



## General Objectives 2010

Following the change in MOT presidency in 2008 and the appointment of the new Director General in 2009, greater consideration has been given to strengthening the way in which the MOT's various activities comply with the needs of institutional partners and members as well as developments at the European level and in the services sector. Several Boards, Boards of Directors and a working group set up for this purpose as well as questionnaires sent out to members and many discussions with outside partners have helped to define the relevant leads for the MOT's future orientation. An orientation reflected by the general objectives proposed for 2010:

**With regard to anchoring the MOT in its role as a mission of general interest** to serve a strategy of cross-border cooperation centred on the projects and requirements of cross-border territories and their citizens.

### **1. Assistance in defining overall strategies**

The aim broadly speaking is to assist states, regions and every other level of local authority in France and in Europe to take greater account of the cross-border dimension in their territorial and sectoral policies and integrate it within a European framework.

Principal measures might be as follows:

- Strengthen the role of the MOT as an expert and adviser for the central administrative bodies and decentralised departments of the French State (as well as the regional management bodies of the Caisse des Dépôts) regarding cross-border issues;
- signing of three-year agreements with the main ministries interested in the development of this role by the MOT (Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Sea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior incl. overseas territories, ...) and the development of related measures;
- conduct strategic studies corresponding to their interests, for indicative purposes:
  - o pursue the implementation of a cross-border element to the *Observatoire des territoires* (Observatory for territories): indicators, mappings for conurbations, the euro-districts and cross-border cities,
  - o strengthen the impact of the projects co-financed within the framework of strand A of the INTERREG programme by optimising their coordination with the cross-border territory projects

## **2. Identifying needs and ensuring they are forwarded up to the ministerial / inter-ministerial level**

- To this end, draw up questionnaires designed to identify needs and set up a technician exchange platform (objective: to enable stakeholders to network)
- Where appropriate, specific MOT working groups are to examine in-depth the topics in which there is a broad interest; alternatively a seminar can be organised.
- The inter-ministerial steering committees will provide an opportunity for in-depth discussions on the needs identified at the inter-ministerial level.
- The regular monitoring of the progress of the projects and the needs of cross-border cooperation will enable the MOT to assume the role of observatory for cross-border cooperation on the French borders and beyond.

### **3. Information, exchange organisation and knowledge distribution for the benefit of project leaders**

Develop information, communication and exchange measures on the practices, e.g.:

- edit and publish three letters on “cross-border areas” with a circulation of 9,000 copies in two languages (French and English),
- produce 11 newsletters in three languages,
- prepare and stage a seminar on the cross-border employment market and its links with the requirements of companies and training issues in co-operation with the St. Louis employment agency and other partners from the INTERREG IV C project,
- compile a special feature or guide on the same topic,
- organise other seminars yet to be defined (e.g. in cooperation with AGAPE),
- provide an online member space service and a press review for members,
- organise a conference to discuss the future of the organisation and the financing of cross-border cooperation in Europe.

#### **Opening of Europe**

- Restructure the cooperation with the networks which jointly established the first phase of the MOT’s European opening (EUROMOT strategy) and adapt it to the needs and possibilities corresponding to the nature of the three partners.
- Integrate these partnerships into the MOT’s new European activities based on the value added for its members and institutional partners, corresponding to the following four focal points:
  - Lobbying on behalf of cross-border cooperation at the European level (position papers, presence in Brussels, partnership with the various institutions)

- Development of good practice exchanges at the European level (setting up of the MOT's documentation centre and its networking with other resource centres on cross-border cooperation in Europe)
- Support for the development of an EGTC network by the Committee of the Regions and assistance with its expansion to future ECGs (Council of Europe)
- Support for the networking of structures with functions similar to those of the MOT in other European countries (develop facilities at the national level to identify and eliminate obstacles encountered by cross-border projects and citizens)

These four focal points are to be implemented in cooperation with existing partners and networks such as the AEBR, the Euro-Institut, etc.

- Finalise, then evaluate, anchor and, where appropriate, deepen the results of the URBACT II project on governance in cross-border conurbations.

### **Expertise and pre-operational assistance:**

In order to underscore the difference between the MOT and private consulting companies, reduction in the volume of classic consulting projects to the benefit of work conducted alongside project initiators. This role as consultant and facilitator might involve:

- expertise on the choice of the best suited legal cooperation tool and consultation with the relevant ministry departments,
- assistance with conceptual formulation, implementation of the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC),
- expertise, in the form of pre-operational theme-based studies, e.g. on issues and projects relating to cross-border transport as well as benchmarking at the European level,
- assistance to project contracting.

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