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The Cerdanya Hospital, which is located on the border between France and Spain in the Catalan Pyrenees, is an unprecedented example in Europe of cooperation in healthcare (between the Autonomous Community of Catalonia and France). This hospital, which is a cross-border institution in terms of its governance (EGTC-CH) and its funding (France, Catalonia), brings together doctors and hospital staff of both nationalities who provide healthcare using the same protocols and the same technical facilities with no distinction to French and Spanish patients who are covered by their respective social security systems. When visiting it for the first time, one is pleasantly surprised by these teams in which medical staff work together, transcending their national background and speaking to one another in Catalan, Spanish or French while delivering high-quality technical and specialised healthcare in a remote area far from the big city hospitals (Barcelona and Perpignan). The last hospital board meeting, which was chaired in turn by the Minister for Health of the Generalitat de Catalunya, Antoni Comin, and the Director-General of the Occitanie Regional Healthcare Agency Monique Cavalier, delivered a positive assessment of the hospital's activity, notably with an emergency department dealing with 25,000 cases a year and an imaging department using MRI and a scanner thanks to tele-imaging. The forthcoming hospital plan, which will be drawn up in 2017, will set out a roadmap for consolidation, with the development of telemedicine and the strengthening of links with community medicine and referral hospitals. With their enthusiasm and conviction that they are taking part in a European project that is helping to open up medical knowledge, the staff of the Cerdanya Hospital are giving us an example of successful cooperation.

The cross-border Cerdanya Hospital: an example of successful cooperation

To be able to treat someone rapidly after a stroke requires coordination between local emergency services and specialist neurology and neurosurgery departments. In the remote area of Cerdanya on the French-Spanish border, which has a low population but is a popular tourist destination (six months of the year), the French and Catalan health authorities have put in place systems designed to reduce the risks for patients (who must receive medical attention within six hours of having the stroke). The cross-border Cerdanya Hospital is thus able to mobilise an emergency service (mobile and on-site) and modern technical facilities thanks to MRI, which, with the help of a

neurologist providing expertise remotely (in Barcelona or Perpignan), will enable a medical decision to be taken in the same way as for patients receiving treatment in a big city hospital. In order to put these systems in place, it has been necessary to work on medical protocols, IT links with referral centres, and staff training (harmonising the skills of x-ray operators and emergency doctors). A set-up with a fixed video camera in an emergency booth is linked to Barcelona and a set-up on a moving trolley is linked to Perpignan, making it possible to carry out other telemedicine procedures.

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EVENTS

MOT General Assembly, 15-16 March 2017 in Belval and Villerupt, at the invitation of the Alzette Belval EGTC

- 15 March 2017: MOT bodies in Belval (Luxembourg)

- 16 March 2017: field visits of Belval (Luxembourg) and Micheville (France), Technicians' Platform

[More info](#)

Inauguration ceremony of the EGTC "Eurodistrict PAMINA"
11 January 2017 in Haguenau

"Removing the obstacles to cross-border cooperation: taking stock and outlook"

5th meeting of the European Parliament's interregional group on cross-border cooperation
2 February 2017 in Brussels

"Cross-border crisis management and natural disasters"

EGTC Platform and Interregional group on cross-border cooperation conference (CoR), organised in partnership with the MOT
3 February 2017 in Brussels
[More info](#)

[All the events](#)

Signature of the "Greater Geneva Territorial Project 2016-2030"



Nearly 200 people gathered on 8 December 2016 in Geneva for the signature of the "Greater Geneva Territorial Project 2016-2030", a third generation conurbation project: *"We want to move from a financial rationale to a common political vision. We want to make Greater Geneva a collective, shared project that is led by the territory's citizens and stakeholders. We want to work towards the concrete and effective realisation of projects."*

All of the French, Genevan and Vaudois partners have committed themselves to a common political vision and a series of projects designed over the coming years to shape the face of the cross-border territory, in areas as crucial as transport, territorial development and the environment. Several

objectives have been set out:

- To reinforce the territorial structure of the French-Vaud-Geneva conurbation, anchored in the landscape and based on an urban framework closely coordinated with the overall transport network;
- To take ownership of the dynamics of Greater Geneva by aiming for the best territorial balance possible within its perimeter;
- To implement joint cross-border actions that benefit all of the populations in the cross-border area.

In terms of transport, the territorial project enables Greater Geneva to make an application to the Swiss Confederation in respect of the third generation of conurbation projects (Projets d'agglomération – PA3). For the four-year period 2019-2022

(tranche A of the PA3), the French-Vaudois-Genevan partners have therefore decided to present a reduced list of measures that are the subject of a request for co-funding. The third generation conurbation project contains 167 measures, of which 42 are eligible for co-funding from the Swiss Confederation in respect of tranche A. They represent a total investment cost of CHF 623.43 million (for "A" measures), of which 56% is allocated to public transport (trams and buses).

To support the area's infrastructure, the territorial project is accompanied by a four-year work programme in the fields of transport, the environment, territorial development and social cohesion.

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

5th Franco-Luxembourg intergovernmental commission (IGC)

The 5th Franco-Luxembourg intergovernmental commission (IGC) for the strengthening of cross-border cooperation was held on 21 November 2016 in Luxembourg, in the presence of Harlem Désir, Secretary of State for European Affairs (FR), and Corinne Cahen, Minister for the Greater Region (LU). Against the backdrop of a constant increase in the number of French residents working in Luxembourg, the topic of mobility and transport was at the heart of the discussions. Other subjects such as youth, cooperation between universities, healthcare and security were also on the agenda. [More info](#)



"Un territoire, une rivière"*, a French-Swiss publication

The Jura Arc Cross-Border Forum commissioned an original piece of work from Thomas Brasey as part of his thematic cycle entitled "Le Doubs Miroir" ("The Doubs Mirror") in order for him to train his photographer's eye on the cross-border territory between Saint-Ursanne in the Swiss Jura and Saint-Hippolyte in Franche-Comté, two municipalities linked by the river Doubs. The book, entitled "Un territoire, une rivière. Ni hommes ni bêtes", was published in December 2016.

* "A territory, a river".

[More info](#)

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[...] Being open to the other country's practices, the doctors, technicians and IT staff have been able to work on harmonisation and the few differences in treatment procedures (medical attention within eight hours and possible access to a scanner in Catalonia). All in all, a programme that benefits patients, but also the French and Spanish partners who have found a space for dialogue and mutual improvement of their practices.

The Cerdanya Hospital EGTC joined the MOT in November 2016.

[More info](#)

EUROPE NEWS

The EU proposes a revision of the rules on the provision of unemployment benefits between Member States

On 13 December in Strasbourg, the European Commission presented a revision of the European rules on the provision of unemployment benefits for cross-border workers and also for job-seekers in another Member State, in order to facilitate labour mobility. The proposal aims to establish "a closer link between the place where contributions are paid and that where benefits are claimed, in order to ensure a fair distribution of the burden between Member States".

MOT NEWS

Study on the Greater Region's territorial development plan

At the request of Luxembourg's Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, acting on behalf of the different bodies of the Greater Region's Summit, a consortium led by the North Lorraine urban planning agency (AGAPE) in collaboration with the MOT, the urban planning agencies of Metz (AGURAM) and Nancy (ADUAN), and the Technical University of Kaiserslautern, carried out an assignment to assist with the drawing-up of the Greater Region's territorial development plan. This assignment took place from September 2015 to November 2016.

The first phase of the study consisted in the analysis of planning documents by country (Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Germany) and of cross-border guidance documents. It was followed by a cross-cutting study of the three existing documents of the Greater Region's territorial development plan: the metropolitan dimension, transport and the economic component. A third phase consisted of a series of interviews with players in the territory in order to adapt the analyses and the contents of the plan formulated.

Several observations emerged:

- Economic development is regarded as being an issue "apart" in terms of cooperation for players in the Greater Region
 - There is divergence in the way territorial development is understood by the different members of the Greater Region
 - Two areas appear to be priorities: transport and improving living conditions for the population.
- The study was presented at the meeting of the ministers and political leaders responsible for territorial development in the



Greater Region on 23 November 2016 in Namur. The representatives approved the consortium's recommendation to adopt a process in four phases to draw up the plan:

- understanding: establishing a basis of shared knowledge
- strategic vision: adopting a common project for the future
- operational programme: determining priority actions
- monitoring: evaluating the process.

ESPON seminar: "Where are European cities heading? Evidence for better policy-making"

A seminar organised by the ESPON programme and the Slovak presidency of the EU Council was held in Bratislava on 7-8 December 2016. Its objective was to promote the use of ESPON's findings and tools in decision-making processes, and to discuss future issues for European territories. The event focused on urban development; it was also an opportunity to present the ESPON tools and to create new partnerships for the targeted analysis activities.

A workshop was led by Jean Peyrony, the MOT's Director-General, on the topic of the challenges and solutions to be

found with respect to cross-border cooperation. With presentations of concrete examples (Hungary's borders and the Strasbourg-Kehl tramline), it was an opportunity to set out the work of the [Intergovernmental Working Group on Innovative Solutions to Cross-Border Obstacles](#) launched during Luxembourg's presidency by Luxembourg and France, for which the MOT provides the technical secretariat.

The event can be viewed via streaming and all of the presentations are online.

[More info](#)

The Territorial Observatory's 2016 Report

The Territorial Observatory's 2016 Report on the topic "Employment and Territories" has just been published by the General Commission for Territorial Equality (CGET).

Noting that "with respect to employment and unemployment, the disparities between France's territories are greater than in the neighbouring countries", it provides a genuinely territorial analysis of employment, notably addressing the issue of mobility and cross-border employment zones.

[Consult the summary of the report \(in French\).](#)

The "Diplomacy and Territories" White Paper online

Endorsed on 23 November 2016 by the plenary session of the National Commission for Decentralised Cooperation (CNCD), the "Diplomacy and Territories" White Paper of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development is online on the website of the DAECT. * [Click here.](#)

The November issue of the MOT's newsletter published an editorial by the Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault and a presentation of the "strategy for cross-border cooperation" proposed by the White Paper. [Click here.](#)

* Délégation pour l'action extérieure des collectivités territoriales (Delegation for the External Action of Territorial Authorities).

PRESS REVIEW

■ The border wasteland – pilot project for a new kind of cross-border cooperation

La Voix du Nord, 28 November

"Fifteen partners that are players in the territory (territorial authorities, the Department, a regional nature park, etc.) – both French and Belgian – have launched a cross-border participative development project dubbed 'Partons 2.0'. The aim is to involve the local inhabitants, players and elected representatives, etc., in the same approach in order to collectively develop projects to give new impetus to the rural districts along the border."

■ Cross-border transport: Kussbus launches a home-work shuttle service

Le Quotidien, 14 December

"How can the traffic between the Grand Duchy, France, Belgium and Germany be improved on a daily basis? The Luxembourg start-up Kussbus is proposing to provide an innovative door-to-door home-work shuttle service which should begin operating in September 2017."

■ The Grand Est and Germany want to give fresh impetus to cross-border employment

Les Echos, 7 December

"Saarland is implementing its 'Frankreichstrategie', generalising the teaching of French. The strategy on the French side is more embryonic."

■ The SaarMoselle Eurodistrict against the idea of a German toll

La Semaine, 8 December

"The French and German leaders of the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict wish to see their border area exempted from a German project aimed at taxing private vehicles for their pollution."

■ "We will support local authorities in their cross-border projects"

Correspondances Lorraines, 2 December

"Patrick François, Grand Est regional director of the Caisse des Dépôts Group: 'An investor alongside local authorities for 200 years, the Caisse des Dépôts Group also supports major companies internationally, but for the time being is not very present on France's borders. [...] As soon as I took up my post as Grand Est director, I localised the actions of our teams to bring it closer to the ground and to border areas.'"

■ Study in Switzerland... and vice versa

L'Est républicain, 4 December

"Seven universities from Franche-Comté and French-speaking Switzerland have signed a partnership agreement. The 'Community of Knowledge', which now brings together seven universities in the Franco-Swiss Jura Arc, will be able to fund grants for students wishing to study in the neighbouring country."

■ A study shows that financial flows between the city of Calvin and neighbouring France are fairly balanced

Le Courrier, 13 December

"Countering the populists on either side of the border and initiating discussions to move forward with the major projects – this, in a nutshell, is the aim of the study entitled 'Post tenebras lux... on Greater Geneva's finances'".

■ The Lyon-Turin project in the wake of the Gotthard Tunnel?

Le Progrès, 13 December

"These infrastructures are the only ones to bring economic development and jobs' [...]. Following the opening of the biggest (rail) tunnel in the world, the Gotthard with its 57 km, Jacques Gounon, Chairman of La Transalpine, did not fail to make the comparison with the Lyon-Turin project and its cross-border tunnel."

■ The first cross-border school is in the Basque Country

France 3, 23 November

"A cross-border inter-municipal educational grouping has been set up between the village of Arnéguy [...] and the village of Valcarlos in the Spanish region of Navarra."

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

L'Atlas des frontières : Murs, conflits, migrations*

Bruno Tertrais, Delphine Papin - October 2016 - 140 pages – French - Price: €29,90

"There are borders that can be easily crossed and others that are impassable; there are visible borders and invisible borders; there are political, economic and cultural borders... This first atlas devoted to borders helps us to better understand the issues that are concealed behind the lines that separate or link peoples."

With more than 40 original maps and graphics, Bruno Tertrais and Delphine Papin show us today's world through the prism of borders. [More info](#)

* "The Atlas of Borders: Walls, Conflicts, Migrations".



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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