



Foreword

Between January 2014 and September 2015, the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT – Cross-Border Operational Mission), with the support of the national technical assistance programme Europ'Act, carried out a study of economic development in the cross-border territories along France's borders. This work aims to present the current situation with respect to cross-border economic development, both from the point of view of cooperation between private-sector players and public action.

The preamble sets out the key elements of this topic, notably the importance of joint exploitation of the territorial capital in regions impacted by the presence of a border around which there is movement of people, capital, services and goods, which can be a source of prosperity if it is managed in a coordinated manner by the countries on either side of it.

The first part presents **six portraits of cross-border territories** along the land borders between France and its European neighbours, as well as three examples of other European cross-border territories.

The second part deals with **cross-cutting themes in cross-border economic development**. In the context of far-reaching reform of territorial public action in France, the document sets forth some recommendations that are specific to the French context.

Project factsheets then illustrate the concrete components of cross-border economic development.

A practical guide, published in the form of a second booklet, completes this introductory work. It consists of two parts:

- the first part aims to give impetus to partnerships between public-sector and private-sector players in order to help projects to be developed;
- the second part is aimed at facilitating the emergence of cross-border economic development projects.

The results of this work are intended for all of the stakeholders concerned with the economic development of cross-border territories: territorial authorities, government departments, businesses, chambers of commerce and industry, employers' and trade organisations, development agencies, public employment services, financial institutions such as the Caisse des Dépôts and Bpifrance, the authorities in charge of European programmes, and European institutions and networks.

DISCLAIMER

All the maps set out in this document are only aimed at geographically illustrating the territories described in the text. They by no means comprehensively present all existing cooperation structures. Moreover, French regions are shown as existing before the reform becoming effective on 1st January 2016.