



Port area on the Rhine and Strasbourg in the background

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## WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?

**The port areas of the Upper Rhine are going through changes linked to the Rhine's position in Europe's river network, to the river's interconnections with other transport infrastructures and to changes affecting industrial activities as a whole.**

Economic issues relating to attractiveness and regional development are directly impacting them and pose questions about Strasbourg and Kehl's ports regarding functions, potentialities and complementarities.

This particularly concerns the businesses and sectors present in these port areas. The industrial services sector (including logistics – trade and distribution of goods, but also “urban” logistics) has thus strongly expanded over the past few years, and tertiary activities have grown more owing to a less favourable economic climate and lower investment in industry. Moreover, there has been an overall change in the types and levels of skills demanded by port industries (the skills levels required have risen due to qualitative improvements in know-how and production), as well as an ageing of the labour force, which has highlighted the need for training.

All in all, over 550 firms, with nearly 13,300 employees, are located in the Strasbourg and Kehl port area, mainly in the industrial, transport/logistics, energy and waste management sectors.

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## HOW HAS THE CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIAL SWP EXERCISE BEEN IMPLEMENTED?

In order to better assess the repercussions of these changes on the professions, activities and human resources requirements in the ports of Strasbourg and Kehl, and to have long-term visibility in this regard, an SWP exercise was launched by the Strasbourg Jobs and Training Centre (Maison de l'Emploi et de la Formation de Strasbourg) and the Strasbourg Conurbation Development and Town Planning Agency (ADEUS) in 2012.