



Tandem project

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Different facets of cross-border economic development

Cross-border territories along France's borders have highly diverse economic structures. The territory portraits highlight framework conditions, sectoral specialisation and economic structures that are particular to each side of the border, which therefore interact in a specific manner with the territory on the other side. For all economic players, be they private, public or semi-public, participation in a partnership or project is dependent on structural and cyclical factors particular to each border, or even each portion of the border.

While this diversity makes all cross-border economic dynamics unique, there are nonetheless a number of elements common to the different facets of cross-border economic development. The practical recommendations provided in the guide are based on these common elements.

As this analysis focuses on France's borders, each sub-section of this part goes into more specific detail on the elements concerning France in a context of reform of public action.

WORKING ON THE KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION ECONOMY

The Lisbon Strategy and Europe 2020 have made the **knowledge and innovation economy** one of the objectives in the economic development of European territories. This approach can and should be applied to cross-border territories. In a study on cross-border innovation,⁹⁸ the OECD explores a few European cross-border territories and highlights the main reasons why the regions should cooperate across borders to encourage innovation. These include economies of scale, complementarities of resources and the economic fabric and the different positive externalities resulting from the cross-border flows created. One of the main shortcomings in the identification and justification of public policies in this area remains the lack of cross-border statistical data.

⁹⁸ *Regions and Innovation: Collaborating Across Borders*, <http://www.oecd.org/fr/innovation/regions-and-innovation-collaborating-across-borders.htm>