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# The Trinational Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine - A laboratory for Territorial Cohesion in Europe -

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# Who we are



**A trinational cross-border territory  
(France / Germany / Switzerland)**

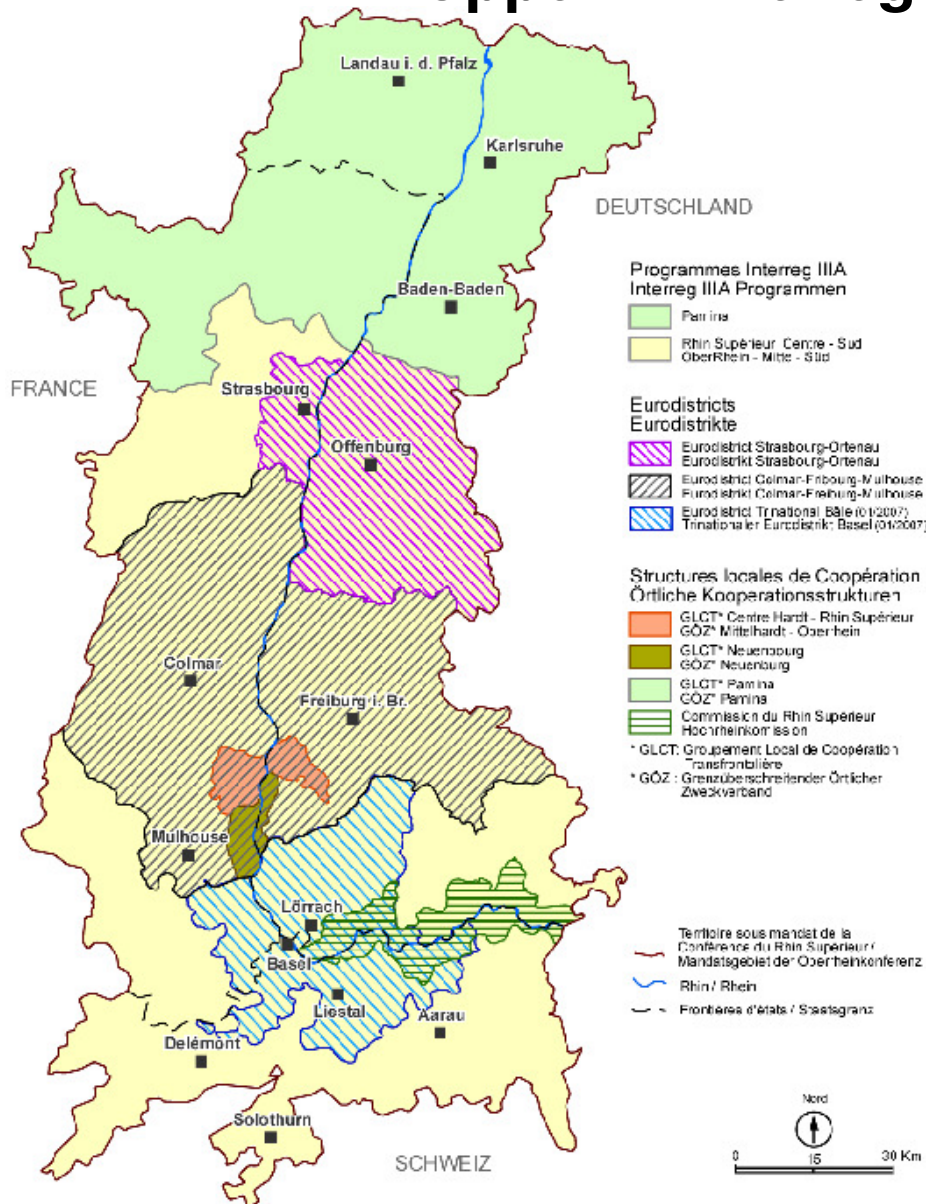
with

- 6 mio inhabitants
- 165 billion Euros GDP
- 100.000 commuters
- over 35 years of experience in CBC
- more than 350 INTERREG-projects
- more 1000 actors actively involved in CBC



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# Levels of cbc in the Upper Rhine region



It started in 1975 by a state initiative:  
**Creation of the inter-governmental Commission (D/F/CH)**

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4 Eurodistricts

INTERREG as instrument for implementation



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## **Some key-messages from our contribution to the green-paper consultation**

### **1. Crossborder territories have more potentials than handicaps !**

Upper Rhine: ex. economy: 230 networks/clusters of SMEs – until now only 8 are cross-border of nature !  
ex. science and research: more than 160 sites of R&D institutions – to develop joint initiatives as part of the Lisbon strategy

- > Exploitation of potentials as an equally valid objective
- > Separate „cross-border territories“ category (different to regions with specific geographical features)



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## **2. Cross-border territories are the laboratories of territorial cohesion in Europe**

- Visibility of EU-action
  - Citizens involvement
  - Testing-field for future EU-legislation
  - Cluster- development
  - Size and structure: identity
- 
- > Active promotion through experimental provisions on cross-border matters in relevant national and EU legislation (ex. health, labour-market, education, research),
  - > EU to play a motivating and informative role: continue to provide specific support in border areas
  - > Different target groups and the population as a whole to be integrated in drawing up and implementation: bottom-up process



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### 3. Integrated approaches of multi-level governance

Upper Rhine: territorial division of functions between

a.) the Trinational Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine

b.) the inter-local cooperation of 4 Eurodistricts

= Functional networks of actors coming from different levels and sectors, horizontal and vertical integration based on different degrees of territorial cohesion and cooperation

-> Flexibility of future promotion instruments at EU and national level (regarding eligibility criteria: ppp)

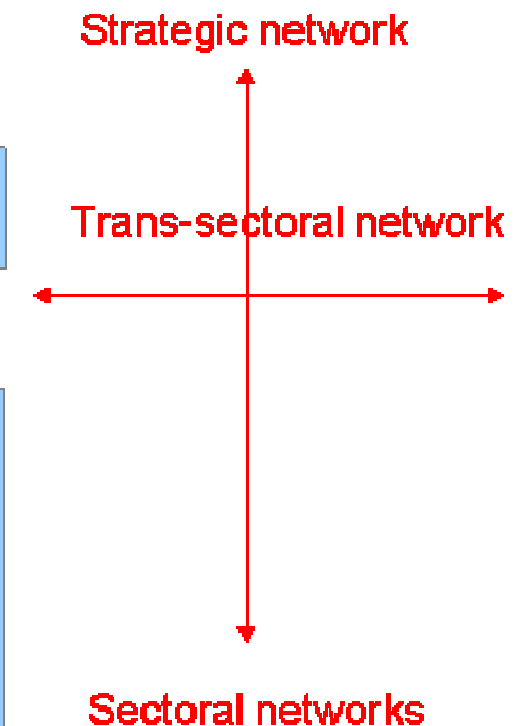
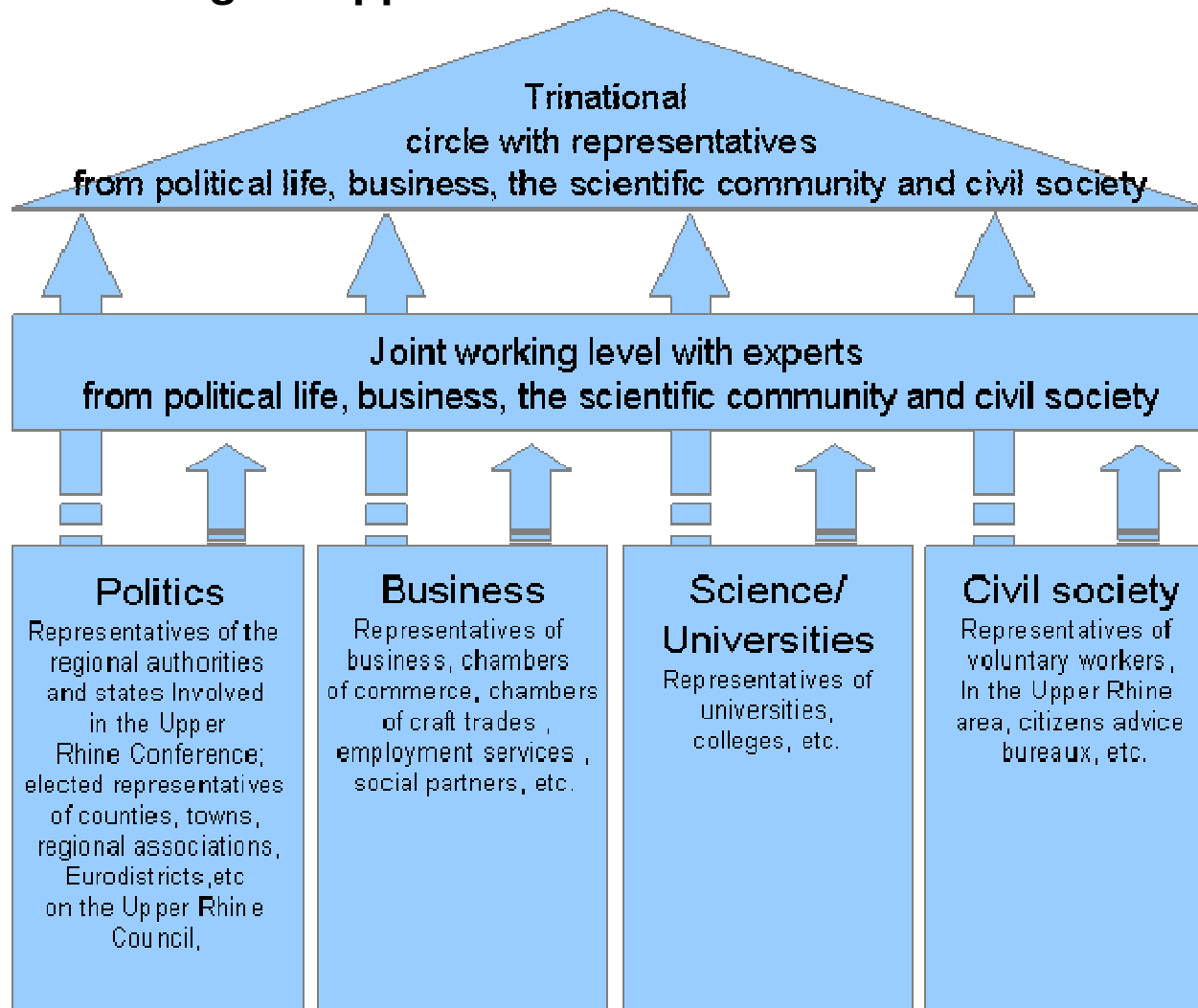
-> Integration of sectoral policy-approaches according to the cross-cutting territorial needs

-> Improvement of the functional interplay between centers/ urban agglomerations and the rural sub-areas



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## Multi-level governance of the Trinational Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine





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## 4. Innovative territorial policy-approaches

Variable geometry as principle for future policy intervention

Integrated territorial development plans adapted to the level-specific territorial potentialities

- > Specific cross-border contracts of territorial development between key actors (public, private, societal)
- > Increased selectivity for project-development
- > Monitoring, strategic guidance and transfer of best practices
- > Changing the role of public actors: from institution into networks
- > Upgrading the role of the ESDP (European Spatial Development Perspective)





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## 5. Instruments



Simplification of the European support instruments:

- More flexibility and reduction of red tape in programm implementation and control
- Support criteria to stimulate territorial ppp
- Overcoming support criteria based on administrative boundaries (focus on strengthening territorial networks !)
- Optimizing territorial information in Europe: Harmonization of methods employed by Eurostat, ESPON, Urban Audit
- Strengthening the bottom-up perspective with regards to territorial development requirements
- More focus on territorial impacts within the Commissions IA-system



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## 6. Role of the EU-Commission

- Nomination of desk officers for specific territories and /or issues at DG REGIO
- Strengthening the territorial component within sectoral policies and programmes
- Differentiation of approaches according to the specific needs of different cross-border territories
- Strengthening existing cbc-institutions with clear focus on territorial multi-level governance



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## 7. Conclusion

### Cross-border territories

- possess a high potential for the development of territorial cohesion in Europe (30% of EU-population and territory)
- require specific consideration in any post 2013 perspective
- allow the necessary visibility of EU policies at the level of citizens
- are laboratories of the European integration
- are active partners of the EU Commission in terms of integrated policy implementation
- are already implementing new territorial approaches of multi-level governance