meeting of the EGTC
Platform, «The future of the cross-
 border cooperation», 9 and 10 October
 2017 in Brussels

International Scientific
Conference, Association for
 Borderlands Studies, 10 - 14 July 2018
 - Call for papers [Here](#)

Diplomatie and territories, 5 October
 in Marseille

[All events](#)

Finalisation of the report of the cross-border obstacles working group

On 30 May 2017 at the
 Committee of the Regions in
 Brussels, the fifth meeting of
 the intergovernmental working
 group on innovative solutions to
 obstacles to cross-border
 cooperation was held.

Following on from Luxembourg's
 proposal in 2015 concerning the
 creation of a new European legal
 tool, the European Cross-Border
 Convention (ECBC), the group's
 objective was to continue with
 work in this direction.

This meeting, in which the MOT,
 in its capacity as secretary of
 the working group co-chaired by
 France and Luxembourg, took
 part, made it possible to finalise
 the working group's report.

To this end, various discussions
 took place aimed at having a
 better understanding of the tool
 in order to be able to send the
 findings of the group's work to
 the European Commission. The
 latter will then have to decide
 on the follow-up to the proposal
 in its communication on the
 Cross-Border Review scheduled



for September 2017.

In addition to the proposal for a
 new legal tool and the proposal
 to create a multilevel European
 platform for the resolution of
 obstacles to cooperation, the
 meeting was also an opportunity
 to present different case studies
 in order to gain a better
 understanding of the tool and
 its value added.

While the importance and
 benefits of cross-border
 cooperation were highlighted
 again, the persistence of
 obstacles, the real heart of the
 problem and subject of the work
 undertaken, stimulated many
 further discussions. The
 presentation of case studies
 during the meeting was thus a
 chance to underscore the need
 to pursue the work on cross-
 border obstacles.

Lastly, the meeting highlighted
 the consensus among the

working group's members on the
 new tool as the "missing piece"
 in the range of mechanisms
 aimed at overcoming obstacles.
 It is important to act at all
 levels: on each border (example
 of the final report on the
 updating process of the work of
 the Franco-Belgian
 parliamentary working group –
 see page 4), at national level in
 coordination with neighbouring
 countries (example of the forum
 developed by the MOT); and at
 European level, with a multilevel
 platform designed to develop
 synergies between these
 different actions.

Cerdanya cross-border abattoir up and running



The cross-border abattoir in Ur
 (French Cerdanya) has been
 operating since the start of
 April. The facility promoted by
 Cerdanya District Council
 (Spain) and the Bourg-
 Madame abattoir (France) has
 been 50% financed by the two

partners and European funds,
 with a total cost of €5.4
 million. Some 300 livestock
 farmers and butchers on both
 sides of the border will
 benefit from the new facility.
 Three people from the Bourg-
 Madame abattoir are working
 at the abattoir. Initially, the
 facility will process 600
 tonnes of meat, rising to
 1,000 tonnes over the next
 few years. Currently, it
 operates three times a week
 from 4am till midday. [More
 info](#)

The MOT's assignment in Brazzaville

The MOT made a contribution in
 Brazzaville at a conference of the
 International Association of
 Francophone Mayors (AIMF), in a
 workshop on regional cooperation
 among Central African local authorities.
 The workshop helped to identify the
 factors of success and obstacles to
 cross-border cooperation, as well as
 providing a guide to the role of the
 different players involved in
 cooperation.
 This contribution was part of a broader
 assignment to assist the AIMF in
 developing local cross-border
 cooperation between Central African
 countries. [More info](#)

A label of territorial expertise for the MOT

The MOT has been awarded the
 "International territorial expertise" label
 by the Ministry of Europe and European
 Affairs within the framework of the
 programme to support territorial
 authorities' thematic cooperation (PACT3).
 Under this programme, a label may be
 awarded to bodies that have demonstrated
 their capacity to provide technical
 assistance to territorial authorities in the
 implementation of decentralised
 cooperation projects, as well as to
 territorial authorities in recognition of
 their particular competencies. The MOT's
 submission was selected in respect of
 "cross-border cooperation". A new call for
 applications has been launched, the
 deadline being 17 October 2017. [More info](#)

NETWORK NEWS

ESPON Seminar

On 24-25 May in Malta, the ESPON seminar "Revealing territorial potentials and shaping new policies - Contribution to the post-2020 cohesion policy debate" was held, organised by the EGTC in conjunction with the Maltese presidency of the European Union Council. The aim was to contribute to discussions on the future of European cohesion policy and to explore the question of an integrated approach to support territories with geographical specificities.

Cross-border issues are crucial in the discussions about the future of cohesion policy. Jean Peyrony, the MOT's Director-General, took part in a roundtable on this subject, which highlighted the need to work at the level of functional areas, from cross-border territories through to macro-regions.

[More info](#)

EUROPE NEWS

Sixth meeting of the parliamentary group on cross-border cooperation

The coordination of social security systems

On 31 May 2017, Anne Sander, MEP and Vice-President of the MOT, organised the sixth meeting of the working group on cross-border cooperation, which addressed the issue of the coordination of social security systems in the context of the revision underway of Regulation No. 883/2004, which lays down the common rules required for this coordination.

Presented on 13 December 2016 by the European Commission, this proposed revision is aimed at modernising the current system in order to facilitate labour mobility, ensure fairness for those who move and better combat abuses and fraud. This revision also aims to simplify a number of cumbersome administrative procedures, but without



weakening the rights of cross-border workers.

While this proposed revision was greeted favourably by the players present, some questions remain, notably regarding the issue of the payment of unemployment benefits and the support given to cross-border workers.

In addition, this meeting enabled Guillaume Balas, the rapporteur on the proposed revision, to set out his position on the text and the timetable for the report to the European Parliament, and also to talk with the representatives of cross-border workers present and the experts from Luxembourg's representation, with the latter emphasising the importance and sensitivity of this revision for their territory which hosts a large proportion of frontier workers.

The difference in the level of unemployment benefits between France and Germany, as well as the failure to adapt the education and training programmes for foreign workers, were also highlighted by the representative of the PAMINA Eurodistrict, Frédéric Siebenhaar.

Lastly, Anne Sander concluded by talking about the importance of taking account of the concerns and specificities of cross-border workers in the forthcoming discussions about the revision. It will be important to carefully analyse the consequences of the proposed changes, to consult the stakeholders on the ground and, following on from that, to propose tools to properly support cross-border workers.

[More info](#)

University of the Greater Region (UniGR) launches a new study programme

The "Master's in border studies" is an international, interdisciplinary and multilingual study programme aimed at providing students who wish to pursue their careers in intercultural and cross-border settings with the main concepts and necessary analytical tools to understand the issues related to border territories and transnational cooperation.

This two-year programme will be offered jointly, from September 2017, in three countries by four universities: the University of Saarland, the University of Lorraine, the University of Luxembourg and the University of Kaiserslautern, and is part of the strategy to develop student mobility within the Greater Region. [More info](#)

Cross-border cooperation to enhance renewable energy

On 3 June, the MOT took part in the conference entitled "Cross-border cooperation to enhance renewable energy in the EU" organised by the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the World Future Council at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. It presented the multilevel approach needed to overcome obstacles to cooperation, including in the area of energy, and invited the audience, comprising representatives from the European institutions and territorial authorities, to the European Energy Transition Forum 2018 in Greater Geneva. [More info](#)

Greater Geneva is awarded the URBACT Good Practice label

Greater Geneva has been awarded the URBACT Good Practice City label for promoting its coordinated conurbation development areas (PACA – Périmètres d'aménagement coordonnés d'agglomération) in cross-border governance.

The winners of the Good Practice Call will receive their prizes at the URBACT City Festival which will take place on 3-5 October in Tallinn, and will enjoy increased visibility. [More info](#)

The end of roaming charges in Europe

On 15 June 2017, the EU "sounded the death knell" for roaming charges in the whole of the European Union. Up till now, connecting to one's network through a local operator gave rise to surcharges for people not from the country concerned. From mid-June onwards, using one's mobile phone abroad (in the EU), to make or receive calls, send messages or use the Internet, will, in theory, no longer generate additional charges. In a joint declaration, Antonio Tajani, Joseph Muscat and Jean-Claude Juncker recalled that "the end of roaming charges is a true European success story" and is another important step towards building a European digital society. [More info](#)

PRESS REVIEW

■ Territorial meetings on cross-border cooperation at the Nord Department Council

Eurométropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai website, 12 June

"Local cross-border cooperation should become a real reflex for our territories; there is a clear commitment from the players involved," recalled Sylvie Labadens, the Vice-President of the Nord Department in charge of international and European relations.

■ Conference at the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce – Greater Region: teleworking at the heart of discussions

Le Républicain lorrain, 12 June

Pierre Cuny [Mayor of Thionville and President of the Portes de France-Thionville Conurbation Community] set out his project for teleworking and co-working dubbed S-Hub, which represents an opportunity for Luxembourg businesses to offer their employees the option of working close to their homes at least one day a week.

■ "People know about our cooperation project as far away as Basel!"

Correspondances Lorraines, 30 May

The Nursing Training Institute (IFSI) attached to Sarreguemines Hospital (Moselle) and the SHG-Kliniken Völklingen/HerzZentrum Hospital in Saarland have set up a Greater Region Interreg project to give their nursing students added cross-border value.

■ The Interreg V project "Pamina labour pool"

Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace, 8 June

The Interreg V project "Pamina labour pool: professions that are hiring, cross-border labour" is a territorial project with the common label "Succeeding without borders". It started on 1 January and runs until 31 December 2019.

■ GeoRhena, an à la carte portal

L'Alsace, 3 June

An interactive digital portal that transcends borders to capture the Upper Rhine in all its aspects – this is what GeoRhena provides. [...] "This portal will save a lot of time for people wishing to download cross-border data," enthuses Daniel Adrian, Chairman of the Actions, International Relations and Bilingualism Commission at the Haut-Rhin Departmental Council.

■ "Clandestine Swiss" under scrutiny

La Tribune de Genève, 12 June

There are estimated to be around 20,000 of them in the French Geneva area. These thousands of Swiss border residents (who do not need the permit G) are declared as being residents of Geneva when in fact they spend the whole of the year, or nearly, in neighbouring France.

■ The Chamber of Commerce and Industry gets involved in the ITINERA programme

Métropole Var, 7 June

The "ItinERA" programme is part of the EU's Italy-France Interreg programme Marittimo 2014-2020, which aims to encourage the economic development of businesses and to promote the Var and the other regions involved as tourist destinations. [...] The eight partners – including the Var Chamber of Commerce and Industry, that of Upper Corsica and several Italian chambers of commerce – will focus particularly on the cruise-ship sector.

■ Perpignan University works for cross-border professional mobility

Le journal Catalan, 14 June

[...] the project "Ma carrière transfrontalière – la meva carrera transfronterera" (My cross-border career). This project, which aims to encourage cross-border professional mobility, was designed and is being run by Perpignan University and its graduate employment service, the French national employment agency Pôle Emploi and its branch that offers cross-border services, and the University of Gerona and its SOC (Servei d'Ocupacio de Catalunya).

■ A profusion of projects supported by Interreg Caribbean

France-Antilles, 12 June

Eleven projects have been selected to benefit from the financial support of Interreg Caribbean, five in Guadeloupe, five in Martinique and one in Saint-Martin.

[Consult all of the press articles*](#).
Reserved for members – in French.
* Each month, the MOT posts online around 100 articles about cross-border cooperation.

Final report on the updating process of the work of the Franco-Belgian parliamentary working group on obstacles to cooperation

This report was drawn up within the framework of the strengthening and deepening of Franco-Belgian cooperation initiated by the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Prefecture. The aim was to update the work of the parliamentary working group on Franco-Belgian cooperation, launched in 2005, drawing on the expertise of the MOT.

The report is in two parts: the analysis of obstacles to cooperation to be addressed as a priority, and the definition of the solutions and the modalities for implementing cooperation. [Download the report, its appendices and the summary](#)

This publication is available in the MOT's document portal [FR].
Specialising in cross-border cooperation, the portal provides more than 4,000 document references. [More info](#)



Rapport
final

Processus d'actualisation des travaux
du Groupe de travail parlementaire
franco-belge et suites à donner



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

Mission Opérationnelle
Transfrontalière
38 rue des Bourdonnais
75001 Paris France
Tel: +33 (0)1 55 80 56 80

Director of publication:
Jean Peyrony
Production: Blandine Lysensoone

Photos: All rights reserved

To subscribe:
www.cross-border-territories.eu



Sous le patronage de la Représentation
en France de la Commission européenne



Commission
européenne