



The Kiosk Office, Strasbourg-Ortenau

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SECTORS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The life sciences and energy sectors are at the heart of the Upper Rhine's regional economy.

- **The BioValley and TRION networks**, which bring together French, German and Swiss clusters in the sectors, facilitate the exchange of knowledge across borders not only through the organisation of joint events (conferences, seminars, etc.) but also by encouraging partnerships and joint projects between companies. Interclustering by sectoral grouping should involve other clusters within the Upper Rhine region in future.

Forms of cooperation are also developing at more local levels:

- **The Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict** is home to a number of concrete initiatives to help entrepreneurs on both sides of the Rhine and foster their networking. The cross-border "Project Cafés"³³, a project implemented by the Urban Community of Strasbourg and the Eurodistrict and launched in 2013, consists of thematic workshops aimed at supporting people with business projects in their administrative procedures on the other side of the border and orienting them according to their specific needs (financing tools, premises, etc.). These meetings continued in 2014 and should ultimately make possible the establishment of a permanent support structure. As regards premises for businesses, two business incubators have been set up (in Hautepierre, an area of Strasbourg, and in Offenburg) and the Urban Community of Strasbourg is working on setting up a French-German structure which will enable the availability of property on the French side of the border to be linked with the attractiveness of the market on the German side.

³³ For more information, see the Project Factsheet.