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Why does Luxembourg continue to attract so many cross-border workers?

In spite of its small surface area, the Grand Duchy continues to attract skills from all over Europe. A symbolic milestone was passed in 2018, when the number of commuters reached 100,000. This is the count of French cross-border workers who every day make the journey to this country located at the heart of European exchanges. This figure will rise to close to 150,000 over the next 15 years.

This country owes its prosperity historically to its steel industry, and more recently to its financial sector. But, contrary to widespread preconceptions, it also owes it to the diversification of its economy in the industrial domain and the development of services, and to an unprecedented social policy constructed by consensus through coalition agreements and coconstruction with the social partners, which provide services to employees. With a minimum wage at 1 January 2019 of €2071.10 gross per month and an increase of €200 scheduled during

the year, Luxembourg holds the record for the highest minimum wage in

Its family policy (benefits, significant subsidies for pre-school childcare) also contributes to this attractiveness. Moreover, it has been announced that childcare centres and music lessons will be made free. From the earliest age, children learn three languages and this has an impact on the country's ability to export and to be open to the world. The country has high levels of immigration, and it is clear that this contributes to its prosperity. These elements reinforce this attractiveness among cross-border workers, who have become essential to Luxembourg's economic model. Efforts are now being focused on mobility, as it is undeniable that the territory is lagging behind somewhat in this area, which has a negative impact on quality of life due to the dominance of individual car use. Cont. on page 2.



President of Grand Est Cross-Border Workers; Regional Councillor, Grand Est Region



"The only border that exists in the Grand Est is that which we have 'in our hearts'. It is part of our emotional relationship to our history, now turned towards the future, in which on a daily basis we shape a territory that is open in all directions, open to the need to cultivate our differences as they are an asset, and open to cooperation in all areas: be it providing responses to the challenges of AI, research programmes or university projects; or be it encouraging young people to become multilingual, bringing a railway line back to life, building a cycle path or developing an area of countryside working together in a network - because it's above all a story of human beings. A complex story certainly, but all the more exciting for that. It's our role to 'facilitate these complexities'. They won't stop existing, and that's a good thing. Those that consist in improving the living conditions of those who are, aspire to be or have been cross-border workers, and those of people living near the border, whether in cities or sparsely populated areas...

This is our mission – that of a network for cross-border workers. It is being built step-by-step, with the support of the region, Europe and many local authorities – and thanks to our digital platforms*, which provide expert answers to hundreds of thousands of people; and to the Task Force, the employment observatory and all of the local structures such as the Maison de l'Allemagne, the Maison du Luxembourg, the Infobests and soon the Maison des Ardennes, all able to provide responses on a human scale."





EVENTS

Europe, governments, territories: a dialogue of the deaf?, 14 May 2019 in Strasbourg

Franco-German seminar: Making maps: cross-border and intercultural representations from Antiquity to the present day, 20-22 May 2019 in Mulhouse

Interreg Annual Event 2019, 22-23 May 2019 in Bucarest

Territories' Spring Forum
[Printemps des Territoires], 6
June 2019 in Paris
To mark its first birthday, on 6
June the Banque des Territoires
will unveil its new offer aimed at
territorial authorities and
designed to meet their specific
funding needs.

ESPON seminar"The role of functional areas for territorial cohesion", 19-20 June 2019 à Iași (Romania)

Franco-German cooperation 2.0, 28-29 June 2019 in Ludwigsburg (Germany)

All the events

The "High Valleys -Heart of the Alps" Integrated Territorial Plan

The cross-border territory of the "High Valleys" is located in the heart of the Alps, between Savoie, Piedmont and the High Alps. It consists of 13 groups of municipalities, 147 rural mountain districts and 270,753 inhabitants spread over 6,350 km².

Beyond the strong historical links between the territories of the Grand Briançonnais and the Maurienne in France and the Susa, Sangone and Pinerolo Valleys in Italy, the High Valleys local authorities, which share the same cultural. environmental and sociological characteristics of mountain living, launched a cross-border cooperation initiative in the early 1990s. Since 2000, they have been brought together in a single political and technical body: the Conférence des Hautes Vallées (High Valleys Conference).

A cross-border strategy "The High Valleys – Smart Destination" was drawn up in order to group together the common development priorities for the coming years. It consists of concrete projects within the framework of the 2014-2020 Interreg programme ALCOTRA, in the form of an "Integrated Territorial Plan": "Les Hautes Vallées, Coeur des Alpes" ("The High Valleys - Heart of the Alps"). This Plan, coordinated by the Maurienne Country Association, is made up of four projects:

1. "CoeurAlp INNOVATION"
to "create innovation
opportunities for businesses
in the cross-border territory"
(led by the Briançonnais
Community of
Municipalities)



- 2. "CoeurAlp RESILIENCE" to "make the cross-border territory more resilient and safer for its inhabitants, workers and tourists" (led by the Metropolitan City of Turin)
- 3. "CoeurAlp ON THE MOVE" to develop solutions for ecofriendly mobility and synergies between modes of transport" (led by the Maurienne Country Association)
- 4. "CoeurAlp SOLIDARITY" to "ensure access to essential services" (led by the Metropolitan City of Turin).

More info



Cont. from page 1

The investment announced (infrastructure projects but also free public transport, a worldwide first for a whole country) will make it possible to partly catch up in the Grand Duchy, but cross-border co-development has become urgent and necessary. The remaining challenge is to open up a new reservoir of growth, as the first hiring difficulties are appearing in Luxembourg. This is a huge area for codevelopment that needs to draw on all of the stakeholders in North Lorraine as well as those among our Luxembourg friends, so that everyone in their area of responsibility "produces" innovative projects that build connections and create value added for the benefit of both sides of the border.

Article written by "Grand Est Cross-Border Workers".

A Territorial Development Plan for the Greater Region

Within the framework of the Interreg "Greater Region Territorial Development Plan" project, the Greater Region Executives Summit have laid the political groundwork for the drawing-up of a common crossborder territorial strategy for the Greater Region partners. One of the principles of this strategy derives from the territories' complementarities, and it is placed within the framework of multilevel governance. The strategy thus aims to set out an integrated vision in the area of spatial planning with the goal of

promoting balanced development in the crossborder area. For each of the four themes identified (demographic dynamics and the associated territorial needs, mobility, economic development and the environment-energy), four brochures have just been produced, with the aim of providing a general overview of spatial development in the Greater Region in order to further the thinking of players involved in cooperation. More info

Strasbourg: Survey on well-being across the crossborder area

The Strasbourg
Eurometropolis's Development
Council has conducted a
survey of citizens on wellbeing across the whole of the
cross-border metropolis. The
survey is entitled "How are
you?". Two volumes [in French
only] were published in 2017
and January 2019
respectively:

Volume 1: The main determinants of well-being as expressed by the participants.
 Volume 2: Recommendations and indicators. More info [FR]

MOT NEWS

Aurélien Biscaut, the MOT's new Secretary-General



Following the departure of Olivier Denert, the MOT was pleased to welcome on 15 April its new Secretary-General into the technical team: Aurélien Biscaut, former Director of the North Lorraine Urban Planning Agency (Agape). "Having been modelled on the Agape, the MOT is in a way its little sister. So now becoming part of it fits with my personal history, and I'm very happy to be able to make use of my crossborder expertise acquired in North Lorraine to serve all of the crossborder territories."

EUROPE NEWS

"L'Europe par les territoires", a publication by the FNAU focus on the cross-border dimension



The latest publication by the French Network of Urban Planning Agencies (FNAU), entitled "L'Europe par les territoires" ("Europe by its territories") feeds into the debate about Europe and provides different views on the issues relating to cohesion policy and the way in which cities and territories have appropriated the European ideal and the tools of this policy. The MOT contributed to it and several cross-border territories are showcased in it. In the first part, "The territories - vectors of European cohesion", Serge Morvan, General Commissioner for Territorial Equality, sets out the five major European

territorial issues, including the fifth one, "The marginalisation of some cross-border areas". In it, Jean Peyrony, the MOT's Director-General, highlights "The cross-border dimension in European cohesion policy". A whole section is devoted to cross-border territories, with a second article by Jean Peyrony: "Cross-border territories – Europe's laboratories". The following examples are then set forth:

- Lille, a European cross-border metropolis
- The development of the Dunkirk area cannot be envisaged without cross-border cooperation
- The Atlantic and Pyrenees urban planning agency a

cross-border ambition

- The Grand Est Region: seven cross-border situations, three levels of issues
- The Strasbourg Eurometropolis – European by culture, cross-border by geography
- Basel-Mulhouse-Fribourg trinational cooperation to blur the borders

- Greater Luxembourg or the

challenge of cross-border metropolisation.
This part concludes with a "plea for cross-border urban planning agencies".
The other sections are devoted to creating networks,

citizenship in Europe and

European cities.
More info [FR]

MOT article on cross-border public services

The magazine
"Intercommunalités" of the
Assemblée des Communautés
de France (AdCF – Assembly
of France's Communities) has
published in its issue 238 an
article written by the MOT:
"Concevoir les services
publics transfrontaliers"
("Designing cross-border
public services").

To consult the magazine: click here [FR].

Publication of proceedings of the policy forum: "Security and development: how to manage borders?"

On 7 July 2016 the MOT and Grenoble-Alpes University held at the Assemblée Nationale in Paris a policy forum entitled "Sécurité et développement: comment gérer la frontière ?", within the framework of an international research project "Borders in Globalization" ("BIG"). The proceedings are now available (in French). More info [FR]

Call for proposals: "Support to cooperation on intra-EU mobility"

The EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (EURES axis) is launching a call for proposals regarding "Cross-border partnerships and support to cooperation on intra-EU mobility for EEA countries and social partners". The deadline is 6 June 2019. More info

The EURES cross-border partnerships that have benefited from this funding can be viewed here.

Meeting in Brussels on "Missing Railway Links"

Since a study by DG REGIO on the topic in 2018, the importance of "Missing Railway Links" for cohesion policy and the development of border regions disadvantaged by a lack of rail infrastructure has been highlighted. In this context, the PAMINA Eurodistrict EGTC held a conference on 11 April in collaboration with the Committee of the Regions. In total, 9 out of the 19 "missing links" identified by the Commission as potentially beneficial are on France's borders.

The presentations

PRESS REVIEW

▲ The Maison de l'Europe at the forefront of helping job-seekers find work in Belgium

La Voix du Nord, 19 April

"Vooruit - meaning 'forwards' in Flemish. It's the name of a crossborder job-seeker placement programme offered by eight French and Belgian partners, including the Maison de l'Europe in Dunkirk."

A smart city named Eclor

La Semaine de Nancy, 18 April

"Last October the birth of the first periurban smart city in France was approved, in the territory of the Haut Val d'Alzette Country. The next logical step was its baptism: this took place at the end of March when the territory's digital platform was renamed Eclor ['to hatch' in French] - the name chosen by the inhabitants themselves. [...] The smart city is working to provide 'innovative and connected services' with, on the menu, internal and crossborder mobility [...]."

An app to visit 330 sites in the **Upper Rhine**

L'Alsace, 16 April

"Since 5 April, the app 'EuropeArt To Go' is available as a free download on Google Play and the Apple Store. It lists and displays 330 buildings that are considered important in the Upper Rhine, from the Middle Ages to the present day."

▲ Eurostage - School students without borders

Haut-Rhin magazine, April

"Since 2015, the association Eltern Alsace, supported by the Haut-Rhin Departmental Council, has enabled happy year 10 students to do their work experience placement on the other side of the Rhine."

Consumption: **Greater Geneva under** scrutiny

La Voix de l'Ain, 26 April

"What are the consumption habits in Greater Geneva (GG)? A region with very strong economic and demographic growth, and doubly so due to its particular geography that combines two territories from two different countries [...]. Between April and September 2018, the GG thus conducted its very first survey covering the whole of this territory comprising 1 million inhabitants."

✓ IIth France-**Monaco Cooperation** Commission

Monaco Government -Principality of Monaco, 3 April

"The France-Monaco Cooperation Commission met in Paris on 1 April 2019. [...] This commission takes place annually, alternating between Paris and Monaco. It serves as the framework for the regular consultations between the two countries on issues of national interest in the spirit of their 'community of destiny'.'

A cross-border swift water rescue exercise

La Nouvelle République, 30 March

"Around 30 firefighters from the Hautes-Pyrénées and the Pyrénées-Atlantiques Departments gathered [...], in Saint-Pé-de-Bigorre, in order to take part in a swift water exercise under real conditions."

■ The EU has failed to create solidarity in its cross-border regions

Swissinfo.ch, 16 April

"The bounty of tax from crossborder workers is a source of discord in Switzerland but also elsewhere in Europe. In France's Grand Est Region, elected representatives and senior civil servants rail against Luxembourg's selfishness and demand compensation along the lines of the Geneva model. The solution might come from the Council of Europe."

EU stuck on unemployment rules for cross-border workers

Le Temps, 17 April "SWITZERLAND-EU - The 28 have not been able to approve the controversial reform that would have changed the rules governing the payment of unemployment benefit to crossborder workers. The postponement of the issue to the next parliament is a welcome delay for Bern."

INSEE Analyses: cross-border employment from the Hauts-de-France Region to Belgium

Insee Hauts-de-France, Insee Analyses Hauts-de-France No. 94, March 2019

At the end of 2017, 24,200 employees living in the Hauts-de-France Region worked abroad, principally in Belgium. They represent 1.6% of the region's employees – five times less than in the Grand Est Region. Less favourable employment conditions, particularly with respect to tax, have now made Belgium less attractive than in the past. More info [FR]

cross-border cooperation, this contains over 4,000 documents and documentary references. <u>More info [FR]</u>



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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COMMISSARIAT GENERAL À L'ÉGALITÉ DES TERRITOIRES









DES OUTRE-MER

