

Information bulletin: Why a GIP for the MOT?

The Mission Opérationnelle
Transfrontalière, from an association
to a Public Interest Grouping (GIP)

10 February 2011

The MOT and the reform of the GIPs

Formed by a *Comité Interministériel d'Aménagement et de Développement du Territoire* (CIADT – inter-ministerial territorial planning and development committee) meeting in 1997 as an association governed by the French 1901 Act, the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière is now a **multi-level governance structure at the service of cross-border cooperation, bringing together local, regional and national levels.**

The parliamentary report published in June 2010 by Blanc, Keller and Sanchez-Schmid on cross-border issues as well as subsequent inter-ministerial work have confirmed the MOT in its purpose.

In order to be able to implement the resulting recommendations under optimum conditions, **the MOT has undertaken its transformation into a public interest grouping (GIP) by 2013.** This change of legal form takes advantage of the merging of the various GIP mechanisms by the “Warsmann” Act of May 2011 and its application decree published in January 2012.

The consequences of the transformation of the association into a GIP

Better-defined missions in the service of a shared cross-border strategy

The founding convention defines the scope of local, national and international intervention of the GIP through a series of missions covering the whole spectrum of cross-border cooperation (see article 4 of the draft founding convention of the GIP).

Continuing the actions conducted at present by the association, the purpose of the MOT GIP will be to provide technical support, contacts and coordination for all entities involved in cooperation on either side of borders through its missions of:

- observation and analysis of the cross-border situation, the issues and problems encountered but also the good practices developed on France's borders,
- assistance with the definition and implementation of consistent policies dedicated to cross-border cooperation,
- dissemination of information and provision of training on cross-border matters.

The MOT GIP is also intended to promote and facilitate discussions between the project partners of cross-border projects and the European, national, deconcentrated and regional public authorities, and to work on their behalf, if needed, in the accomplishment of their cross-border projects.



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Why a PIG for the MOT?



A coherent work programme defined in partnership between local, regional and national stakeholders in cross-border affairs

The missions will be implemented as part of a two-year programme prepared, discussed and monitored by the bodies of the MOT GIP.

These bodies have parity of membership between the representatives of local and regional cross-border cooperation stakeholders and the representatives of the ministries, the DATAR (French inter-ministerial delegation for spatial planning and regional attractiveness) and the CDC (*Caisse des Dépôts*, a public-sector funding institution):

- **the General Assembly** brings together the representatives of all the members: it debates and votes the annual and biennial work programme (refer to article 16 of the GIP draft convention),
- **the Advisory Board** is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the work programme (refer to article 17 of the GIP draft convention),
- the **Bureau**, chaired by the GIP president, assisted by the GIP director-general, prepares the voting of the assembly (refer to article 18 of the GIP draft convention).

Reinforcement of European and international outreach

In order to take better account of the actions undertaken by the MOT association since 2004, the European and international dimension is taken into consideration in the purpose and the work programme of the MOT GIP (refer to article 4.2 of the GIP draft convention).

Procedures for cooperation with foreign states are also planned, as states cannot formally sign the GIP founding convention alongside French territorial authorities.

It is proposed that they take part in the General Assembly and in the Advisory Board through a college of states (refer to article 9 of the GIP draft convention).

A multi-level partnership

The GIP is open to the current members of the association and to the ministries linked by a grant agreement with the MOT, as well as to institutions, border institution groupings and to other ministries that wish to join the MOT GIP (refer to annex 2 of the GIP draft convention).

Admissions and withdrawals are permitted every other year in order to allow for the times required for publication of the inter-ministerial order amending the founding convention (see articles 12 and 13 of the GIP draft convention). Pending finalization of their membership, the future members will be associated with the work of the GIP (see article 12 of the GIP draft convention).

A transformation at constant resources and budget

The current amount of the contributions of the association members has been used as the basis for defining the amount of the contributions of the GIP members: the scale will remain unchanged for the first two years of operation (refer to the financial pact in annex 1, GIP draft convention).

The GIP is taking over the contracts, the personnel and the activities of the MOT while retaining the private law framework of the association, so this change of legal form will not generate any additional budget costs (see articles 10 and 11 of the GIP draft convention).

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