

## European Week of Regions and Cities

During the 15th edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities, which was held between 9 and 12 October 2017 in Brussels on the topic of cooperation “working for a better future”, numerous workshops addressed European territorial cooperation. Notably, the MOT team participated in the workshops “Regional and intermediate policy makers, drivers for maritime cooperation” and “Enhancing capacities of regions and cities for better cross-border cooperation”. The latter, organised by Euro-Institut on behalf of the TEIN network, in partnership

with the MOT, the AEBR and CESC, was held in the presence of the European Commission’s DG REGIO. The workshop, which brought together more than a hundred participants, was an opportunity to echo the Commission’s communication “Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions” that was adopted in September, and to present the actions undertaken by the four organisations, while emphasising their cooperation.

[Continued on page 3](#)



## Meetings of the MOT's bodies and the Technicians' Platform

In the presence of Michel Delebarre, President of the MOT, and a number of elected officials, the meeting of the MOT’s steering committee was the occasion to take stock of the organisation’s different activities, and to discuss the future triennial programme for the years 2018-2020.

The meeting of the technicians’ platform, a time for interactive discussion with members of the network, enabled exchanges on the expectations of the network with regard to the

preparation of this programme. This meeting was also the opportunity for the MOT to present its online forum, which will be launched at the end of 2017. This forum aims to facilitate dialogue and direct exchanges with members, to ask questions and obtain technical responses and allow the MOT to identify recurrent obstacles and relay the information to the appropriate levels for their resolution. This meeting was also the opportunity to survey the network’s

expectations of the MOT’s European activities, following the publication in September of the European Commission’s communication.

Finally, the last meeting of the MOT 20th anniversary Working Group allowed an update on the organisation of the conference planned for 30 November to 1 December in Brussels.

1. [Map showing members](#)

2. [Minutes of the meetings](#) (reserved for members - FR)

3. [Minutes of the Platform meeting](#) (reserved for members - FR)

## EVENTS

Save the date :

**20th anniversary of the MOT**  
**"Building cross-border territories: Europe for citizens"**

30 November and 1st December 2017 in Brussels

[Programme and registration](#)

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

**Congrès des Temporelles 2017:**  
**"It's time to go beyond our borders!",** 16 and 17 November 2017 in Lille

[More info](#)

**ESPON – Supporting policy-making with territorial evidence – 15 years and beyond,** 14 November 2017 in Brussels

**Workshop - "The global challenges for Europe: Crises on the frontiers of the EU: calling into question the European project?"**, Rendez-vous européens de Strasbourg, 24 November 2017 in Strasbourg

**European Energy Transition Conference,** 30, 31 January and 1st February 2018 in Geneva

[All events](#)

Omarjee report

## "Promoting cohesion and development in the ORs"

In light of the elaboration of a new European strategy for the "outermost regions" (ORs), the Regional Development Commission of the European Parliament published a report in March 2017 to promote cohesion and development in the ORs by applying article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) in an innovative and positive manner.

The ORs are fully integrated in the EU and assimilated into its legal order, but the permanence and the combination of an ensemble of factors (insularity, isolation, dependence on a small number of productions...) represent structural obstacles to their development, and in many cases, render impossible the standardised application of EU law. This is why article 349 TFEU provides for the principle of a right of adaptation of EU legislation in the fields of, among others, commercial, maritime, fishing, cohesion, competition, and environmental policy.



The report recommends that this approach is applied in other fields. Rather than integrating the specific dispositions for ORs in horizontal European programmes, the report recommends creating programmes, policies and funds specific to the ORs (research, transport, telecommunications, energy, blue growth).

Now a new European strategy needs to be elaborated for the ORs while taking full advantage of the possibilities offered by article 349 TFEU. This global common strategy must aim for the long-term and be accompanied by a specific legislative package, strategic frameworks and precise, adapted and achievable goals. The strategy must be based on an economic and social diagnostic of each OR, and must quantify the investment needed for rectifying structural deficiencies and allow the ORs to move closer to European average development levels.

The report regrets the lack of coherence between EU policies.

For example, the efforts made by the ORs to modernise and boost the competitiveness of traditional sectors, on which the ORs' economies are dependent, are undermined by the trade agreements negotiated by the EU with third countries exporting the same products. It would be preferable that impact studies on ORs were carried out systematically before beginning any trade negotiations. On the other hand, the report calls for the EU to create a programme targeting the territorial continuity of the ORs, in order to reach the goal of free movement of citizens and businesses of the ORs within the EU. It also recommends deepening and making operational the existing mechanisms for promoting cross-border cooperation between the ORs and third countries in their geographic areas. [More info](#)

## "Alzette Belval, towards a cross-border smartcity?"



Such was the question posed on 16 September to the hundred or so participants at the conference organised by the Alzette Belval EGTC, in collaboration with Luxembourg's Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure and the municipal council of Esch-sur-Alzette. The

conference aimed to present the general concept of the smartcity applied at a cross-border level, while emphasising mobility.

The general concept of the smartcity was presented over the morning, illustrated by the town of Cologne (Grow Smarter project) and the Basel Trinationale Eurodistrict for the cross-border aspect. A round table with the elected representatives of the Alzette Belval territory followed these presentations. The afternoon focussed on mobility with the presentation of several strategies for intelligent mobility and practical experiences from local authorities and private businesses. [More info](#)

## CNFPT-MOT meeting

In the context of its partnership with the CNFPT (French National Centre for the Territorial Civil Service), the MOT organised, with a number of partners, different training sessions. A first session, held in July in Perpignan, aimed to raise awareness among elected representatives and technicians of the general framework and the challenges of cross-border cooperation. A second session, held in October, aimed to give local stakeholders the keys to understanding the tools of cross-border cooperation and to deepen the methodology of project development through testimonies from existing cooperation projects. [More info](#)

A session was also held on 5 October in Marseille on the topic "Diplomacy and territories". The session enabled a review of recent developments (White paper, the Letchimy law) and to discuss tools and means of intervention for local and regional authorities in matters of external action, and notably cross-border cooperation. This event brought together more than 150 participants. [More info](#)

European Week of Regions  
and Cities – 2017

## Continued from page 1.

### PASSAGE project seminar

The MOT participated in the seminar on maritime cooperation, organised within the framework of the PASSAGE project, in Tallinn in September. The Pas-de-Calais department, a member of the MOT, is the lead partner in this project financed by INTERREG Europe mobilising several European straits around the low carbon transition of port economies. The partners presented their vision for maritime cooperation post-2020 and discussed it with the MOT and Interact. The conference “Connecting people across the maritime border” was open to the public, notably leading some Estonian and Finnish elected representatives to speak about the feeling of belonging to the cross-border metropolis of “Talsinki”. [More info](#)

During this workshop, Jean Peyrony, Director General of the MOT, presented the final report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on innovative solutions to cross-border obstacles that resulted from the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union of 2015, and more particularly the “European Cross-Border Convention” instrument, as well as the creation of a European multi-level platform for the elimination of obstacles to cross-border cooperation. This platform, composed of organisations acting in different parts of Europe, must permit better coordination of their actions by acting on each border, supporting local stakeholders in line with the EU cooperation programmes, but also sharing experiences, raising awareness at the national level of persistent obstacles, supporting the intergovernmental process and managing a database of obstacles and solutions. [More info](#)



### Workshop - “Regional and intermediate policy makers, drivers for maritime cooperation”

The MOT also participated in a workshop organised by the partners of the PASSAGE project (Public Authorities Supporting low-carbon Growth in European maritime border regions), alongside DG REGIO, InterAct, the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) and the County of Kent.

The aim was to address the manner in which public authorities communicate with citizens on the benefits of cooperation: persuading inhabitants of border regions of the importance of cooperation is all the more important in light of

Brexit. Participants were reminded how essential the Interreg tool is for initiating and supporting cross-border cooperation, although it is not the only tool available and has limits, notably in taking into account the needs of local players, the participation of local authorities, and its governance. Lastly, the participants were able to present their vision of maritime cooperation post-2020. [More info](#)

### “What cross-border cooperation in the field of healthcare in the Jura Arc?”

Following the signing on 27 September 2016 of the framework agreement on cross-border health cooperation between France and Switzerland, the first morning of reflection organised by the Trans-Jura Conference, which brought together elected officials and cross-border health cooperation stakeholders, aimed to take stock of existing cross-border cooperation in the field of health and to determine the desired areas for future cooperation. [More info](#)

### URBACT City Festival - Greater Geneva wins a seal of approval

On the occasion of the URBACT City Festival in Tallinn, which ran from 3 to 5 October, the PACA (concerted metropolitan development areas) process implemented by Greater Geneva has been selected and labelled “Good Practice”. Intermediate between Greater Geneva and the local authorities responsible for implementation, this approach allows the development of projects at a local scale while involving the elected representatives of Greater Geneva and civil society. [More info](#)

### ESPON - Territorial impact assessment tool, Cross-border public services

Developed over the course of the 2007-2013 programming period, the ESPON territorial impact assessment tool aims to support political decision-makers in identifying the potential territorial impacts of EU policies and legislative proposals in the regions. A new ESPON research project, TIA for CBC, aims to update and perfect the tool by developing an online application with new features for exploiting existing data and henceforth integrating the cross-border dimension. The MOT is an associate partner in this project. [More info](#)

Within this programme, the MOT is also involved in a project addressing cross-border public services (CPS project), which should facilitate the identification of problems and needs in this field and the sharing of experience among practitioners across the EU. [More info](#)



# PRESS REVIEW

## Why not work together, from either side of the border?

**La Voix du Nord, 30 September**

Having realised on multiple occasions that it is in their interest to work together, the elected representatives of ten French municipalities around Jeumont and four Belgian municipalities have chosen to disregard the border and come together around one table. Such was the beginning of a small-scale cooperation in which the term "cross-border" should have real meaning.

## Traineeships in SMEs in the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion

**La Libre Belgique, 06 October**

Increasing the chances of finding a job thanks to better language skills and intercultural knowledge, and bringing education and businesses closer together: these are the goals of the Interreg project *www.EUR.Friends*, being implemented within the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion. *EUR.Friends*, mis en œuvre au sein de l'Euregio Meuse-Rhin.

## RailZ, an app on the right track

**Le Républicain lorrain, 4 October**

1500 users are already testing and enriching it daily. RailZ is a collaborative information app that collects data from rail provider SNCF and enriches them with live comments from rail users.

## Sponsors for finding a job in Germany

**Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace, 11 October**

On 18 September within the premises of the Eurodistrict in Lauterbourg, a second group of pairings was launched within the framework of "Sponsors for cross-border jobs", one of the three pillars of the Interreg V project "Bassin d'emploi PAMINA" (PAMINA employment area).

## Learning from each other

**L'Alsace, 6 October**

The first cross-border meeting for associations in the Upper Rhine region took place last weekend at the Pax sociocultural centre in Mulhouse. [...] To remove these constraints and develop together the social, environmental and solidarity economy of the Upper Rhine region, these cooperation meetings between "Neighbours in solidarity" were conceived between the association 'Maison de la citoyenneté mondiale' and Fabrik, a project incubator in Freiburg-im-Breisgau, and quickly joined by their colleagues from Basel.

## Greater Geneva and tomorrow's challenges

**La Tribune de Genève, 12 October**

What are the challenges to overcome for Greater Geneva? Among the examples that can be cited, integrated cross-border water management, the construction of infrastructure, improving traffic flow, rebalancing housing and jobs, or the discussions on air quality.

## TransferINN - a European programme in the service of innovation among businesses in Ariège

**La Gazette Ariégeoise, 12 October**

TransferINN is a European programme led in Ariège by Ariège Expansion. Its objective is to generate ecosystems of innovation based on the transfer of knowledge in the service of micro-businesses, the self-employed, and SMEs.

## Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur labelled "Smart Destination"

**La Tribune, 12 October**

The Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur has with its French and Italian partners just won the European cross-border call for proposals Smart Destination. Practically, from January this will enable testing of the sharing of data between different countries' digital tools for tourism promotion.

## Interreg France (Channel) England

**Le Télégramme, 29 September**

The programme has, to date, invested more than €50M in 14 projects, including a training programme for residents of social housing that will help start up 1200 micro-businesses, and a project that will revolutionise visits to cultural heritage sites.

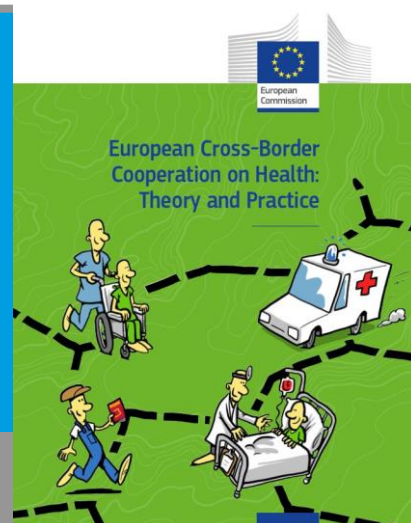
Consult all of the press articles\*. Reserved for members – in French.

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

## Cross-border cooperation in the field of health

This publication, to which the MOT has contributed, notably by producing the maps, aims to take stock of cross-border cooperation in the field of health and the evolution of Europe's role in the healthcare sector in global terms, by focussing on 7 experiences in Europe and by looking closely at the French-Belgian situation. In this field, cross-border cooperation includes a vast ensemble of actions and regulations that affect patients, healthcare professionals, as well as healthcare systems. The goal is to encourage the mobility of persons on either side of the border by developing access to "on the border" provision of quality care through the means of common facilities and services. [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](#)



## CROSS-BORDER NEWS

Mission Opérationnelle  
Transfrontalière  
38 rue des Bourdonnais  
75001 Paris France  
Tel: +33 (0)1 55 80 56 80

Director of publication:  
Jean Peyrony  
Production: Blandine Lysensoone

Photos: All rights reserved

To subscribe:  
[www.cross-border-territories.eu](http://www.cross-border-territories.eu)



cget



Sous le patronage de la Représentation  
en France de la Commission européenne



Commission  
européenne