Polycentric development at different scales

Example Greater Region

ESPON Seminar
16th June 2016
Sabine Stölb
**The Greater Region**

**Population of the main cities:**
- Luxembourg (LU): 107,200 (2014)
- Metz (FR): 119,962 (2011)
- Saarbrücken (DE): 177,201 (2013)
- Mainz (DE): 204,268 (2013)
- Trier (DE): 107,233 (2013)
- Nancy (FR): 105,382 (2011)

**Total population of the Greater Region:** 1,143,000 residents (2013)

**Total surface of the Greater Region:** 65,400 km²

**Time distance between the main cities:**
- By car:
  - Luxembourg - Metz: 55 minutes
  - Luxembourg - Namur: 1h 14
  - Luxembourg - Trier: 41 minutes
  - Luxemburg - Saarbrücken: 1h 14
  - Metz - Saarbrücken: 57 minutes
- By public transport:
  - Luxembourg - Metz: 40 minutes
  - Luxembourg - Namur: 2h 00
  - Luxembourg - Trier: 59 minutes
  - Luxemburg - Saarbrücken: 1h 20
  - Metz - Saarbrücken: 1h 06
Since 1990 cross-border Interreg programmes in the Greater Region
Portrait of a cross-border urban area III

Cross-border cooperation structures

**Principal cross-border cooperation structure:**
The Greater Region

**Status of the cooperation:**
Charter

**Organization of technical staff:**
Coordination between regional teams;
EGTC Secretariat of the Summit of the Greater Region

**Existence of a territorial development strategy:**
Under preparation: Scheme of territorial development

**Other cross-border structures:**
- Euregio SaarLorLux + (1988)
- European Development Pole (PED) (1996)
- QuattroPole (2000)
- Tonicités (2007)
- EGTC Alzette-Belval (2013)

**Institutional mapping:**

Cross-border integration context

**Type of border:**
Schengen area since 1995

**Currency:**
Euro

**Languages:**
French, German, Luxembourgish

**GDP/capita (PPP, 2011, NUTS 3):**
- BE: 20 776 €
- DE: 20 161 €
- FR: 21 519 €
- LU: 66 700 €

**Cross-border commuters** (2012):
- FR → LU: 78 700
- BE → LU: 40 100
- DE → LU: 40 300

**Spatial configuration:**
Cross-border polycentric metropolitan region

**Cross-border residential integration** (2013, 2014):
- French living in Luxembourg: 31 456
- Germans living in Luxembourg: 12 049
- Belgians living in Luxembourg: 16 926
- Luxembourgers living in Germany: 8 341
- Luxembourgers living in France: 1 902

**Characteristics**

Luxembourg-city is the point of convergence of more than 160 000 daily cross-border commuters. Different initiatives of cooperation exist at local, regional and state levels to accompany the functional integration within this complex territorial configuration (such as the EGTCs of Alzette Belval and Eurodistrict SaarMoselle as well as networks of cities “QuattroPole” and “Tonicités”). The Greater Region initiative is driven by the regions and the States and is currently developing a cross-border common scheme of territorial development to reinforce its internal cohesion.

**Sources:** Mission opérationnelle transfrontalière; Eurostat; Google maps; EuroGeographics; Grande Région; INAMI; Statistics Belgium; INSEE; Statistisches Landesamt Rheinland-Pfalz; Statistisches Landesamt Saarland; CFL; Deutsche Bahn.

**Author:** Liser, 2015.
Cross-border polycentric metropolitan regions
Governance: Institutional integration

“Commission Régionale Saar-Lor-Lux-Trêve/Ouest-Palatinat” (1971)

“Summit of the Executives” (2010)
“very important barriers” to cross-border cooperation

Greater Region (in %, n=126) (Source: ESPON Project Metroborder Team)
Scheme for common territorial development
Greater Region

Elaboration during a process 2013-2018
(studies, workshops with expert and stakeholder involvement)

Up to now 3 documents elaborated:

- The Metropolitan dimension of the Greater Region
- Priority Transport projects with regard to the metropolitan development of the Greater Region
- Preparatory Study with regard to theme of Economy
Opportunities for cooperation

.....in order to increase competitiveness („together we are stronger“)

- response to common challenges, like future demographic change and expected lack of qualified workers
- Coopetition in the field of logistics and tourism
- Economic cross-border clusters
- Network of Universities, University of the Greater Region
- Networking in the health sector, hospitals
- Environmental continuous spaces (biodiversity, resilience)

**Interreg Projects Greater Region**, for example:

- Project: University of the Greater Region
- Project: Cooperation in Tourism
- Project: Plurionet, Cultural web portal
Localisation of emergency services and total number of beds of the hospitals having an emergency medical service.
Urban border cities: from margins to interfaces?

• The « debordering » process of internal European borders
• Cross-border cooperation: a serious issue for the EU regional policy
• Cities tend to acquire more competencies and more power ➔ The border as a resource for some cities

Linking up small and medium cities
➢ To provide an international image of the border region
➢ Through the promotion of the territory to foreign investors
➢ Through the development of a more attractive and welcoming image of the cross-border area
(Source: Antoine Decoville, Liser 2015)