

European conference in A Coruña

Nearly 400 participants met on 25 and 26 June at A Coruña in Spain at the "1st Congress on Smart Cooperation" organised by the CECICN*.

A lot of personalities were present: Michel Delebarre, president of COTER, Committee of the Regions and president of the MOT, Per Bødker Andersen, president of the CECICN and president of the Union of the Baltic Cities, Carlos Negreira, mayor of A Coruña, Alberto Núñez Feijóo, regional president of Galicia, Marta Fernández Currás, Spanish secretary of state for budget and expenditure, Ann-Sofi Backgren, AEBR** vice-president.

In his address, Michel Delebarre summed up the issues of the conference: "We know that the current European and international context is one troubled by the debt crisis. I have the deep conviction that the response to this crisis is more Europe, more cooperation between cities and regions across borders". In addition to the need for a sufficient budget for the European cohesion policy, he emphasized the importance of finding mechanisms to allow for "a greater association of local stakeholders": "We need a Europe built on its territories".

The message has been brought to all levels (European, national, regional and local): it is

essential to place the European territorial cooperation at the heart of the EU 2020 strategy, the revival of single market and cohesion policy.

The representatives of the European Parliament and the Commission have approved the proposals issued by the strategic document prepared jointly by the CECICN and the AEBR and discussed in the workshops of the conference. These include the need for simplification in the management of programmes and projects, multi-level dialogue to be promoted more than ever, European strategies to be based more firmly on local experiences, and the necessity of supporting small projects. The President of the CECICN, Per Bødker Andersen, stressed in conclusion its satisfaction with the work done: "it has opened a new chapter in the coordination of networks in the CECICN".

* Conference of European Cross-border and Interregional City Networks (CECICN), www.cecicn.eu

** Association of European Border Regions

Download : [the press release](#) - [the strategic document](#).

Per Bødker Andersen

President of the CECICN
Deputy Mayor of Kolding
(Denmark) and President of
the Union of the Baltic Cities



The Conference of European Cross-border and Interregional City Networks (CECICN) is the leading city network in Europe. It represents more than 500 cities and border regions and 37% of European population.

We influence and work with the EU institutions to respond to common issues that affect the day-to-day lives of Europeans. Our objective is to put European Territorial Cooperation at the core of the debate.

Europe is more than a common currency and a single market. Europe is a political project and a cultural community. Europe takes place in the cities and cross-border regions. Therefore we want to ensure that the interests and needs of cities and cross border regions in all European decisions are fully considered.

The European project is going through a severe crisis of confidence. It is therefore all the more important for us to remind ourselves of Europe's value. Europe has brought us peace and prosperity. At the same time, globalization forces all countries to deal with challenges they've never had to address before. No European country acting alone is equal to these challenges. We will assert our common values and interests only as Europeans.

This Europe has its price. But, most importantly, it has its value, too.



EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- Conference "Unpacking Cross-Border Governance", 6 and 7 September 2012 in Luxembourg, organised by the Metrolux research centre (CEPS/INSTEAD)
- European Cooperation Day, 21 September 2012, organised by Interact

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

- MOT workshop at the Open Days 2012: "Building cross-border territories by using tools for integrated local development: good practices and future developments in the 2014-2020 period", 9 October 2012 in Brussels
- MOT conference: "Cross-border territories, regional and national policies: what coordination for 2014-2020?", 24 October 2012 in Paris - Final conference of the MOT Europ'Act project (see page 3)
- AEBR annual conference "Cross-border labour market mobility", 8 and 9 November 2012 in Berlin
- European seminar on the monitoring of cross-border territories, MOT-FNAU-DATAR-ADUAN, 10 December 2012 in Nancy

Further information:
<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu>

Renewable energies: issues and levers of cross-border action



On 29 and 30 May in Lauterbourg, the Eurodistrict Regio Pamina hosted the first meeting of the MOT working group on a topical subject: renewable energies and energy efficiency in a cross-border context.

After a few words of welcome from Eurodistrict president Josef Offele, Eurodistrict director Patrice Harster and MOT director Jean Peyrony moderated round tables on two topics:

- analysis of the potential of cross-border territories with regard to renewable energies and their deployment;
- methods and techniques for a local energy mix by 2020.

Some thirty experts from the

Pamina space, the French-German border and other border territories of the MOT network (Belgium, Luxemburg and Spain) compared their practices and drew up an initial inventory of obstacles, issues and cooperation approaches in the area.

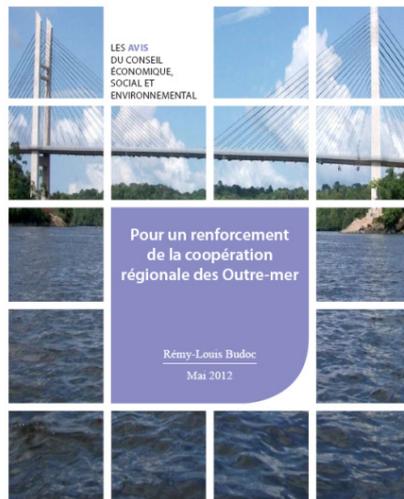
The various project presentations, including the cross-border energy efficiency actions in the Upper Rhine led by TRION, the Upper Rhine trinational energy network, and other projects on solar and wind energies, demonstrated the added value of a cross-border approach to renewable energies.

The contributions of experts such as Catherine Ledig, director of the ADEC, and Frédérique Berrod, deputy director of the Centre d'Études Internationales et Européennes at the University of Strasbourg, were valuable for understanding this topic, complex with regard to both actions and regulations. The group is continuing its work, and is scheduled to meet again towards the end of the year.

Further information:
www.regio-pamina.org
Resources for MOT members are available on the website www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu.

Strengthening regional cooperation of overseas territories

"Regional cooperation must encourage the integration of overseas territories within their area of influence and in sectors where they have a 'premium'." An opinion of the French economic, social and environmental council was adopted on 9 May 2012 in order to present recommendations for "strengthening the regional cooperation of overseas territories". It takes up a position in the perspective of a new EC Communication in 2012 on overseas territories. [Click here to download the opinion \(in French\).](#)



Tripartite congress Hautes-Vallées

The 13th tripartite congress of the Upper Rhine metropolitan region took place on 27 June 2012 in Landau/Palatinat. A forum for exchange between civil society protagonists and the territory's political and technical representatives, it facilitated discussion of structures and networking opportunities, as well as of the possibilities of participation offered to civil society. The congress followed three citizen forums attended by more than 500 persons over the last two years.

On 27 June a French-Italian conference on "Territorial authorities and the future of cross-border cooperation in the Hautes-Vallées" took place in Lanslebourg Mont Cenis, Savoie. Jean Peyrony, MOT general-director, spoke at the conference. The discussions covered the challenges of cross-border cooperation for mountain territories in the future 2014-2020 programming period and the prospects for the Hautes-Vallées cross-border territory.

EUROPE NEWS

TEIN conference



On 10 July in Brussels, the TEIN*, the MOT and the AEBR organised an event entitled "The future of European territorial cooperation: Capacity building in cross-border territories". Alongside the representatives of the TEIN, those in attendance included Peter Friedrich, Baden-Württemberg minister of European and international affairs, Karl-Heinz Lambertz, AEBR president, Marie Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, MEP, and Wolfgang Streitenberger, adviser to the Director General, DG Regio.

*Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network.
Further information at www.transfrontier.eu

Congress in Innsbruck

On 30 May in Innsbruck, Austria, cross-border cooperation was the topic of a seminar organised by the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe. Olivier Denert, MOT secretary general, participated in a round table. Case studies in three Euroregions (Tirol-Südtirol, Upper Rhine and Yaroslavna) were examined under the chairmanship of Karl-Heinz Lambertz, chair of the governance committee of the Congress.

www.coe.int/t/congress/files/event/s/2012/20120531_innsbruck/

Newry/Dundalk

Following the signature in April 2011 of a memorandum of understanding between local authorities of Ireland and Northern Ireland, an economic development office was opened in May 2012 in Newry (UK), to work with its Irish counterpart in Dundalk. Since last year, a cross-border municipal council has been established and cooperation is developing on a variety of topics (geo-tourism and leisure, environment and renewable energies, agriculture, health, senior citizens, etc.). [Further information](#)

MOT NEWS

What governance for cross-border territories?

The MOT is conducting a study with the aim of improving the linkage between cohesion policy, governance systems and cross-border territorial needs. It is funded by the Europ'Act technical assistance programme, supporting the coordination of the cohesion policy in France for the 2007-2013 period.

Running from June 2011 to October 2012, this project is being conducted in two major reform contexts: the construction of the framework of the 2014-2020 European cohesion policy, and the definition of a French cross-border policy. The MOT network is fully involved in the study: more than half of our members were interviewed between November 2011 and March 2012, and a representative sample of our members is part of the project steering committee, which met for the third time on 3 July 2012.

As part of the study, the MOT organised a French-Italian

working meeting on 6 June 2012 in Nice. Its objectives were to test the proposals formulated by the MOT on this border and, more specifically, to discuss the possibility of establishing consistency between the strands dedicated to cross-border cooperation within the French and Italian partnership agreements. In order to validate the recommendations, details of which will be given in a methodological guide, the MOT will consult its network in July 2012.

The conclusions of the study will be presented at a final conference to be held on 24



October 2012 in Paris, entitled "Cross-border territories, regional and national policies: what coordination for 2014-2020?"

This major event, open to the whole of the MOT network and to European protagonists, will be the occasion to present the recommendations of the guide and illustrate them by good practices identified during the study.

To download the MOT map of the Euroregions and cross-border territory projects on French borders: [click here](#).

Cross-border business takeovers

The 2nd seminar on cross-border business takeovers took place in Forbach on 21 June 2012. The event was part of an annual activity coordinated by the Eurodistrict SaarMoselle and the MOT, with support from the Caisse des Dépôts, intended to develop a system of assistance to facilitate cross-border business acquisitions on the French-German border. The seminar was an opportunity to discuss the formal steps in the business acquisition process

in a cross-border context, covering financial, legal, contractual and fiscal aspects. A third seminar will be organised between now and the end of the year. It will cover joint management to ensure the sustainability of the new 'binational' business.

Further information (in French) in the members' area of the MOT website: www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

PRESS REVIEW

▲ SAM-E, the social project that wants to abolish the French-Belgian border

La Voix du Nord, 16 June

"What is the difference between a recipient of the Belgian minimum social security benefits and a recipient of the French minimum social security benefits? [...] The SAM-E (Solidarity, Activation, Mobility in the Eurometropolis) project federates and pools the operations of four CCAS (municipal social action centres)..."

▲ Cross-border landscape park: the seeds of a green corridor along the river Lys

Voix du Nord, 20 June

"The project for a Lys valley cross-border landscape park was the topic of a launch conference yesterday..."

▲ Taking stock of the green economy

DNA, 20 June

"The Eurodistrict has raised the question of a cross-border strategy for the green economy, at a forum in Offenbourg. The first step: determine the perimeter of the green economy so that initiatives can then be developed in terms of employment."

▲ Cross-border training

DNA, 14 June

"In the three-countries district, the possibility of going to study or work in a neighbouring country is added to many other options. For some time now a cross-border post-baccalaureat apprenticeship has been available."

▲ Cross-border research to develop low-cost photovoltaics

Le Moniteur, 12 June

"Organic photovoltaics are inexpensive but fragile. The Alsace Energivie centre is launching the Rhin-Solar project with the aim of boosting research on organic photovoltaics."

▲ The excellence of the NovaTris cross-border skills centre project recognised

Newsletter de la RMTRS, 14 June

"In the IDEFI national call for projects for innovative training, the University of Haute-Alsace (UHA) has obtained €4.5 million in funding for its cross-border skills centre project."

▲ The Conseil du Léman celebrates "25 years of actions"

La Tribune de Genève, 15 June

"The cross-border body brings together Haute-Savoie, Ain, Geneva, Vaud and Valais. A quarter-century of cross-border cooperation and discussion on the scale of the Lemman basin."

▲ Greater Geneva crosses the borders

Les Echos, 3 July

"Partners of Greater Geneva, the Geneva, Vaud and French elected representatives have signed a second conurbation project which plans €1.16 billion of investment in infrastructure between now and 2018. [...] On 28 June, the representatives of the local authorities of this 2000-square-kilometre territory, one of the most dynamic in Europe, with 918,000 inhabitants including 465,000 in Geneva, covering part of the Ain and Haute-Savoie departments, signed a 2012 conurbation charter."

▲ What future for mountain territory industry?

Alparc, 31 May

"Towards a Southern Alps mountain cluster in France - The aim of the three partners is to establish a specific 'Montagne Alpes du Sud' cluster."

▲ The department with Italy for a greener future

Corse Matin, 7 June

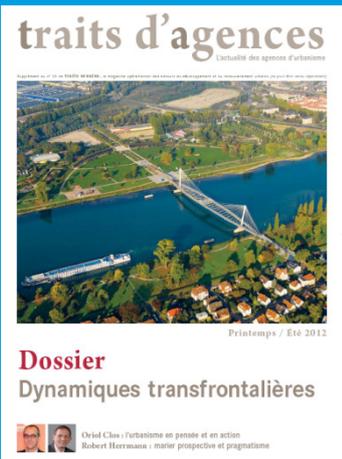
"From one institution to another agenda 21s appear, one after the other, but are not alike. Our Italian neighbours, to mention only one example, have taken the lead to varying extents in sustainable development. The seminar 'Towards a cross-border agenda 21', or agenda for the 21st century, organised at the congress centre by the Corse-du-Sud department council, was an opportunity to present the sustainable development approach of each partner."

Special report on "Cross-border dynamics"

Traits d'agence, the magazine of the FNAU (French national federation of urban development agencies), has published a special issue on "cross-border dynamics" (in French), with the following contents:

- MOT-FNAU-DATAR: comparative study of cross-border conurbations
- Luxembourg and northern Lorraine: the two facets of 'El Dorado'
- Mulhouse: the difficult construction of a cross-border labour market
- Saint-Omer: ICTs to bring users and public services together
- Basque Eurocity: railways, the spinal column of the mobility system
- Flanders: the urban development agency in cross-border engineering
- Perpignan: developing discussion about the greater Catalan space territory
- France-Vaud-Geneva conurbation project: interim report
- Strasbourg-Kehl cooperation: 3 questions to Kora Herrmann

Download from: <http://www.fnau.org/file/news/TA16.pdf>



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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