



Editorial



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The Caisse des Dépôts was, along with France's General Commission for Territorial Equality (the CGET), a founder member of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT). In a country like France which has 11 land borders, living in a border region is a reality for nearly a quarter of the population. More than 380,000 cross-border workers commute to the neighbouring country every day, a number that is continually growing. The economic, ecological and also social issues involved in cross-border cooperation are thus far from being peripheral.

The Caisse des Dépôts group is therefore involved in actions on a daily basis to facilitate the emergence and implementation of cross-border projects. For example, our subsidiary Transdev, through Thello (33% Transdev, 66% Trenitalia), is the first private French company to operate within the framework of the opening-up of the market in cross-border transport. We also finance core infrastructures in these territories, such as the tramline between Strasbourg and Kehl which links the two sides of the Rhine.

We will also participate in the Juncker Plan by providing financial engineering, loans, capital and sometimes collateral. To accelerate its implementation, we have formed a partnership with the EIB in order to jointly support project developers, notably in the areas of energy and environmental transition, transport infrastructures, digital technology, tourism and housing.

The work carried out by the MOT during the past year-and-a-half on the economic development of cross-border territories, which our teams have been involved with, have made it possible to draw up an initial assessment and some initial recommendations that you will find in this document.

But it is vital to continue these reflections in order to respond to the needs of cross-border territories, which by nature are complex. I am therefore delighted that one of the objectives set by Luxembourg's presidency of the EU in the second half of 2015 is to put the removal of the obstacles to cross-border cooperation at the heart of its priorities.