



INFOBEST Pamina

It is important to stress that, unlike in other areas, in the area of employment, the divisions between institutions are tending to disappear due to the substantial involvement of private and public players at all levels: territorial authorities (particularly regions on the French side with regard to vocational training), the DIRECCTE network (pôle 3E) in France, public employment services, employment centres in France, chambers of commerce, employer organisations, training centres, etc. The various ongoing institutional reforms on the French side are tending however to greatly reduce the role played by French departments in the area of economic development: without a general competence clause, departments cannot be involved in issues fall within the region's competence unless the region delegates this responsibility.

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## TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED LABOUR MARKET

Partnerships have gradually been established along France's borders to work towards an integrated cross-border labour market.

- The **European network EURES** set up to inform and advise workers on job offers and living and working conditions in Europe is very active along the borders with Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Switzerland. It is made up of four structures dedicated to cross-border mobility (EuresChannel – BE/FR/UK, PED – BE/FR/LUX, Saar-Lor-Lux-Rhineland-Palatinate – DE/FR/LUX and Upper Rhine – FR/DE/CH). National employment services (and their regional administrations) and the social partners participate in the governance of these structures.
- This European network is supported by local information and advisory agencies, such as **INFOBEST** on the French-German border, the **Groupement transfrontalier européen** on the French-Swiss border, **Frontaliers Lorraine** and **Grenzinfopunkt** in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.
- These mechanisms contribute to the transparency of the cross-border labour market and to professional mobility on both sides of the border, but are geared more towards raising awareness about professional opportunities available in the cross-border