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Vice minister for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



"Balzac said that there was life only on the margins. That it was on these edges, interfaces, thresholds that the most fruitful contacts and exchanges were made. Today, in Europe, this is the face exhibited by the borders, which yesterday separated the states. The political lines that once divided the map of Europe now form its backbone, like a supporting structure for its rich and manifold dynamics. The cross-border territories are the exemplar location of the construction of Europe. Every day hundreds of thousands of people cross the borders, to work, as consumers, to access services, or simply to talk to their neighbours. Every day, cross-border movements illustrate the reality of the cohesion of our continent.

Looking beyond the undeniable differences that distinguish the 27 Member States, beyond the difficulties specific to the cross-border spaces, these areas have immense resources and potential for the development of practical solidarities, which are the very stuff of our Union. These spaces for sharing are now a tangible reality in Europe for each citizen. That is why I pay particular attention to the work of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, which establishes a direct link between the people active in the territories and the national and European institutions. At European level, the preparation of the new cohesion policy for 2014-2020 must also be an opportunity [...]." **Continued on page 2.**

200 cross-border cooperation stakeholders meet in Paris

Organised by the MOT, the conference "Cross-border territories, regional and national policies: what coordination for 2014-2020?" was attended by more than 200 persons at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris, on 24 October 2012.

Elected and other representatives of almost all the cross-border areas on French borders met with MOT president Michel Delebarre and representatives of the French government, the European Commission and the European Parliament. All affirmed the need for better recognition of cross-border territories, which will necessitate reinforced coordination between local, national and European participants and better consideration of the realities in the field in national and European strategies.

Cross-border local and regional development must be managed by local and regional authorities; for its part, the national authorities must remobilise their central as well as decentralised services around a more strategic vision concerning cooperation. The need for an interministerial steering committee for cross-border matters was also restated.

Normunds Popens, deputy director-general of DG REGIO, stressed the opportunity represented by the new tools proposed by the EU, such as ITI (Integrated Territorial

Investment) for funding local cross-border cooperation with an overall strategic approach for a territory, by linking projects meeting several priorities of a programme or of several programmes or funds.

The presentations by local participants highlighted exemplary cross-border governance practices, such as those of the Espace Mont-Blanc PIT (integrated cross-border plan), the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis and the Upper Rhine Trinational Metropolitan Region.

The conference was the closing event of a project conducted by the MOT between June 2011 and October 2012 with the objective of improving the linkage between cohesion policy, governance systems and cross-border territorial logics. This work, resulting in a number of recommendations*, was funded within the framework of the Europ'Act programme. It will be the basis for the publication of a methodological guide before the year's end.

All the documents of the conference: [click here](#).

* Further information: see article on page 3.



EVENTS

DECEMBER

European seminar on observation of cross-border territories (refer to page 3) DATAR, FNAU, MOT, in liaison with the Nancy City Council and the Urban Planning Agencies of the Sillon Lorrain, 10 December 2012 in Nancy

IN 2013

Regional conference presenting the MOT study: "The benefits of cooperation with Italy for the PACA border territories" (MOT) 24 January 2013 in Marseille

Second seminar on renewable energies MOT working group First quarter of 2013

Seminar on "Businesses and cross-border economic development" (MOT) First half of 2013

Seminars on cross-border operational arrangements (MOT) Between May and October 2013 on the French borders

See page 3 for further information on these MOT events in 2013.

Launch of a new cross-border venture capital forum



The cross-border venture capital forum "Seed4Start" was launched on 9 October 2012 in Luxemburg. This new initiative, funded by the European Union as part of the Interreg IVA "Greater Region" programme, intends to put innovative start-ups in touch with private investors over the entire territory of the Greater Region. The objective is to facilitate the matching of supply and demand for capital on projects to establish, take over or expand innovative companies (start-ups less than 5 years old). It is thus aimed at company managers or founders in Wallonia, Lorraine or Luxemburg who want to consolidate the capital of their company and attract new

investors. It is also aimed at private individuals and business angels who want to invest in innovating start-ups. The project also offers guidance, training and introductions, through the organisation at cross-border level of events and individual meetings. It is launching its first "Pitching Day" on 18 January 2013 at the Luxemburg Chamber of Commerce, where innovating entrepreneurs, selected and guided by the Forum throughout the project, can present their projects to a panel of private investors of the Greater Region.

www.seed4start.org

Other examples

The pioneering "Eurefi" project is historically the first venture capital fund formed at the joint initiative of the European Union and a group of Belgian, French and Luxemburger private partners. It aims to contribute to the formation of cross-border mini-groups on the territory of the Greater Region, guiding businesses that want to expand their activity on the other side of the border, by means of a new site, a partnership or an acquisition.

Also worth mentioning, on the border between Spain and Portugal, is the cross-border venture capital fund "Galicia/Norte Portugal", established to promote business development and economic relations between northern Portugal and Galicia.

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"to promote cross-border cooperation, at the core of the Europe 2020 strategy. The national margins now form the beating heart of the Europe that we are building for tomorrow. Far from eliminating the singularities of each member, they much rather bring out the best in them. It is by strengthening this role of interface, by promoting the model of a border that integrates rather than divides, that we shall prove that Europe is not an obstacle in the crisis we are experiencing today, but in fact the best of solutions."

Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion

On 29 October Martin Malvy, president of the Midi-Pyrénées regional council, took over the presidency of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion for an 18-month term. With the other partner presidents of the Euroregion, he signed two joint declarations to promote research and innovation and to reiterate their commitment to developing cross-border transport and infrastructure.

www.euroregio.eu

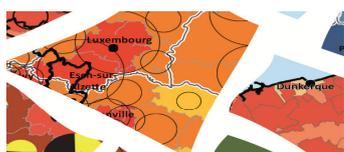
MEPs visit the French-Spanish border

At the initiative of Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, MEP for Perpignan, and led by Iosif Matula, a delegation of seven members of the European Parliament made a three-day working visit to the border between France and Spain. Jean Peyrony, MOT general director, took part in the visit. The agenda included working meetings and field visits, highlighting the Puigcerdà cross-border hospital. With 60% of its funding from European funds, it is scheduled for inauguration next year. A visit was also made to the Perpignan cross-border

theatre and its "Cross-border Catalan Scene". During the meetings, German MEP Joachim Zeller stressed that "cross-border cooperation must be given greater consideration". In this context, the MEPs noted that "the Commission has proposed to allocate 11.7 billion euros for 2014-2020, accounting for only 3.48% of the total envelope of the cohesion policy", demanding "an increase in the cooperation budget to 7% of the total envelope of the cohesion policy instead of 2.5% at present".

NETWORK NEWS

European seminar on observation of cross-border territories



The DATAR, the MOT and the FNAU, in partnership with Nancy City Council and the Nancy conurbation urban development agency (ADUAN), are organising the first European seminar on the monitoring of cross-border territories, on 10 December 2012 in Nancy.

The objectives are to present the work done by the partners for many years on this complex topic and show why this question of monitoring is essential for implementing an effective development policy for cross-border territories.

Further information:
[click here.](#)

MOT NEWS

Results of the project conducted by the MOT within the Europ'Act* framework

In a changing national and European context, the multi-level dimension of the governance of cross-border territories is more than ever omnipresent and under reconstruction. It has been studied closely in the project led by the MOT within the framework of the Europ'Act programme.

Rationalise the multi-level governance of cooperation

Analysis of the roles of institutions involved in cooperation has revealed substantial changes in positions, with on the one hand local authorities increasingly taking on a driving role in cooperation, and on the other hand a state, at least in the French case, repositioning to a role of support for local approaches, while retaining a key role in its areas of competence. The study revealed the wide diversity of arrangements with regard to cross-border governance, and also the existence of a myriad of actors and institutions, but without optimum linkage between them, either on the French side

or the other side of the border, increasing the complexity of the cooperation.

Reinforce the place of cross-border territorial development

The study has highlighted the need to take better account of the cross-border territorial dimension in national policies, in particular in the perspective of linkage with the Europe 2020 strategy, and the need to reinforce the place of cross-border territorial development in European programmes.

Some key recommendations of the study

- Reinforce the strategy-governance-funding linkage
- Incorporate cross-border aspects into ordinary law in public policies
- Reinforce multi-level cross-border governance
- At local level, reinforce the role of territorial authorities (municipalities, departments) and groupings in the construction of cross-border territories

- At regional level, reinforce the strategic role of the regions, in collaboration with the other authorities

- At national level, provide oversight and topical coordination by border

- Identify the cross-border referral contacts by ministry

- Set up an interministerial steering committee on cross-border matters

- Designate border referral prefects

- Reinforce monitoring of cross-border issues

- Harmonise the aspects of partnership agreements between France and neighbouring states that relate to cross-border cooperation

For further information and on-line documents: [click here.](#)

** Project entitled "Link cohesion policy, governance systems and cross-border territorial logics" conducted between June 2011 and October 2012.*



Project co-funded by the European Union as part of the Europ'Act programme. Europe works in France with the European Regional Development Fund.

Knowledge management for the French-Italian Alcotra programme

In August, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regional council and the councils of the Hautes-Alpes, Alpes de Haute-Provence and Alpes-Maritimes departments launched a knowledge management process for the French-Italian Alcotra cross-border cooperation programme, coordinated by the MOT. In November, three knowledge management seminars were held in Digne-les-Bains, Gap and Nice, with the intention of collecting feedback

from the experiences of the French partners in the cooperation.

The process aims to determine the added value of the cooperation and to take this information, obtained directly from the people in the field, into account in the 2014-2020 programme.

The project will conclude with a regional conference on 24 January 2013 in Marseille.



Seminars in 2013 on cross-border operational arrangements

In 2013 the MOT is going to organise five information sessions on different borders covering the legal tools for cross-border organisations. They form part of a project* conducted by the MOT entitled "Informing local participants about cross-border operational arrangements for 2014-2020".

** Co-funded by the ERDF, as part of the Europ'Act programme 2007-2013 managed by the DATAR.*

PRESS REVIEW

▲ The idea of a formal 'Cohesion Policy Council' under discussion

Europe Information Service, 6 November - 'INFORMAL COHESION POLICY COUNCIL - The ministers with responsibility for regional policy are meeting in Cyprus (Nicosia) [on] 6 November for an informal session devoted to the future cohesion policy of the EU. They will discuss the idea of setting up a formal 'Cohesion Policy' Council - which does not exist at present - for example within the framework of the General Affairs Council. This council would meet twice a year, and more often if necessary, to ensure political tracking of the utilisation of the structural funds.'

▲ The Eurometropolis launches a survey of 18-30-year-olds

L'Europe s'engage en France, 30 October - "You are between 18 and 30 years old and live in Flanders, Western Hainaut or the Lille urban area? A questionnaire is available for you to tell us your expectations regarding French-Belgian cross-border territory."

▲ My neighbour, this splendid stranger

L'Express, 24 October
"For partying, shopping or working, the border has effectively disappeared. But French and German people still don't know each other very well. And still come up against real-or imaginary-obstacles."

▲ Basle conurbation: towards a trinational city

Le Moniteur, 15 October
"Around the point where France, Germany and Switzerland meet, the Rhine will form the backbone of the 425-hectare 3Land trinational district. Preparatory work is starting."

▲ A cross-border project for the economy in Ferney and housing in Geneva

Le Dauphiné libéré, 11 October - "At the council meeting, mayor Gérard Paoli presented the strategic development project, a cross-border economic and urban development project [...]. The main objective of the SDP is to 'rebalance employment and housing between Pays de Gex and Grand-Saconnex' by encouraging housing construction on the Swiss side and the creation of economic activities and qualified jobs on the French side."

▲ Border worker smugglers!

Le Dauphiné libéré, 21 October
"The collapse of the euro against the Swiss franc has obviously significantly increased the purchasing power of the border workers. But it has had other, sometimes surprising, consequences. Such as bringing French and Swiss closer together."

▲ Nice-Breil-Cuneo-Turin line: the alarm signal

Nice Matin, 30 October
"The Nice-Breil-Tende-Cuneo-Turin railway line is fundamental for the development of the economy and tourism in the territories along its route. Eric Ciotti is convinced of this, and with him the French and Italian elected representatives and economic managers. To say so and to demand action by the states, the region and Europe in favour of this cross-border link, a number of partners met yesterday morning..."

▲ Aragon and Bigorre in step on tourism

La Nouvelle République des Pyrénées, 11 October
"Spain and France are going to knock down part of their border, for tourism at least. The provincial government of Huesca in Aragon and the Hautes-Pyrénées department council have recently set up and put into effect a vast tourism project, encompassing both sides of the Pyrenees."

▲ Commissioner Hahn crosses the Danube on the Vidin-Calafat bridge

Inforegio News, 24 October
"Commissioner for regional policy Johannes Hahn today marked a historic moment as he crossed a new bridge connecting the Bulgarian region of Vidin to the neighbouring Rumanian region of Calafat."

Hainaut cross-border nature park: user instructions

For some twenty years the Scarpe-Escaut regional nature park (France) and the Plaines de l'Escaut nature park (Belgium) have been working together in cross-border cooperation on the Hainaut cross-border nature park. Continuing this long-term cooperation, the two parks are considering the possibility of setting up a joint legal structure with support from the Interreg programme.

The Hainaut cross-border nature park has just issued a publication setting out the main issues of this populated natural space, located on the outskirts of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis. The brochure takes the form of seven descriptive factsheets and a booklet giving examples of cross-border actions being implemented.

Download from: <http://www.pnr-scarpe-escaut.fr/publications/parc-naturel-transfrontalier-du-hainaut-mode-demploi>



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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