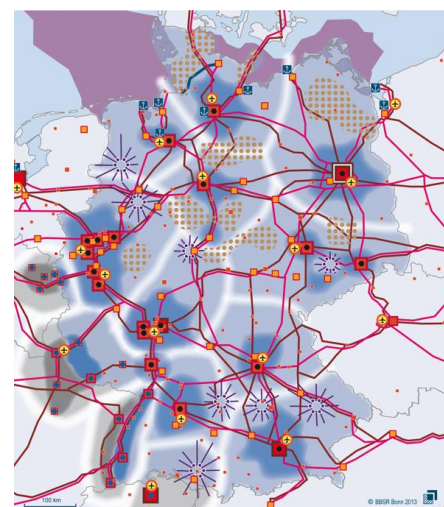


Cross-border cooperation in Germany's territorial development policy

With the recent approval by both the German Länder and the federal level of its "Guiding Principles", Germany is emphasising cross-border cooperation in its territorial development policy. The document,¹ which was adopted on 9 March 2016 by the conference of German ministers responsible for territorial development, now takes account of the potential for European cross-border integration.



[Click here to download the map.](#)



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New "Guiding Principles" for Germany's territorial development were adopted in March 2016, which are in line with the idea that "Germany is not an island". The geographical diagram¹ that illustrates this new strategy does not stop at Germany's borders: it includes the cross-border metropolitan regions and the major transport routes, and puts the territory's "functional" relationships with cross-border potential at the heart of all thinking about regional development.

Since the integration of the European market in 1957, cross-border employment and trans-European transport and energy networks have grown considerably. Territorial development can no longer be satisfied with a purely national perspective. To the west of Germany, territorial relations have existed for decades with our French, Swiss, Luxembourg, Belgian and Dutch friends and we work together to develop harmonious border regions. Many challenges and obstacles to continuing in this direction remain. That is why the German federal government is working on pilot projects² to contribute to cross-border territorial development. The future of our European regions will be determined by what they have in common, not by what divides them. At the present time, nothing is more important than building Europe where it is visible for its citizens: where they live, where they go to work, whether they look for a school for their children. If all this can be achieved on either side of a border... that's Europe!

The diagram² relating to competitiveness along Germany's borders includes "border metropolitan regions" and "areas of enhanced metropolitan integration in border metropolitan regions". It is based on mapping by the IMeG³ and statistical work on cross-border functional urban areas.

The legislation on territorial development⁴ states that "the Bund and the Länder can, within the framework of the conference of ministers responsible for territorial development draw up guiding principles for territorial development in Germany and for contexts that go beyond the competence of the Länder". Moreover, the "Bund contributes, in cooperation with the Länder, to territorial cohesion policy in the EU and in the wider

European region. The Bund and Länder cooperate closely on cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries in the area of territorial development".

The legislation also states that the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BfLR) "manages an information system on territorial development in federal territory and adjacent areas. The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure makes the information system's findings available to the Länder".

¹ "Leitbilder und Handlungsstrategien für die Raumentwicklung in Deutschland"

² See illustration or on page 9 of the document.

³ "Initiativkreis Metropolitane Grenzregionen" (Cross-Border Metropolitan Regions Initiative) set up in March 2011 in Berlin.

⁴ "Raumordnungsgesetz, § 26 Zusammenarbeit von Bund und Ländern"

¹ See map opposite.

² "MORO" projects, see page 2.

EVENTS

Seminar "The Greater East Region and its neighbours: new dimensions, new opportunities", 7 November 2016 in Strasbourg

Organised by ADEUS and the MOT, in partnership with the Greater East Region, the Strasbourg Eurometropolis, and the FNAU. [More info](#)

Symposium of the TransJurassienne Conference "The border: an engine for the Jura Arc", 4 November 2016 in La Chaux-de-Fonds (France)

Plenary council of the Working Community of the Pyrenees, 10 November 2016 in Bordeaux (France)

"Community of practices dedicated to apprenticeships and vocational training" (Aquitaine-Euskadi Euroregion), 23-25 November 2016 in Irun (Spain)

Second tri-national Climate and Energy Conference, 25 November 2016 in Lörrach (Germany)

[All the events](#)

"MORO" – pilot projects devoted to cross-border cooperation in Germany

Several spatial planning pilot projects (MORO), such as the one that led to the setting-up of the IMeG,¹ incorporating border region and cross-border considerations have been launched in Germany, among which are:

European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

As part of the first MORO project, the BBR/BBSR² carried out a study on the "Potential for transnational and cross-border partnerships of using the EGTC tool". The second MORO project, launched in September 2014 on the topic "European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation – disseminating and deepening experiences", led to the holding of workshops to exchange experiences in 2015 and a final workshop in March 2016. Three model regions were analysed: the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict, the Rhine-Alps Corridor EGTC and the Lower Oder Valley EGTC.

Joint future for the German-Polish catchment area 2030

At the end of 2014, the German-Polish commission responsible for territorial development

launched the "Joint future concept for the German-Polish catchment area 2030", a project funded by MORO that is due to be completed at the end of 2016. Following public consultation, a first draft of this "future concept" was discussed in April 2016 and supplemented by the definition of general and specific objectives and the draft of a "cartographic image".

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Treaty on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation between Germany and Poland, the German-Polish commission launched a bilingual Internet portal dedicated to cross-border cooperation between the two countries, which in particular presents this project:

www.kooperation-ohne-grenzen.de

System of territorial observation for Germany and its border regions

Now enshrined in federal law,¹ territorial observation extends to "adjacent areas". In line with this, a MORO project was launched in October 2015 to create a "System of territorial observation for Germany and its border regions", which lays the foundations for continuous and expanded territorial observation. Covering the 2015-2017 period, the project involves the organisation of many workshops, including in the model regions analysed,³ ending with a national workshop in the first half of 2017 followed by a final workshop in November 2017.

¹ IMeG final report, 2013.

² Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning.

³ Including the Greater Region.



Construction of Greater Geneva: Switzerland and France linked by a railway tunnel



On 23 September 2016, the two sides of underground route of the future cross-border rail link between Geneva and Annemasse were joined up by French and Swiss teams. A wall that served as the border was symbolically destroyed in the presence of authorities from the two countries. The visual identity of the "Léman Express" and its future fleet were unveiled. In 2019, this cross-border regional rail service will connect Annemasse and Geneva in 20 minutes, thereby linking up the Swiss and French transport networks, with the aim of reducing the very high levels of congestion on roads in the cross-border territory. [More info](#)

Annual conference of the Interreg ALCOTRA programme

On 6 October 2016, the annual meeting of the Interreg VA ALCOTRA programme brought together more than 400 participants in Chamonix. It was opened by Etienne Blanc, First Vice-President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, the programme's managing authority, and Eric Fournier, the Mayor of Chamonix and President of the Community of the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley Municipalities. A progress report on the programme, with 18 projects already funded, was presented. A roundtable moderated by Jean Peyrony,



the MOT's General Director, brought together representatives from the partner regions (Piedmont, Aosta Valley, Liguria, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes) and the European Commission on the topic "Borders: are they a unifying factor?" Interactive workshops then enabled more direct discussions between players in the territory to take place. [More info](#)

European days of cross-border cooperation in Nice

Organised by the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis,¹ the European days of cross-border cooperation held in Nice on 21-22 September were a great success, with nearly 400 participants. Players from the Italian-French-Monaco territory shared experiences in workshops and roundtables with the aim of highlighting the cross-border reality of this region that is both Alpine and Mediterranean, and of promoting the tools and European funding available to develop integration projects in areas such as innovation, healthcare, tourism, natural risks, etc. Jean Peyrony, the MOT's General Director, moderated a roundtable at the event. The following day, a training day focused on a comparison of territorial reforms in France and Italy. [More info](#)

¹ In partnership with the MOT, the Centre National De La Fonction Publique Territoriale (CNFPT) and Nice Sophia Antipolis University.

European Week of Regions and Cities – the MOT's workshops : "Cross-border investments" and "Rural areas"

During the European Week of Regions and Cities, the MOT organised two workshops: the first on cross-border investment and the second on rural areas.

Workshop on "Cross-border investments: potential, achievements and challenges"

Organised jointly with the Committee of the Regions,¹ the workshop brought together more than 100 participants. It was introduced by Raffaele Cattaneo, President of the Lombardy Region and of the COTER Commission. Three projects were presented:

- the extension of the Strasbourg tramway to Kehl (FR-DE);
 - the strategy of the EuroGO EGTC (IT-SL) and its translation as an ITI in the Interreg programme;
 - the "Top Technology Cluster" project for innovation and economic development in the Maas-Rhine Euroregion (BE-DE-NL).
- The representative of the Caisse des Dépôts (France) presented financial tools² that are useful for cross-border projects.

The representative of the European Investment Bank (EIB) explained the work of its investment advisory hub in supporting cross-border projects, which have become a political priority.

Dirk Peters, a senior expert at DG REGIO emphasised the under-utilisation of the EGTC tool and called for better coordination of existing modes of financing, notably via ITI.

Jean Peyrony, the MOT's General Director who was the moderator, concluded by talking about the value added of cross-border investment projects: "It is vital to have more of them, with better use made of existing tools and new modes of financing involving national development banks and the EIB. The MOT will contribute to this." [More info](#)

Workshop on "Cross-border rural areas and European Territorial Cooperation Programmes"

Bringing together nearly 100 people, the workshop was facilitated by Olivier Denert, the

MOT's Secretary General, who presented the specific issues facing cross-border rural areas and the account taken of them by European local development tools such as Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD). Four examples were presented: the Espace Mont-Blanc (FR/IT/CH), which has developed a Cross-Border Integrated Plan within the framework of the Alcotra programme; the Maas-Swalm-Nette Cross-Border Nature Park (DE-NL) set up in the form of an association; the Italy-Austria Interreg programme, which promotes the CLLD tool arising from the experience of LEADER projects; and the EuroGO EGTC (IT-SL), which uses the ITI tool to ensure integrated management of the different aspects of the Interreg programme. [More info](#)

¹ COTER Commission and EGTC Platform.

² Such as packaging and the complementary nature of EFSI funding and assistance from the EIB and national development banks.



"Territoires no(s) limit(es)"

Nearly 600 people gathered for the 37th national meeting of urban planning agencies on 5-7 October in the Basque Country. Two plenary sessions and 13 workshops-visits enabled elected representatives and urban planning professionals to exchange views on the new territorial limits, the challenges facing territories and the positioning of the agencies. The MOT helped to organise and facilitate a workshop entitled "Cross-border settings: territories of cultures and tourism". [More info](#)

Roaming charges

Roaming¹ within the EU will be free of charge for unlimited periods from 15 June 2017. The first proposal to limit free roaming to 90 days was rectified by the European Commission as it was deemed to be discriminatory for example for cross-border workers and Erasmus students who spend a lot of time in another country. However, a system of monitoring by companies is expected to be authorised in order to curb abuses. [More info](#)

¹ Excessive charges applied by mobile phone providers to calls made abroad.

Meetings in Brussels on "obstacles to CBC"

The MOT took part in two important European meetings at the end of September in Brussels:

- On 27 September, the third meeting of the group of experts that is providing assistance to the European Commission's "Cross-Border Review". The study of practical examples enabled them to deliberate on preliminary conclusions and general recommendations regarding the identification and resolution of obstacles to cooperation.
- On the same topic, the second meeting of the "Intergovernmental working group on innovative

solutions to cross-border obstacles", for which the MOT provides the technical secretariat, was held on 28 September. The discussions focused on the methodology used to identify obstacles and the appropriate tools to address them. Two examples informed the discussions:

- the Cerdanya cross-border hospital, which is set up as an EGTC, and which has just joined the MOT;
- the actions of the Nordic Council.

The minutes and the presentations are online: [click here](#).

PRESS REVIEW

French-Belgian agreement on a common approach to social dumping

La Meuse, 14 October

"France and Belgium are going to cooperate to combat social dumping following the signature yesterday of an agreement by the French Minister of Labour, Myriam El Khomri, and the Belgian Secretary of State for the Fight against Social Fraud, Philippe De Backer."

The cross-border job-seeker placement service

DNA, 1 October

"Since its beginnings in 2013, the French-German cross-border job-seeker placement service has assisted 5,926 job-seekers in the Greater East Region. And it has helped 3,363 of them, i.e. 56% of the total number, to find a (new) job."

Third generation Basel conurbation project adopted

DNA, 18 September

"On Wednesday, the community council approved the third generation Basel conurbation project, as well as the projects proposed in France. The trinational Basel conurbation had already drawn up two conurbation projects, which are actually instruments for financing infrastructure [...] beyond municipal, cantonal and national boundaries."

Small customs posts: "We should manage it"

Le Dauphiné libéré, 30 Sept.

"The President of the Conseil d'État has proposed an approach. 'We should manage it,' said Jean Denais, President of the ARC about the most pressing cross-border issue of the autumn: the plan by Geneva to close five small customs posts to commuters in order to preserve the tranquillity of the villages concerned, as well as to pick up a few votes in next year's elections."

Haut-Doubs property: the Swiss are settling in France

L'Est républicain, 18 October

"The trend of Swiss citizens wishing to settle in France is a new phenomenon that is intriguing the professionals. Apart from a few families, until now there have been very few people who have chosen to settle in France."

The Espace Mont-Blanc recognised as a pilot region

Le Dauphiné libéré, 16 Oct.

"The 16th Alpine Conference was held in Grassau on Thursday. [...] Barbara Hendricks, the German Minister for the Environment, presented Éric Fournier (Mayor of Chamonix [...]) with a certificate naming the French part of the Espace Mont-Blanc as a pilot region for ecological connectivity."

PACA wishes to become the first region to experiment with rail competition

Le Monde, 6 October

"[...] To bring in more competition for the SNCF, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (PACA) Region is initially studying the setting-up of a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation that would involve at least Monaco and Liguria, which could choose its operator."

The Euroregion looks at the future of start-ups

La Dépêche du Midi, 7 October

"How can start-ups be given more help in their growth and development. This is the challenge of the new scheme dubbed 'Links up' launched by the Euroregion this week in Toulouse. Two key sectors have been singled out to benefit from assistance from the regional executives of Occitanie, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands: e-tourism and e-healthcare."

Creation of a cross-border CCI

La Semaine du Roussillon, 19 Oct.

"The heads of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of Perpignan, Gerona, Lleida and Andorra have officially launched the cross-border CCI Pirineus Med. A new structure that aims to develop exchanges and mutual cross-border knowledge."

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

"Grand Est : L'Europe entre voisins"*

Published by Correspondances Lorraines. Author: Pascale Braun. October 2016.
Retail price: €20.

Flanked by Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Switzerland, with 800 km of borders, the new "Greater East" Region cannot envisage its development without enhanced cross-border cooperation. The publication highlights concrete cross-border achievements of the young region and presents the players and experiences in the territories which, in spite of their differences and divergences, are constantly getting closer to one another.

* "The Greater East Region: Europe among Neighbours"

[More info](#)

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](#)

NB: the downloading of online documents is reserved for MOT members and, on request, students and researchers.



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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Production: Domitille Ayral



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