

Findings of the Policy forum

"Security and development: how to manage borders?"

The migrant crisis and threats to security have placed borders centre stage. Having become an extremely political topic, the public authorities still perceive them in a fragmented way. "Cross-border issues are now at the top of the political agenda. Borders, which are a daily reality for millions of European citizens, are the focus for populist fears. Even if the current situation makes it necessary to reinstate border controls, the Schengen Area continues to uphold an essential freedom – the freedom of movement – which cannot function without trust between peoples. We now need to re-establish this trust, as it is lacking, and this requires greater cooperation!" It was with these words that Philippe Cordery, MP¹ and Vice-President of the

MOT, opened the policy forum "Security and development: how to manage borders?" organised by the MOT and Grenoble-Alpes University² on 7 July in Paris. Nearly 80 people joined government and European institution officials, regional stakeholders and researchers from all over the world to discuss solutions aimed at reconciling free movement within Europe, increased cooperation regarding security and border controls, and the development of cross-border territories for the benefit of millions of European citizens.

More info [FR]

¹ Chair of the Border Areas and Workers Group at the Assemblée Nationale

² Within the framework of an international research project entitled "Borders in Globalization".



Updating of the MOT's legal resources: a toolkit for stakeholders involved in cooperation

This summer, the MOT completely updated its online legal resources relating to cross-border cooperation law. These provide a toolkit regarding the different legal structures for cross-border cooperation, giving for each one explanations of how they are set up and partnerships are formed, their purposes, applicable legislation,

organisation, financing and each structure's advantages and limitations. A second part sets out the legal framework for cooperation on each of France's borders.¹ And a further section groups together the main legal texts: multilateral and bilateral agreements, European regulations, and agreements and texts under French law.

This legal toolkit is reserved for MOT members; it is available in French in the Members' Area on the website:

www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/espace-membres/ressources-juridiques

¹ Including France/Brazil/Suriname and France/Netherlands (St Martin).

EVENTS

European day of cross-border cooperation, 21-22 September 2016 in Nice, organised by the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis, the MOT, the CNPFT and the CERDACCFF

AEBR Annual conference, 22-24 September 2016, in the Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa

37th national meeting of urban planning agencies "Territoires no(s) limit(es)", 5-7 October 2016 in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques Department, Workshop 2 "The cross-border dimension: a shared territorial project" organised with the MOT

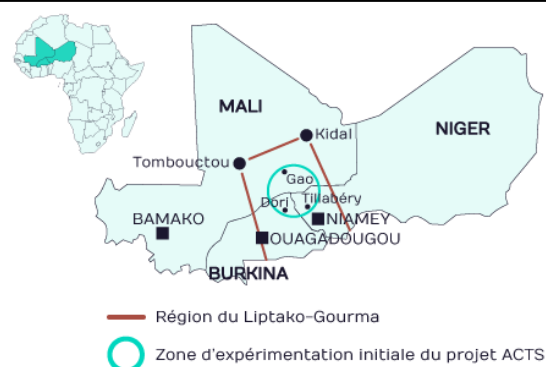
Interreg VA France-Italy Alcotra Programme Annual Meeting, 6 October 2016 in Chamonix (France), Roundtable: "Borders: a unifying factor?", facilitated by the MOT

European Week of Regions and Cities: two MOT workshops, 11-12 October 2016 in Brussels:
- "Cross-border investments: Potential, achievements and challenges", with the CoR
- "Cross-border rural areas and European Territorial Cooperation Programmes"

Seminar: "The 'Grand Est' Region and its neighbours: new dimensions, new opportunities", 7 November 2016 in Strasbourg, organised by ADEUS, the Greater East Region, the Strasbourg Eurometropolis, the MOT and the FNAU

[All the events](#)

The "ACTS" project (Support for cross-border cooperation in the Sahel)



The "ACTS" project¹ was launched in February 2015 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development.² It is a Priority Solidarity Fund project financed by France. It aims to help Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso preserve their sovereignty through better management of border regions with respect to security and local development. It has the following objectives:

- to improve the management of borders in order to combat terrorism and provide governments with tools to do this;
- to establish trust between different populations;
- and to implement inclusive projects in areas such as education, healthcare, water, agriculture, policing, the legal system and customs.

The project encourages the participation of international

organisations and donors, particularly in the study phase prior to the identification of projects. It aims to gradually widen its scope to include other border regions.

Regarding implementation, a major study-assessment phase has been launched, oriented towards security and development issues. The submission of an audit report in the spring of 2016 marked the conclusion of this first phase, at a major seminar in Ouagadougou on 30-31 May.

In parallel, a process of consultation of populations has been carried out, with the aim of gathering their perceptions of security issues, their relations with government departments and their views of development priorities in the region. The first cross-border development micro-projects have also been launched, notably in the areas of healthcare and energy.

The project is now entering a phase of concrete implementation. Several "concept notes" on projects relating to the topics of security, customs, the legal system and development, have been presented in order to obtain funding either from donors invited to the presentation seminar or by the EU's Trust Fund. The MOT is likely to provide assistance to such projects.

This project illustrates the new integrated approach to borders combining security and development, which was debated at the [policy forum on 7 July 2016](#).

[More info \[FR\]](#)

¹ ACTS : "Appui à la coopération transfrontalière au Sahel"
² By the Security and Defence Cooperation Directorate, with the collaboration of the Directorate General for Globalisation, Development and Partnerships.

KUBIC, a cross-border music programme: coming back to a successful project!

Thanks to the Kubic project, which was led by the Saarmoselle Eurodistrict and funded by the Interreg IVA programme, five local French and German television stations pooled their know-how and technical resources to produce a weekly cross-border music programme.

In total, 96 cross-border music programmes were broadcast. Concluded at the end of 2014, the project enabled the five French and German TV channels to remain

partners and display their desire to continue working together on other projects. A concrete example of what Interreg can bring about!

[More info](#)



Four new Interreg projects in the territory of the Basque Eurocity

"Connect Innovation Bai!", "MAREA", "H2Ogurea" and "EDERBIDEA" of the names of four of the new projects selected in the first call for projects under POCTEFA 2014-2020. They are being run by the South Basque Country Conurbation and different partners. They aim respectively to:

- stimulate the border region business fabric around three of the territory's leading sectors: sailing, agro-gastronomy and the creative economy;
- provide local authorities with tools to help with decision-making regarding coastal risks;
- produce a charter for the



Bayonne

management of shared waters;
- and establish an eco-friendly transport policy in the cross-border territory by creating a cycle route between Bayonne, San Sebastian and Pamplona.

[More info](#)

New section devoted to obstacles to cooperation on the MOT's website

A new section on the MOT's website sets out the issues involved in identifying and resolving obstacles to cross-border cooperation. It is divided into the following four parts:

- A major challenge for cross-border cooperation;
- Two examples of coordinated initiatives on French borders;
- Advances at European level;
- Towards a coordinated process for the removal of obstacles to cross-border cooperation.

News items on this issue are collated here, as well as key documents.

[Consult the section](#)

EUROPE NEWS

Launching of the Working Group on innovative solutions to cross-border obstacles

Following the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the EU (2nd half of 2015) and its proposal to create a new legal tool for cross-border cooperation, a Working Group on innovative solutions to cross-border obstacles was established by Luxembourg and France.

It was presented under the Dutch Presidency (1st half of 2016) during the meetings of Directors-General in charge of Territorial Cohesion and of Urban Matters on May 11th and 12th 2016. The first meeting of the Working Group was held in Vienna on July 5th 2016.

Conceived as an intergovernmental platform in a structured dialogue with the EU institutions, the Working Group will be dealing with obstacles to cross-border

cooperation and working on the added value, feasibility and design of the legal tool presented under the Luxembourg Presidency.

The result should be the starting point for a legislative process at the EU level at the end of 2017.

Objectives of the Group:

- Establish a toolbox of cross-border solutions
- Identify concrete examples on cross-border obstacles and their solutions to show the added value of the proposed tool
- Further develop the proposed tool, and clarify its legal feasibility

Members of the Group:

- National authorities willing to take part
- The Committee of the Regions



- The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT), which holds the Technical Secretariat
- The Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
- The Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI)

The Group works in consultation with the European Commission (Cross-border review), the European Investment Bank, the European Parliament and Intergovernmental or transnational organisations like the Nordic Council.

The next meeting will be held on 28 September in Brussels.

Consult the online page of the intergovernmental group and the report of the first meeting: [click here](#).

2016 project factsheet dossier

Every year, the MOT publishes an updated dossier presenting cross-border projects that may serve as examples. Its purpose is to illustrate the role of cross-border cooperation in daily life and its impact on people living in border territories.

[Consult the project factsheets on the MOT's website](#)

Periurban Innovation Prize

Within the framework of the "Periurban Lab" (a platform aimed at identifying, promoting and disseminating innovative projects and remarkable initiatives in periurban areas), the French Minister for Town and Country Planning, Rural Affairs and Local Government, Jean-Michel Baylet, with the support of the CGET,¹ has launched the Periurban Innovation Prize. In this context, the MOT invites developers of cross-border "good practices" in periurban areas to contribute to it. Submissions should arrive by 30 September: [click here](#).

¹ General Commission for Territorial Equality

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region "SRDEII"

In the context of drawing up its SRDEII,¹ the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region asked the MOT, of which it is a member, to carry out an assessment of cross-border issues in the Region (which borders on Switzerland and Italy) that could be included in a cross-border component of the regional programme. The assessment is due to be presented in late September as part of a discussion with the Region's elected representatives and departments. [More info \[FR\]](#)

¹ Schéma Régional de Développement Économique, d'Internationalisation et d'Innovation (Regional Economic Development, Internationalisation and Innovation Programme)

Studies presented by the CoR

The EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions has presented three recent studies on cross-border cooperation:

- ["The potential of closing the missing links of small scale infrastructure in Europe's border regions"](#)
- ["The EGTCs investing: implementing EU funds. Which role in the European Fund for Strategic Investments? Which procurement?"](#)
- ["State aid in cross-border cooperation projects"](#)

PRESS REVIEW

Cross-border police station mooted in Mouscron

7sur7.be, 30 August

"The local police authorities have raised the possibility of setting up a 'cross-border police station' in Mouscron. This initiative would help to increase the effectiveness of the cross-border cooperation governed by a cooperation agreement concluded in March 2013."

Cross-border workers: free shuttle from September

Le Républicain lorrain, 9 August

"In Villerupt, there are large numbers of cross-border workers. To make their journey to their place of work in Luxembourg easier, many of them go by car, parking in the town centre or behind the town hall before getting on the 321 bus. From 1 September, they can leave their cars behind and take the bus [...]."

Straumann wants a French-German free zone

L'Alsace, 27 August

"As soon as an agreement between the Government and EDF regarding compensation for the early closure of the Fessenheim nuclear power plant was announced on Wednesday, the MP and President of the Haut-Rhin Conseil Départemental, Eric Straumann, recalled the need for a programme to support the local economy and local authorities."

The IBA unveils its projects to develop the Basel cross-border conurbation

Le Moniteur, 25 August

"An original process of urban planning and landscaping, from 17 September the IBA will exhibit the projects selected to contribute to the transformation of the area."

Cross-border workers and tax... How should it be distributed?

L'Extension, 31 August

"The distribution of tax in cross-border territories between the municipalities where cross-border workers live and those where they work is a sensitive question, particularly in a period where local authorities are facing financial difficulties. [...] A survey on the distribution of taxes and social security contributions has been launched by the FEDRE."

Switzerland is still hiring cross-border workers

L'Alsace, 11 August

"According to the detailed study published on Tuesday by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO), there are 34,000 cross-border workers who work in Switzerland in the Haut-Rhin Department, 2,800 in the Territory of Belfort, and 24,000 in the Doubs, 5,700 in the Jura, 21,000 in the Ain and 73,400 in the Haute-Savoie Departments. [...] For Switzerland as a whole, the number of cross-border workers rose by 3% between June 2015 and 2016, to stand at 308,000, a record figure."

Ventimiglia, Italy's Calais

Le Monde, 20 August

"[...] With 100,000 arrivals on Italy's shores since January and the systematic desire of migrants to reach Northern Europe, the border town of Ventimiglia has become a big waiting room prior to entering France."

Nice-Cuneo: the economic battle goes full steam ahead

Nice Matin, 13 August

"The debate about whether to keep the 'train of wonders' running, which notably serves the Roya and Bévère valleys, has again been fuelled by the announcement of a cut in funding."

Ten bus services from Biarritz to Irun

Sud Ouest, 2 September

"Yesterday, the Mayor of Irun, Jose Antonio Santano, made a special trip to Saint-Jean-de-Luz for the presentation of the new public transport network, Hegobus. The ten bus routes will serve the twelve municipalities of the South Basque Country Conurbation, but also connect with the Bayonne conurbation, with a terminus at Biarritz train station, and neighbouring Spain."

[Consult all of the press articles*](#)

[Reserved for members – in French.](#)

* Each month, the MOT posts online around 100 articles about cross-border cooperation.

TV programme "C dans l'air" on France 5 "The migrant crisis: the return of borders"

Broadcast on 10 August 2016

"Borders had virtually disappeared over the past few years within the Schengen Area. But now they are constantly in the headlines and mark a strong resurgence of nationalism."

The latest incident was last week in Menton, when nearly 200 migrants crossed the French-Italian border having left their makeshift camp in Ventimiglia, only to be immediately sent back to Italy. [...]"

[To watch the programme \[in French\] – The programme's website](#)



CRISE DES MIGRANTS : LE RETOUR DES FRONTIÈRES
ÉMISSION DU 10/08/2016

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EUROPE

Les frontières avaient quasiment disparu ces dernières années à l'intérieur de l'espace Schengen. Et pourtant, elles s'en ressentent plus de faire l'actualité et marquent le retour en force du nationalisme.

Dernier incident en date, la semaine dernière à Menton, où près de 200 migrants ont franchi la frontière franco-italienne en partant de leur campement de fortune à Ventimiglia, avant d'être renvoyés illico en Italie. Ailleurs en France, d'autres points cristallisent les tensions causées par l'afflux des migrants. C'est le cas de Calais, qui matérialise la frontière avec la Grande-Bretagne. Les contrôles drastiques ne suffisent pas à freiner l'arrivée de ceux qui veulent rejoindre l'autre côté de la Manche, où leurs proches les attendent souvent.

En Belgique, le contrôle transfrontalier est aussi de retour, notamment au poste de Haluun-Rekem. Début il y a deux ans, il a repris du service pour permettre aux autorités belges et françaises de mieux maîtriser les entrées sur leur territoire.

CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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