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The opening of the cross-border hospital is a first in Europe. There have been many challenges, as shown by the many stages of the project since it was launched in 2003, the establishment of the EGTC in 2010 and the ratification in France of the French-Spanish outline agreement on health cooperation in 2014. The differences in powers between the highly autonomous Catalonia and the French local authorities, which depends on the State for many issues, and the fact that health issues are highly regulated at national level and very little at European level, defined the challenges of the project. The rules to be drawn up for the operation of the hospital (health procedures, safety standards, personnel skills, etc.) could diverge on either side and have had to be settled by sustained discussions. The principle of systematically specifying the highest standard has nevertheless ensured conformity to the two legislations, and above all the building of an exceptional facility. Substantial work was done on the question of the personnel: how could French personnel work on Spanish territory, employed by an EGTC governed by Catalan law? In the face of this difficulty, which the new European regulation on the EGTC should overcome, we have had to assign the French personnel to Perpignan hospital. This is just one example of many similar ad hoc solutions. It is worth wagering that the project will be used as an example for other territories and at European level to facilitate cross-border formalities!

The Cerdagne cross-border hospital welcomes its first patients

Europe's first cross-border hospital opened its doors on 19 September 2014 in Cerdanya, on the French-Spanish border. The 68-bed facility, built on land made available by Puigcerda town council on the Spanish side of the border, meets a substantial demand for healthcare in an isolated mountain area. The area welcomes many tourists and has a resident population of 33,000 used to living together and crossing the border on an everyday basis. With French and Catalan personnel, the hospital provides the cross-border territory with important healthcare facilities such as an MRI machine and a CT scanner.

With a total initial investment budget of 31 million euros, 65% of which came from the ERDF, the project has been managed by an EGTC since December 2010. It has taken more than ten years to make all the arrangements. Internal rules have been produced so that the EGTC can manage funds from two States and two social security systems governed by different rules and periodicities. Thus, the

healthcare reimbursement procedure and the tariffs for the next five years, for example, have been defined by the statutes of the EGTC.

An informed division of the sectors has been defined, so that the best practices on each side of the border can be called upon. For example, X-ray services are provided by Perpignan hospital as a service provider, while geriatric care and rehabilitation are managed by the Cerdan health centre, a satellite unit built on the French side. This centre, managed by a GCS (health cooperation grouping) of which the EGTC is a member, also provides the logistic services for the hospital, such as housekeeping, meals, and maintenance of green spaces.

Other issues, such as births and deaths (relating to nationality and to transport of bodies) were not simple, and have only been resolved as the hospital opened. Today the mission is accomplished and the hospital bears witness to a Europe that innovates for the health of its citizens! [More info](#)



EVENTS

Forum on "Social and Solidarity-based Economy - Facts, challenges and prospects for the Upper Rhine", 24 October 2014 in Strasbourg (France)

"From innovation to market – Cooperate to perform!", 3 November 2014 in Bordeaux (France), organised by France Clusters

14th international conference BRIT: "The border, a source of innovation", 4-7 November 2014 in Arras, Lille and Mons (France, Belgium) - MOT is organising 4 sessions.

Launch seminar of the 2014-2020 programming period for the European structural and investment funds in France, 14 November 2014 in Montpellier (France)

Interreg VA 2 Seas Programme launch event, 20-21 November 2014 in Saint-André-lez-Lille (France)

Closing event of the PAMI45+NA project and Presentation of the "PAMINA job market" initiative, 27 November 2014 in Lauterbourg (Germany)

Conference "BORDERS, REGIONS, NEIGHBORHOODS: Interactions and experiences at EU external frontiers", 27-28 November 2014 in Tartu (Estonia)

More info and all the events on: www.cross-border-territories.eu

Seminars in Strasbourg



Council of Europe seminar

On 16 and 17 September in Strasbourg the Council of Europe headquarters was the venue for a seminar on the prospects for effective transfrontier cooperation in Europe, organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in collaboration with the Kehl Euro-Institut and the Pôle européen d'administration publique (PEAP).

It was attended by around 60 cross-border cooperation researchers and practitioners. Representatives of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities included its president Herwig van Staa, its general secretary Andreas Kiefer, the chair of the governance committee Karl-Heinz Lambertz, the rapporteur on cooperation Breda Pecan and the president of the Chamber of Regions Nataliya Romanova. Representatives of DG REGIO, the MOT and the AEBR also attended. Jean Peyrony, director

general of the MOT, spoke on multi-level governance of cross-border cooperation, illustrated by the role of the CECICN and the Budapest Platform.

The discussions covered three topics: legal aspects of transfrontier cooperation, evidence-based transfrontier cooperation, and capacity-building and training for transfrontier cooperation. The principles that were emphasised included: the need for mutual recognition of legal and administrative systems between neighbouring States, the idea of de minimis rules to be defined for transfrontier areas, and the necessity of defining the needs for transfrontier data and for sharing existing data. Concluding the seminar, Karl-Heinz Lambertz stressed the three conditions for cooperation: having the right, the willingness and the ability to cooperate.

[More info](#)

Final conference of the PAT-TEIN project

The final conference of the PAT-TEIN (Professionalizing Actors of Cross-Border Cooperation within the Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network) project was held following the seminar, on 18 September at the European Parliament.

The project leader, European network TEIN, in which the MOT and the AEBR are associated partners, has worked for two years on the transfer of a training methodology developed by the Euro-Institut, the network's lead partner. The results of this work were presented at the conference, including four training tools taking account of the specific aspects of each border. In conclusion, the participants stressed the need to train and guide those involved in cross-border cooperation at all levels, essential conditions for overcoming the difficulties and developing the potential of the cross-border regions! [More info](#)

Employment Forum in Annemasse

The French-Swiss cross-border Employment Forum took place on 18 and 19 September 2014 in Annemasse. Organised by the European cross-border grouping and Le Dauphiné Libéré, it provided an opportunity for French and Swiss businesses and workers of the France-Vaud-Geneva area to meet each other. Christian Aebischer, deputy mayor of Annemasse, emphasised that despite "the political uncertainties related to the votes last February, the cross-border forum is a way to find a job without any stigmatisation". Guy



Larmanjat, vice-president of the Ain department general council, declared that he supported "all that is placed at the service of our fellow citizens. It's social integration!" Lastly, Le Dauphiné libéré took advantage of this event to announce the introduction of a daily page of border and Geneva news from the end of September. [More info](#)

The Alps-Mediterranean Euroregion relaunched

The presidents of the Liguria, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Piemonte, Rhône-Alpes and Valle d'Aosta regions decided at a meeting in Turin on 12 September 2014 to relaunch the Alps-Mediterranean Euroregion. In the context of the start of the 2014-2020 programming period and the construction of the macro-regional strategy for the Alpine region, they wish to strengthen the Alpine and European role of this cooperation space. Five working groups are to be reactivated on defined topics.

[More info](#)

Cross-border walk in the Greater Region

Taking place on 28 September 2014 between Berus (Überherrn, Saarland) and Berviller-en-Moselle (Lorraine) as part of the annual event of the Interreg IVA Greater Region Programme and the 10th anniversary of the Interreg PIG (Public Interest Group), the cross-border walk attracted 170 persons, partner authorities and project operators accompanied by their families, from Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and France.

[More info](#)

European Cooperation Day

Organised by the INTERACT programme under the slogan "Sharing borders, growing closer", European Cooperation Day was celebrated on 21 September. A large number of events took place across Europe to highlight the practical achievements of Europe and encourage meetings between European neighbours. This year European projects were honoured through a video competition which gave awards to four entries presenting projects including a Spanish-Portuguese cross-border collaboration on emergency preparedness, the CAT-MED capacity-building project on the development of sustainable city models in the Mediterranean, and a cross-border tourism development project on the Finnish-Russian border.

[More info](#)

OPEN DAYS 2014

The MOT stresses the role of national support in overcoming obstacles to cooperation

The 12th OPEN DAYS, European Week of Regions and Cities, took place from 6 to 9 October 2014 in Brussels, bringing together some 6000 persons from the whole of Europe. There were many workshops on European territorial cooperation.

The MOT had a strong presence throughout the week, in particular by organising a workshop of the [Budapest Platform](#), of which it is a founding member, on the topic "New generation cross-border cooperation: support at national level to overcome obstacles", attended by more than 100 persons.

Jean Peyrony, MOT director general and moderator of the workshop, introduced the proceedings by presenting the Budapest Platform network. Set up in December 2010 by the signature of the Declaration of Budapest, it is a European platform of national structures supporting cross-border cooperation (to date: PT, FR, NL, HU). Its objective is the sharing of experience and the

implementation of joint projects at European level; it is open to any country that wishes to join. The attending representatives of national structures discussed the measures undertaken by States in favour of cross-border cooperation:

Gyula Ocskay, CESCO secretary general, stressed the importance of integrated territorial tools for supporting cross-border cooperation at the Hungarian borders. He highlighted the necessity of simplifying the tools designed by the European Union, in order to contribute to enhancing the way strategies of the territories are taken into account in the programmes. Nuno Almeida, general coordinator of the Strategic Cooperation Unit of Norte

Portugal, explained the Spanish-Portuguese model for coordination of national strategies at the border. Cross-border relations between Portugal and Spain are enshrined in the respective partnership agreements, implemented jointly by the Autonomies on the Spanish side and the Portuguese state on the Portuguese side in the form of cross-border investment plans. Tom Leeuwenstein, unit head at the Dutch Ministry of the Interior, discussed the necessity of inter-ministerial coordination and of coordination with the neighbouring States on each border in order to overcome the legal obstacles at Dutch borders, for example with regard to employment. [...] [Read more](#)



Seminar on cross-border observation in Budapest

The CESCO, the MOT and INFH co-organised the 2nd European Seminar on cross-border territorial observation on 30 September 2014 at the Institut français de Budapest in Hungary. This event, following on from the [Nancy initiative](#), was opened by Levente Mayar, Hungarian junior secretary of state for economic diplomacy, who restated the importance of cross-border cooperation for the territorial integration of his

country in its European neighbourhood. The various speakers emphasised the issues related to cross-border observation and the obstacles that still have to be overcome. Successful examples of observation on various borders (Denmark-Sweden, France-Germany-Switzerland, Germany-Netherlands-Belgium) were presented. At a round table on addressing cross-border observation at European level, MOT

secretary-general Olivier Denert presented the system set up by the Commissariat Général à l'Égalité des Territoires (CGET) in France with the neighbouring States. The European Commission representative stressed the importance of observation for evaluating the achievements of European territorial cooperation over nearly 25 years.

[More info - The presentations on line.](#)



PRESS REVIEW

▲ The Saarland strategy for vocational secondary schools

Le Républicain lorrain, 23 September

"On one bank there is Saarland, where businesses are having difficulty recruiting all the personnel they need. On the other, Moselle-Est is affected by an unemployment rate varying between 14% and 20%. [...] Finding a job in Germany is not as easy as might be thought for the young people of the former coalfield. Faced with this observation, the heads of eight vocational secondary schools of the former coalfield have decided to take action."

▲ Basle finances car parks in Germany and France

Frontalier Magazine, September

"It's a state of mind: in order to limit road traffic and parking to what is strictly necessary, Basle-City has decided to contribute to the funding of park-and-ride infrastructure on nearby territories."

▲ BioValley, medical innovation without borders

Les Echos, 17 September

"Within a radius of 150 kilometres, 700 businesses specialising in life sciences are bustling with activity. Between Fribourg, Heidelberg, Basle, Strasbourg or Nancy, university researchers are no longer limited by borders. 'Collaborations on projects and exchanges of information are part of their day-to-day work...'"

▲ A meeting to discuss 'training Europe'

DNA, 30 September

"Some twenty businesses of the Pamina Eurodistrict, politicians, CCI representatives and people working for training and employment met on the topic 'Training Europe'. [...] 'The purpose of this day for professionals was to raise the awareness of the businesses of the various options available if they lack personnel and to put them in touch with persons who have proposals.'"

▲ Fire brigade training courses with Germany and Switzerland

L'Alsace, 27 September

"The new training centre for German, Swiss and French fire brigade personnel was presented last week in Mannheim, Germany."

▲ Traffic on the Upper Rhine: a real-time information platform coming soon

AFP, 26 September

"From 2016, the skippers of vessels on the French part of the Rhine will be able to use their smartphones or tablets to obtain information on incidents on their route, wait times at locks and flood levels, which should make navigation more fluid and safer..."

▲ Free-zone farmers fear losing their Swiss label

Le Temps, 11 September

"The new Swiss federal law on foodstuffs does not mention the free zones as authorised to use this indication of origin. Discontent on both sides of the border."

▲ France-Geneva tension: 204 million from Bern at stake

La Tribune de Genève, 19 sept.

"The French are concerned about their participation in Greater Geneva. The sum at stake is enormous: 204.07 million francs. This money promised by Bern is intended for a number of projects in Greater Geneva, such as the Geneva-Saint-Julien tramway and the link road at Bernex-Nord. All that remains for the various partners to do is to return the signed contract to the Confederation. But... the French are hesitating, claiming that Geneva is not fulfilling its financial undertakings."

▲ The Basque 'regional express train' reappears, between Bayonne and San Sebastián

Sud Ouest, 9 September

"The elected representatives of the Bayonne conurbation set a date for a regular train service along the coast: 2020."

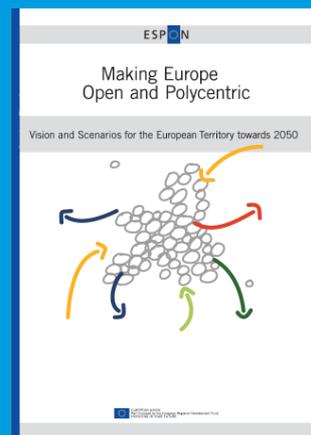
ESPO report "Making Europe Open and Polycentric"

Final report of the ESPON ET2050 research project "Vision and Scenarios for the European Territory towards 2050", conducted by the members of the ESPON Committee, in liaison with the European institutions and other European experts.

"A territorial vision at European level will serve as a common reference framework for the long-term and more consistent development of European policies, particularly for Cohesion policy in performing as an investment policy, as well as for better cross-border coordination of local, regional and national policies. [...]"

Cross-border relations are still very much limited to those regions where connections always existed and European's mental geographies remain heavily constrained by national narratives. Paradoxically, Europeans have become more mobile and social and economic relations between large cities across Europe and the rest of the world have increased exponentially in the latest twenty years."

[Download the report](#)



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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