French-German cross-border spatial planning simulation



2003 - 2022

New Challenges for Europe's Cohesion

"Strengthening territorial development and spatial planning in border regions: the "Planspiel" method applied in two pilot sites on the French-German border".













CONTEXT OF THE CROSSBORDER PROJECT

Starting point

- Border regions are experimental areas for integrated spatial development: intensification of spatial interdependencies and functional areas/catchment areas is not reflected in the national legal framework or in the planning and spatial development documents.
- Living and working areas of the inhabitants/citizens of these crossborders areas go beyond a strictly national framework.

Momentum to work together

- Signature and implementation of the Franco-German Aachen Treaty: new chapter on cross-border cooperation (art 13 and 14)
- Input of the European Commission to overcome legal and administrative obstacles in border regions (Specific Interreg objective on « better governance » (ISO1) and draft regulation on "European Cross-Border Mechanism" [ECBM]),
- Strategies at national and regional levels to promote and give a new impetus to cross-border cooperation between France and Germany (e.g. the "Frankreich-Konzeption" strategy of the Land Baden-Württemberg, the "Frankreich-Strategie" of the Land Saarland, the "Orientations stratégiques" of the Grand Est Region), etc.
- New public authority "Collectivité européenne d'Alsace (CEA)" leadership on crossborder cooperation (1 January 2021)



Local and regional actors and planners who called for action and requested the involvement of national level





CROSSBORDER PARTNERSHIP German MORO programme

What is MORO?

- MORO programme: major instrument of spatial planning in Germany (25 years)
- allocation from the German federal government enables regions and municipalities to take an innovative look at sustainable spatial development: close cooperation between politicians, technical experts and scientific/methodological support. This collaboration is based on their field practices and their varied intervention areas. The Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung (BBSR) initiates and accompanies the MOROs an ensures that the results are transferred.

Experimental project - Who is involved?

There is no comparable programme in France.

The crossborder MORO project is a first experiment between the two countries.

It was designed, implemented and coordinated with the BBSR and Saarbrücken Regional planning association on the German side, and the French national territorial cohesion agency (ANCT), Prefecture Région Grand Est and Region Grand-Est on the French side for a cross-border implementation.















PRÉFÈTE DE LA RÉGION GRAND EST







CROSSBORDER IMPLEMENTATION

Common objectives:

- use spatial planning to promote development and integration of border regions.
- explore with the German Planspiel method between German and French spatial planners and developers how the spatial development of border regions can be more binding
- draw up recommendations for action in the practice of cross-border spatial planning, which will facilitate planning at the administrative level in Germany and France.
- examine whether it is possible and necessary to harmonise and make existing binding standards converge in both countries and to what extent this can be done.

Challenges

- Design, finance and implement and analyze in a crossborder perspective
- On each pilot site: a French-German duo of engineering offices in spatial planning have been mandated for the scientific support of the project.











GERMAN METHOD PLANSPIEL



What is a « Planspiel »

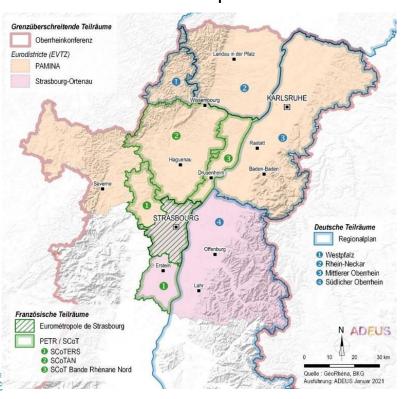
- Planspiel (or role-playing simulations) is a proven method in Germany in the field of spatial planning and urban development.
- Aim: find solutions to new challenges and to answer specific questions (in spatial planning)
- Practical cases that are as close to reality as possible albeit simulated are used . The participants become familiar with complex processes and contexts. They can then "safely" test different action options and understand their impact.
- The method "Planspiel" always provides innovative and creative solutions. The result is common objectives, recommendations and a possible way to have an operational character.
- In this case: a political-technical process adapted to the cross-border situation which has responded to a major obstacle: the asymmetry in the distribution of roles between the political and the technical



Landkreis St. Wende

TWO CROSSBORDER PILOT SITES

Pilot site Greater Region (project coordinated by the Saarbrücken regional planning association): thematic emphasis is on a more integrated approach to spatial planning for the SaarMoselle cross-border conurbation. The aim is to draw up a strategic and operational conurbation plan.





Pilot site Upper Rhine (project coordinated by the Grand-Est region)

Working theme: cross-border economic development and reflection on a common policy/framework conditions regarding real estate and land use for economic activities in a crossborder area



INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Creating a common knowledge base for evidence-based border policy

 to build public policies adapted to the territory, there is a need for a common understanding and analysis with shared and harmonized data/evidence

Develop and agree on common goals and strategies for integrated spatial development

• Using cross-border spatial development concepts as a "bridge" between formal legal instruments on each side of the border

Strengthen the binding nature of cross-border spatial planning: Better coordination of spatial planning instruments at cross-border level

- Promote understanding of spatial planning on both sides of the border
- Intensify consultation processes and cross-border participation
- Agree on binding roadmaps for the implementation of cross-border concepts and strategies

Establish governance structures in the context of spatial development planning

- Focus on tailor-made governance structures
- Consider existing structures: strengthen the role of the Eurodistricts
- Set up contact points in the different institutional organization in spatial planning: multilevel governance
- Involve policy makers at an early stage

Dare innovative formats in cross-border citizen participation, test the concrete implementation of the concept in "living labs" (Reallaboren) and involve the people in the process

Final conference: 14th December 2022 Strasbourg





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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Le projet MORO ou comment renforcer le développement territorial et l'aménagement du territoire dans les régions frontalières de la France et de l'Allemagne | L'Europe s'engage en France, le portail des Fonds européens (europe-en-france.gouv.fr)



