



This document refers to the 2012-2014 triennial programme of MOT approved by the Annual General Meeting on 4 April 2012. It specifies the actions that should be implemented in the year 2013. It will be submitted to the MOT Annual General Meeting on 25 April 2013.

1. Support for stakeholders involved in cross-border cooperation

1.1 Networking, exchanges, capitalisation, transfer of good practices

- ≡ In partnership with the Eurodistrict Regio Pamina, MOT follows a cross-border cooperation working group on renewable energies.

Various events give opportunities to highlight the work done previously or initiated in 2013:

- ≡ Seminar on cross-border dimension of metropolitan poles (in link with FNAU, ACUF and DATAR): this seminar takes place in Metz on 19 March 2013. It brings together partners from neighboring countries (CH, DE, LU).
- ≡ 24 and 25 April 2013 in Strasbourg in the context of the Annual General Meeting of Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, on the invitation of the Communauté Urbaine de Strasbourg:
 - Annual Conference-debate (topic: “2014-2020: cross-border cooperation serving citizens”, in link with the European Year of citizens 2013 and the stakes of the single market).
 - Meeting of the Technician’s Platform.
- ≡ In the context of a project carried out by MOT and financed via the programme Europ’Act in 2012-2013, in partnership with DATAR, the Caisse des Dépôts and the ministries concerned, five information sessions will be organized between May and October 2013. These sessions, of half a day, on French metropolitan borders will treat with the topic “inform the local stakeholders at French metropolitan borders in order to facilitate

the choice of cross-border operational settings in the programming period 2014/2020". The project aims at raising awareness and at informing local stakeholders of cross-border cooperation on legal tools of cooperation. It responds to the priority objective of capitalization and exchange of best practices and of treating obstacles of cooperation. The project will allow to exchange among the participants, and to disseminate support documents for future decisions in regard with the next programming period.

- ≡ Seminar on the role of businesses in the cross-border economic development and the improvement of context conditions (see below).
- ≡ In the context of cooperation with "Pôle Emploi" (Central department and regional poles), one common action is foreseen on this topic, in link with the recent regional studies led by MOT.
- ≡ See also planned European events in link with the Budapest Platform and CECICN below.

1.2 Information and knowledge dissemination

The MOT will continue its customary communication activities:

- ≡ Updating of the cross-border cooperation resources website www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu
- ≡ Provision of a "Members space" ("Espace adherents") for network members.
- ≡ Production and dissemination of 10 issues of the monthly newsletter Cross-Border News (10 issues in French, 10 issues in English, 3 issues in another language).

In 2013, the following activities are additionally planned:

- ≡ Putting online of a new version of the website, with added and actualized content.
- ≡ Publication and dissemination of a MOT Guide on territorial monitoring (in French and in English), in particular its statistical aspects.
- ≡ Setting-up of the MOT documentation centre, specialized in cross-border cooperation on French borders, open to MOT members and funding institutions, civil state services, students and researchers, by appointment and on-line.

1.3 Identification of needs and bringing them up to the national level

The MOT will consult its network on draft legislation and strategy documents at national and European level and edit position papers, in particular according to developments in the preparation of national and European policies of the 2014-2020 programming period.

1.4 Operational assistance

- ≡ MOT will jointly realize a mission of operational assistance to the Eurodistrict Cross-border catalan space concerning the setting up of a training workshop addressed to elected representatives and technicians of the territory.
- ≡ MOT will finish a study for the Conseil Régional PACA on the evaluation of Interreg IV A projects on the territory of the region PACA and the recommendations for the future programming period 2014-2020. The final conference will take place on 24 January 2013 in Marseille.
- ≡ MOT will follow and finish the setting up of a cross-border strategic plan for the Arc jurassien, on behalf of the regional Prefecture Franche-Comté.
- ≡ MOT will assist the members of the Espace Mont Blanc in finishing their EGTC (statutes and operational setting up).
- ≡ MOT will realize a study on the follow-up of the work of the Parliamentarian French-Belgian working group: in 2013 MOT will actualize, on behalf of the SGAR NPDC, the work of the Parliamentarian French-Belgian working group of 2005/2007. The aim is to examine persisting legal and administrative obstacles, to actualize the recommendations by using surveys and interviews of stakeholders from the ground, to think about the operational realization of the recommendations and to determine the role of each stakeholder on both sides of the border in the realization of the recommendations.

Details of other actions will be given when contracts are confirmed.

2. Assistance with the definition and implementation of cross-border policy at various levels

2.1 Technical support for the redefinition of France's cross-border policy, in particular in view of the 2014-2020 programming period

2.1.1 Governance mechanism on French borders

The MOT will contribute to the work in link with the timetable of government decisions (especially the process of decentralisation and reform of the French State), and as needed, to the preparation of inter-ministerial steering committee meetings or inter-departmental meetings on cross-border issues. A work of convincing on cross-border issues has already been launched by MOT in regard with main ministries concerned.

2.1.2 Setting up of cross-border cooperation in the framework of the 2014-2020 programming period

The MOT will undertake the following actions:

- ≡ Valorization of the methodological guide (achieved end of 2012 in the context of a Europ'Act project) intended to improve the linkage of European cohesion policy, governance mechanisms and cross-border territorial approaches, by contributing to the preparation of the future post 2013 programming period.
- ≡ Participation in the work of the « Instance nationale de préparation de l'accord de partenariat » (French national instance for the preparation of the partnership agreement) (INPAP) for the 2014/2020 period.
- ≡ Consultation of the MOT network and development of its position on the new regulatory framework for cross-border cooperation (2014–2020) and its setting up in the context of the partnership agreement and operational programmes.
- ≡ Methodological support to the consultation on each border foreseen by DATAR on specific topics in preparation of the programming period 2014/2020.
- ≡ Case-by-case methodological support for the process of setting up of the 2014-2020 partnership agreement and cooperation programmes (analyses of cross-border dimension of regional diagnosis etc.).

2.1.3 Governance of questions related to the European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) in view of the new programming period

The MOT will study the consequences on the existing EGTCs of the regulation to be approved in 2013, with regard to the practice and the French legal framework of cross-border cooperation. This may involve, if needed, consultation of the EGTCs on French borders, discussions with the ministry departments concerned, and even the

organization of a work meeting to provide input to the legislative process.

MOT will continue the mapping and the identification of existing EGTCs, their missions and strategies, in link with the objectives of the MOT/ Committee of the Regions convention.

2.1.4 Improving the training on cross-border matters for civil services and Caisse des Dépôts personnel

The framework of cross-border action by State services and by local authorities will be impacted by the current process of decentralization and State reform, as well as by the new context of the 2014/2020 programming period. On the basis of the decisions taken, the training needs evolve, both at the territorial level (territorial public service) and at the central and decentralized level (state services). MOT will realize a survey of training needs, and assist the services concerned on their request (ministries, CNFPT, Caisse des Dépôts) in the definition of the training content and actions to be implemented.

2.2 Monitoring of cross-border territories

Following the study on the cross-border strand of the Observatory of territories (led by MOT and FNAU on behalf of DATAR and completed end of 2011), and the conference on the results organized in Nancy in December 2012, whose proceedings will become a Europ'act publication, a cross-border component will be created in 2013 within the DATAR Observatory of territories using the material produced in the context of the study. The more analytical dimension of the study will be published on the DATAR website, in the part dedicated to online publications.

To go further and lay the foundations for a true cross-border statistical monitoring at European level, representatives of the different States want to create a strategic Committee dedicated to the observation of cross-border territories that will enable the exchange between national approaches of observation of different countries. This Committee will help to understand the important developments on essential topics such as labour market, flows and transport, education and training or health. MOT will support this process.

In addition to the thematic MOT Guide book published in this context, MOT will continue to update a series of maps on flows of commuters between the France and its neighbouring countries.

2.3 Strategic studies

Cross-border business takeovers: in 2013, the action undertaken in 2011 with the support of Caisse des Dépôts on the topic of cross-border business takeovers in cross-border territories (example of the French-German border) will be continued, via the organisation of a last and bigger event, more generally focused on the role of businesses in the economic development of cross-border territories and the context conditions to put into place in this regard.

3. European and international opening

3.1. Sharing of experience and good practices – capitalisation

3.1.1 European projects

The MOT will study the possibility to participate in European projects, especially with its partners of CECICN. Contacts will be taken with the networking programmes (INTERACT, URBACT, INTERREG IVC, ESPON) in order to examine the possibilities of projects in the context of the 2014/2020 programming period.

3.1.2 Partnership within the framework of the Budapest platform

The work of the platform (at the moment: FR, HU, NL, PT) will be put in perspective of the political agenda: a proposition has been done by DATAR to coordinate the partnership agreements on the borders and the approach of territorial cross-border monitoring has been launched in Nancy. A seminar on multilevel governance of cooperation and the role of States in the support of cross-border cooperation could be organized in Brussels. DATAR would be closely associated, as well as the services concerned of the Caisse des Dépôts. It could be foreseen to enlarge the Budapest platform to other countries as Romania or Poland.

3.1.3 Considerations on cross-border metropolises

In liaison with DATAR and the neighbouring states: Germany (IMEG network); Luxemburg; Switzerland; Belgium; in link with the seminar on the metropolitan poles, see below. Furthermore, MOT will be associated to the steering committee of the study launched by DATAR whose aim is to identify and to qualify the cross-border and international relations of French urban areas.

3.1.4 Committee of the Regions EGTC Platform

The participation in this platform, within the framework of the Declaration of Common Interest with the Committee of the Regions, will enable the practices and considerations of the MOT network to be relayed at the European level (see 2.1.3).

3.1.5 Participation in the TEIN (Transfrontier Euro-Institute Network) as part of its discussions

The first TEIN project developed and co-financed via the Leonardo programme has been finished. The work will continue in 2013 in the context of a new Leonardo project called PAT-TEIN (Professionalizing Actors of Transfrontier cooperation - Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network). Its aim is to develop training material and dedicated trainings. MOT is an associated partner of the project concerning several TEIN actions, among them the use and dissemination of pedagogical tools and evaluation, as well as a project of linking documentation centers.

3.2. Interests representation of cross-border cooperation stakeholders

3.2.1 Partnership with the CECICN

The partnership launched in 2012 between CECICN and the European institutions, on the basis of a strategy document on cities and regions involved in European Territorial Cooperation, co-produced with AEBR in 2012, and the big European conference organized in June 2012 in La Coruña (Spain) will be continued.

MOT and its partners continue especially to pass on their point of view concerning cross-border cooperation in the programming process 2014/2020.

3.2.2 Strategic alliance with the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

MOT will continue the cooperation launched with AEBR in 2012, in the context of the strategic document of CECICN cited above.

3.2.3 Cooperation with European institutions

Committee of the Regions

The follow-up of the report of Michel Delebarre on the EGTC (COTER), for which the MOT was involved as expert in the second half of 2011, will be continued.

The aims for CECICN in 2013 are to be recognized as observer and to sign a declaration of common interest, as well as to prepare a workshop during the Open Days in October 2013 on the topic "Single Market/Europe 2020".

European Parliament

MOT and CECICN will work with the MEP on cross-border cooperation, especially in the context of the networking group on cross-border cooperation set up end of 2012 on the initiative of two French MEP, Marie-Thérèse Sanchez Schmid and Gilles Pargneaux, furthermore members of MOT. It allows MEP of different commissions to familiarize them with the different stakes of cross-border cooperation.

European Commission

MOT and CECICN will continue the exchanges launched with DG REGIO (work on topics like Integrated Territorial Investment, Small Project Funds ...) and DG MARKT (work on topics of the single market with a cross-border dimension, in link with the European year of citizens 2013).

Council of Europe

The MOT partnership with the Council of Europe will concern the follow-up of the third additional protocol to the Madrid Outline Convention (Euro-regional Cooperation Grouping) that will enter into force on 1st March 2013 at the border between France and Switzerland as well as between France and Germany.

3.3 Cooperation on other borders (Eastern Europe, Africa, etc.)

In the framework of a cooperation between old and new Member States of the European Union, the following actions are planned in link with DATAR, ADETEF (French international technical assistance agency) and the French Ministry of foreign affairs:

- ≡ MOT participation in a visit of a Hungarian delegation (February 2013).
- ≡ Organization of seminars on legal tools of cooperation.

In the context of the North-South cooperation, cross-border cooperation actions may be led in Africa in partnership with Cités Unies France, GRDR (French international rural development research and assistance group), AIMF (international association of French-speaking mayors) and the African Union.

In particular, MOT will intervene by supporting the UNCDF (United Nations Capital Development Fund) in the context of the Local Cross-Border Initiative (LOBI).

MOT together with the European Commission, AEER, the TEIN network and the Euro-institut Caraïbes will participate in the "Meeting on cross-border cooperation: Latin America-Caribbean-Europe", end of November (Université des Antilles et de la Guyane - Martinique Pole).