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CROSS BORDER NEWS



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The cross-border dimension as a mission

The Nice Côte D'Azur Metropolis has at least three particularities that have contributed to its growth.

The first is administrative: it is the first territory to have organised itself into a new metropolitan configuration. The second relates to its borders, which are both European and international. The municipality of Cap d'Ail borders the Principality of Monaco, and a large part of the area above Nice borders the Province of Cuneo in Italy. To the south, the Mediterranean opens onto the Maghreb and Africa.

The third is the contrasting terrain so admired by all visitors – the combination of the sea and the mountains, the Alps and the Mediterranean. This juxtaposition is a constant source of fascination. This territory that is open to the world and so unique has now embarked on a vast enterprise focused on innovative and sustainable development, as well as exemplary civic participation. The Metropolis has initiated major projects:

- Within the framework of the European Italy-France cross-border cooperation programmes ALCOTRA and MARITTIMO, in particular in the areas of natural hazards, e-health/the silver economy, data roaming, gender equality, the environmental quality of ports, ecological corridors and digital technology at the service of culture and



cross-border tourism.

- Within the framework of bilateral cooperation projects with border territories such as Cuneo, Turin, Genoa and Monaco devoted to issues such as security, transport and digital innovation.

- Within the framework of the Modernisation of Public Territorial Action and Affirmation of Metropolises Act (MAPTAM), which stipulates that cross-border metropolises should draw up a Cross-Border Cooperation Framework.

- The European Cross-Border Cooperation Days organised in cooperation with the MOT and the National Centre for the Territorial Civil Service (CNFPT) brought together over 400 participants in Nice in 2016. The second edition is being held on 21-22 September 2017 within the framework of a European project under the Alpine Space programme concerning cross-border investment policies with a social impact. [More info](#)



Christian ESTROSI

Mayor of Nice

President of the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis

Innovation does not stop at France's borders

The Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis, which now features among the 10 leading smart cities in the world, has been built up around a very dense international ecosystem. This has been in its DNA for a very long time...

In this globalised context, Nice Airport is a considerable asset: it is France's third biggest airport in terms of passenger traffic, and the second biggest in terms of commercial and business aviation traffic. This hub enables businesses in the metropolitan area and the Alpes-Maritimes Department, but also in the Principality of Monaco, Liguria and Piedmont, to expand and innovate in a cross-border territory with many fruitful interconnections.

Our start-ups, our SMEs and all of our businesses must be able to take full advantage of this openness to an international market that encompasses Europe, the Mediterranean and beyond, the rest of the world.

This geography gives rise to many opportunities and it is my duty to provide the necessary support to our business people so that they can fully exploit them.

The Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis has bet on innovation in all sectors and it was very natural for us to put ourselves forward for the European Capital of Innovation award.

This candidacy is shared by all of our municipalities. Between the sea and the mountains, in both urban and rural settings, the citizens of our territory are at the heart of our project which aims to create a smarter and more sustainable world.

EVENTS

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

Thematic morning: "Cross-border healthcare", organised by the Trans-Jura Conference, on 15 June 2017

[More info](#)

6th Meeting of the EP Working-Group on Cross-border Cooperation "Modernizing the coordination of social security systems: impacts on crossborder citizens", 31 May 2017 in Brussels

International symposium "Borders – territories of healthcare and treatment networks", 1 and 2 June 2017 in Arras

Conference "Cross-border cooperation to enhance renewable energy in the EU", 6 June 2017 in Brussels

Seventh Cohesion Forum, 26 and 27 June 2017 in Brussels

Conference "Cross-border Co-operation and Policy Networks in West Africa", 30 June 2017 in Basel

[All event](#)

A cross-border tramline once again links Strasbourg to Kehl

It was at 4.52 in the morning of 29 April 2017 that the first tram of Line D set off from Strasbourg in the direction of neighbouring Kehl, with the two cities now even more closely linked, within the framework of a project that has profoundly changed the urban landscape.

The irony of history is that this tramline is also reviving a service discontinued after the First World War which already constituted an important transport link between the two sides of the Rhine. The project has consisted in extending Line D of the Strasbourg tram network by 2.6 km to reach Kehl railway station, serving the emerging new neighbourhood of Deux Rives on its way.

The initiative required the construction of a new bridge and many technical meetings to decide on the arrangements regarding the management of pricing, rolling stock and operating costs, and connections to existing public transport networks. One of the essential conditions for the success of the project was also the sharing of its overall cost of



nearly €100 million, allocated proportionally to the length of the route in France and Germany. On the eve of the launch of the tram, there was an inaugural crossing bringing together officials from both countries, during which the name of the new bridge was unveiled – Beatus Rhenanus – as a tribute to a Franco-German humanist (1485-1547).

The stretch of the line between the tram stops "Port-du-Rhin" and "Kehl Bahnhof", the temporary terminus before the line's extension to Kehl town hall scheduled for 2018, was then given over to a cross-border Tramfest in which the inhabitants of the two cities, during a weekend devoted to Franco-German friendship and gatherings around numerous events where use of Line D was free, could take ownership of this new area that paves the way

for a binational conurbation. This extension of the tram network proved extremely popular, with 100,000 people per day using it during the inaugural weekend. The cross-border tramline between Strasbourg and Kehl constitutes the backbone of a new space of coexistence confirming this territory's role as a European testing ground.

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The French Geneva Area turns into a Pole Metropolitan



In order to increase its influence in the development of the Greater Geneva cross-border territory, on 1 May 2017 the French Geneva Region Cooperation Assembly (ARC), the French side of the Local Grouping of Cross-Border Cooperation, became the French Geneva Area Pôle Metropolitain. This Pôle Metropolitain, a joint association bringing together intermunicipal councils with the ability to raise taxes, will provide the structure for a territory that comprises

more than 400,000 inhabitants and 8 intermunicipal councils.

This change in legal status reflects a desire to reinforce the capacity to take action of the French Geneva Area's elected representatives in three key domains: transport, territorial development and the energy transition, and economic development.

Jean Denais, already Mayor of Thonon-les-Bains and elected President of the Pôle Metropolitain on 5 May, affirmed the ambition of the newly-created structure: "A strong French Geneva Area for a strong Greater Geneva", thereby emphasising the importance of joint cross-border work in order "to do together what we cannot do alone". [More info](#)

Event to launch the Mobipro.GR project

On 25 April 2017 in Forbach, an event to launch the European project "Mobipro.GR" took place. Its aim is to encourage and develop the cross-border professional mobility of trainees, notably through internships and projects in the area of applied sciences and innovative technologies, making use of companies in the Greater Region (VSEs/SMEs/SMIs). The project, which has obtained the Interreg V A Greater Region label, aims to increase employability and facilitate access to employment in border regions.

Following a presentation of the project, the launch morning concluded with a roundtable ("Encouraging the emergence of new projects within companies through cooperation with higher education").

[More info](#)

EUROPE NEWS

Call for proposals regarding cross- border employment

The European Union's programme for employment and social innovation (EaSI) has launched a call for proposals regarding cross-border employment. This call, which is open until 16 June 2017, is aimed at encouraging the geographical mobility of workers and increasing employment possibilities, and is structured around four distinct strands. Two of them relate directly to cross-border regions. The first strand is aimed at supporting the mobility of workers in cross-border regions. The second aims to develop partnerships and innovative experiments concerning new forms of labour market integration in cross-border regions.

[More info](#)

NETWORK NEWS

The future of transport in the Mediterranean: the GEECCTT-ILES project

The project "Gestion Européenne Conjointe des Connexions et Transports pour les îles – GEECCTT-ILES" (Joint European Management of Connections and Transport for the Islands), which is aimed at creating transport links in the Western Mediterranean, has just been approved by the Interreg programme's monitoring committee.

The Corsican Transport Board has been designated lead partner by the other partners, i.e. the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, the Liguria Region, the port authorities of Sardinia and Tuscany, as well as the chambers of commerce and industry of the Var, Upper Corsica and Southern Corsica.

It was also for the Corsican Transport Board that the MOT carried out a study on winter cargo and passenger maritime services between Corsica and Sardinia. This technical assistance, which forms part of the first phase of the project underway, has provided preparatory work for the creation of a permanent structure responsible for wider transport links in the Western Mediterranean. In the meantime, maritime public service delegations, like those recommended by the MOT in its study, are in the process of being set up between Propriano and Porto Torres and between Santa Teresa Gallura and Bonifacio.

The GEECCTT-ILES project consists in setting up this structure in the form of an EGTC. This tool of European law¹ should make possible the joint

management of cross-border transport services (air, sea and multimodal transport services, etc.) with a view to achieving territorial continuity and taking account of environmental issues. Over the longer term, the objective is to connect with the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) in order eventually to create an Elba-Corsica-Sardinia economic area centred on a Tyrrhenian arc encompassing the Western Mediterranean islands and the North coast.

The launch seminar for the EGTC took place on 10 April 2017 in Bastia. The aim on this occasion was to bring together the different stakeholders, including elected representatives and technicians involved in cross-border cooperation. Thus, after the presentation of the EGTC tool and the stages of its creation, potential members were able to express their interest. Lastly, several concrete projects that have been implemented were presented.

The MOT summarised the proceedings by briefly presenting both its longstanding

work with the region's players and notably its preparatory study for the Corsican Transport Board and the other EGTC assistance it is currently providing to the Corsican Environment Office², and its technical experience of the EGTC tool. It emphasised the "toolkit" nature of the structure, which offers a flexible and adjustable framework that can vary depending on the needs of members, whose wishes shape it and give it its strength.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) amended by Regulation (EU) 1302/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013

² Technical assistance with the preparation of documents for the first assembly of the Bouches de Bonifacio International Marine Park European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC-PMIBB)



"20 years of the MOT" label for events*

While the European conference being held by the MOT on 30 November-1 December will be at the heart of a year of festivities in 2017/2018 to celebrate its 20th anniversary, the organisation also wishes to promote the events organised by members of its network. To do this, it is proposing to award them the label "20 years of the MOT".

The aim is to involve the MOT's members in this celebration and to highlight their importance

in its network.

This labelling takes the form notably of a dedicated page on its website and in its monthly newsletter. The MOT is also making available its "20 years of the MOT" logo, as well as specific associated graphics.

[More info](#)

[How to obtain the "20 years of the MOT" label for members of the network](#)

*Reserved for members of the MOT's network

Call for proposals under the LIFE programme

In April, the European programme LIFE launched a new call for projects with two focuses: the environment and action for climate. Public- and private-sector bodies and NGOs can submit proposals until September (check the precise deadlines depending on the type of project).

Your cross-border initiatives concerning organic corridors, mitigation, adapting to climate change or cross-border governance applied to the environment could therefore receive support. Writing workshops are scheduled in May and June in Paris (MEEM) and will enable 30 projects to be selected for the second phase. [More info](#)

Franco-German pilot project for cross-border energy networks

In the context of constructing an "Energy Europe", a Franco-German experiment with a decentralised, local and also cross-border energy network is going to be conducted in order to go beyond the traditional interconnections between countries via high-voltage lines.

The pilot experiment is based on the idea of new generation smart grids, the aim being to promote the complementarity of energy mixes in the partner regions in order to encourage the creation of wealth and economic activity, as well as greater flexibility in the local network in the face of fluctuations in demand.

After data analysis and the development of infrastructures, the project will be launched in 2019 in the pilot territory (Smart Border Initiative) in the Grand Est Region and Saarland. [More info](#)

PRESS REVIEW

Cooperating better to live better in cross-border territories

La Voix du Nord, 16 May

"The aim is to go and find out what the issues are facing each territory so that we know what we can do to improve the well-being of the populations in the border area," explains Sylvie Labadens, Vice-President of the Nord Department in charge of international relations.

Thionville-Luxembourg: that's how bus routes die...

Le Républicain lorrain, 17 May

In two weeks' time, the cross-border bus routes 302 and 303, which are too costly, will stop running. [...] "Between Luxembourg and Germany, there are seven bus routes even though only 40,000 Germans cross the border every day. Between France and Luxembourg, there are only two – for twice as many cross-border workers."

"We should have set up in Luxembourg before"

Correspondances Lorraines, 18 April

"Specialising in software designed for digital display, the Nancy start-up Cube Digital Média set up in Luxembourg in 2015. It now equips several office buildings with tactile screens providing digital concierge services."

MARGE: Including deprived neighbourhoods in the Upper Rhine area

Website of the Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict, 1 May

"The trinational cooperation project MARGE, supported by the European programme Interreg V as well as federal and Swiss cantonal funding, is the first of its kind in the Upper Rhine area aimed at urban social development through exploring existing programmes in several towns in the region."

Cross-border apprentices: 97.5% are French

Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace, 11 May

"The number of young people who do cross-border apprenticeships in the Upper Rhine has increased sharply over the past few years with the implementation of 'Succeeding without Borders' programmes initiated by the Grand Est Region and 'Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict: towards a 360° job market'."

Lémanis wants to erase the border

La Tribune de Genève, 12 May

On a cross-border network with France in a state of emergency, security is a constraint over which Lémanis has no control [...] "The competent authorities are looking for solutions regarding border controls on Léman Express trains in order to impede the free movement of passengers as little as possible, while at the same time ensuring the level of security required on the future cross-border train lines."

Europe attends to the fight against floods

Var Matin, 22 April

"Marittimo and Alcotra. These are the pleasantly Italian-sounding names of the two programmes that are funding the three projects of which the CAVEM [the Var-Estérel-Méditerranée Conurbation Community] is a partner. [...] These are cross-border programmes, the fruit of Franco-Italian cooperation. These two programmes, each of which has a budget of nearly €200 million, come under a third, even bigger one: Interreg [...]"

Rise in patient numbers at the cross-border hospital

L'Indépendant, 15 May

The number of French patients attending the hospital has risen and this increase is one of Cerdanya Hospital's main strategic objectives. After operating for five years, the hospital has been pursuing the objective of 40% of its patients being French.

France and Brazil cooperate on public health

France-Guyane, 18 May

A cross-border project bringing together the healthcare associations and bodies of French Guiana and the State of Amapá is helping to strengthen prevention and medical treatment for people infected by sexually transmitted diseases or in vulnerable situations.

Consult all of the press articles*. Reserved for members – in French.

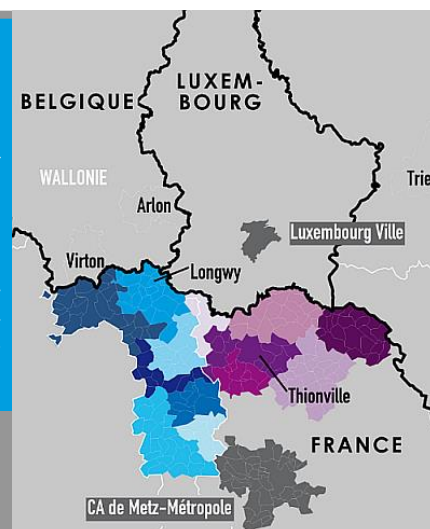
* Each month, the MOT posts online around 100 articles about cross-border cooperation.

"Mission on Governance in North Lorraine" report

This report, submitted by the General Commission for Territorial Equality (CGET) to the Prime Minister, recommends the creation of a pôle métropolitain encompassing more than 300,000 inhabitants on the border with Belgium and Luxembourg. This would enable North Lorraine to take advantage of its geographical position and of the great attractiveness of its immediate neighbours.

The report, which the MOT contributed to, highlights the opportunities linked to cross-border cooperation and will feed into the work of the Prefect of the Grand Est Region, with a view to formulating an action plan aimed at enhancing North Lorraine's attractiveness as a territory. [Download the report.](#)

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](#)



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