

IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE OF CROSS-BORDER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

How can one provide an overall view of the economic fabric of territories on both sides of the border to public-sector players, who generally do not have such an overview?

A regularly updated situational analysis should focus particularly on: existing economic sectors and branches, businesses, clusters, competitiveness hubs, business areas, business incubators, research centres, higher education institutions, the labour market, vocational training, etc. A situational analysis helps to identify broad trends in cross-border economic relations (cross-border sectors, subcontracting relationships, cross-border provision of services, trade, inter-clustering, cooperation in the field of research, cross-border employment flows, etc.).

This analysis may be conducted through studies, cross-border observatories, or thematic seminars.



Studies enable the detailed examination of a territory or an aspect of cross-border economic development.

EXAMPLES:

Every year, the **Swiss research institute BAK Basel Economics** publishes the “**Regio Perspectives - Economic analyses and forecasts for the Upper Rhine Euroregion**”. This annual report analyses business conditions

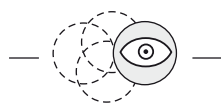
in the three areas of the **Upper Rhine region**, and also in the major economic sectors of the territory. It also includes macroeconomic business indicators, and reports on the economic situation of the **Upper Rhine in the national and international context**. Additional topics are also featured every year, e.g. in 2010 the labour market and in 2009, the strengths and weaknesses of the **Upper Rhine region**.

<http://www.regioperspektiven.org>

The Greater Region's Economic and Social Committee

regularly publishes reports on economic and social conditions in the territory. These reports cover population, the economy, employment and the labour market, education and living conditions.

<http://www.granderegion.net/fr/documents-officiels/reso-doc-cesgr/index.html>



Cross-border observatories are charged with monitoring changes in cross-border territories, including changes in the economic fabric. They can identify the impact of cross-border integration on the economic development of territories over the long term. The observatories therefore offer a complementary dynamic view to the studies, which offer a snapshot of a specific moment in time.

The observatories help to steer economic development and regional planning policies, and guide public and private players

in their decision-making. They also give the general public greater visibility regarding the cross-border territory, and financing long-term statistical observation initiatives in the areas of economic development and employment is therefore a priority. In this vein, the **Cross-Border Strategic Committee on observation**, set up by the CGET and the MOT in 2013, and which brings together some ten European governments, aims to promote the progressive and pragmatic improvement and expansion of the repository of cross-border data and indicators.

Differences in the definition and cultural perception of indicators must be taken into account in order to agree on a system that suits all cooperation participants.

EXAMPLES:

The **SIG-GR, the Greater Region Geographic Information System**, is a cross-border database that covers several fields including the labour market. By providing harmonised data and common definitions, SIG-GR makes it possible to compare the areas of the Greater Region.

<http://www.gis-gr.eu/portal/fr/themes/marche-du-travail.html>

The OIE, the Interregional Observatory of the Labour Market, is a cross-border system that assesses socio-economic changes in the Greater Region. It provides comparable and interpretable data on the labour market for the political authorities in the Greater Region.

<http://www.iba-oie.eu>



Thematic seminars are a forum for updating situational analyses and disseminating existing data to the players concerned.

EXAMPLES:

The **Upper Rhine Tripartite Congress**, which has been held every two years since 1988, regularly addresses topics related to economic development. The congress brings together partner public authorities, but also businesses, research centres, and civil society in the broad sense.

<http://www.rmtmo.eu/fr/region-metropolitaine/la-demarche-de-region-metropolitaine-trinationale-du-rhin-superieur/les-congres-tripartites.html>