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METROBORDER Cross-border polycentric metropolitan regions

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Polycentric Territorial Structures and Territorial Cooperation: What, where and how?
14 Sept. 2016, Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU, Brussels

1. The Tri-National Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine






2. Some Features of ESPON-Metroborder, 2009-2010

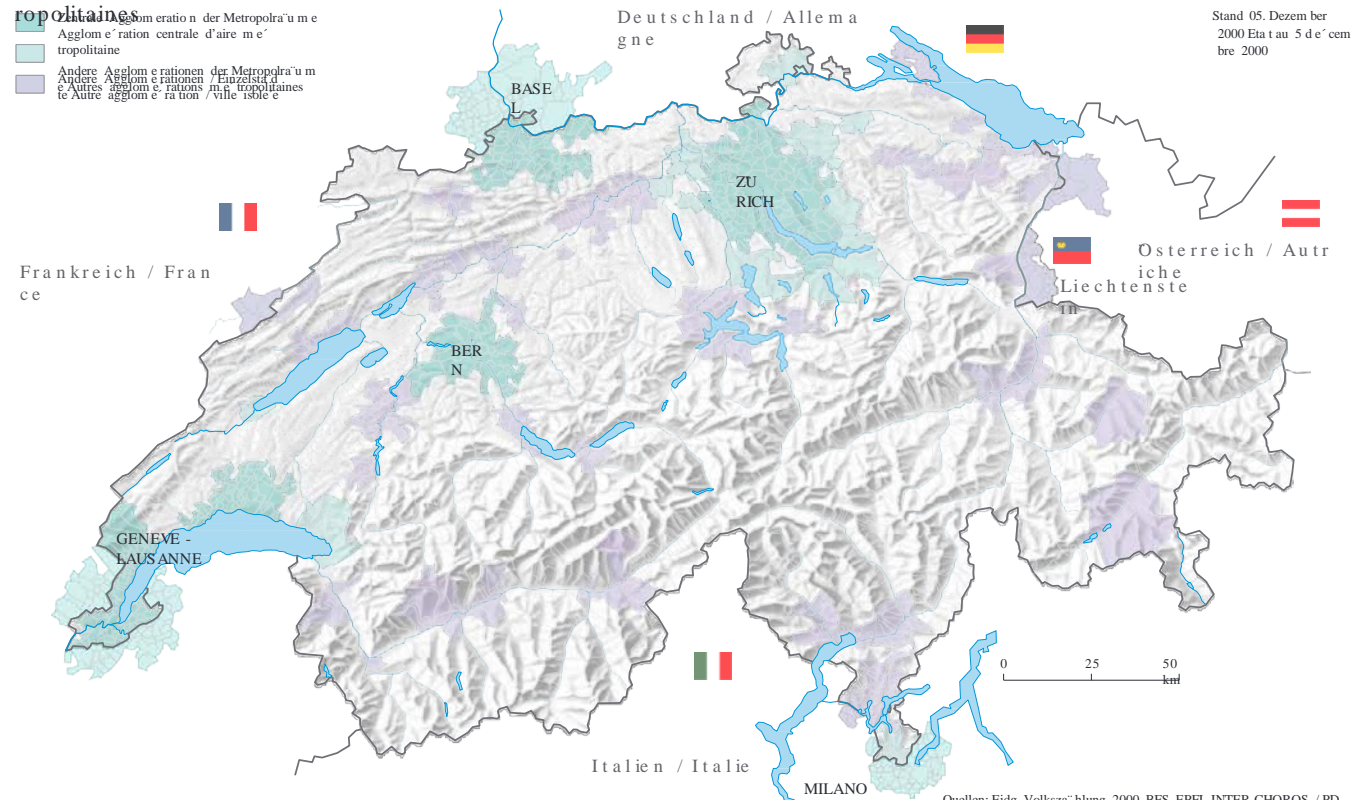
3. Conclusions: Cooperation under the Impact of European Regionalism

4. Summary

5 Metropolräume

Les 5 aires métropolitaines

-  Agglomération centrale d'aire métropolitaine
-  Agglomération centrale d'aire métropolitaine
-  Agglomération centrale d'aire métropolitaine
-  Autre agglomération / ville isolée
-  Autre agglomération / ville isolée



Stand 05. Dezember
2000 Etat au 5 de'cemb
bre 2000



1. The Tri-National Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine

- Swiss cities are small compared to the rest of Europe
- Basel, second tier MR. Second also in Switzerland. Disadvantaged at the Swiss periphery. The German and French parts are important.
- Alsace, Baden Württemberg and NW-Switzerland have a common history since the Middle Ages. Alemanni people with a common dialect but under changing borders and a long experience of living together.

→ Double situation

- A common understanding and a wish to share the advantages of a larger region for the citizen's interests and
- The concentration of decision making in global cities is a driver for agglomeration economies on national and international level. Second tier cities are forced to enlarge and to attract.




Similar for Baden-Württemberg (the Upper Rhine was not classified as MR) and Alsace (Mulhouse and Belfort in stagnating or declining position).

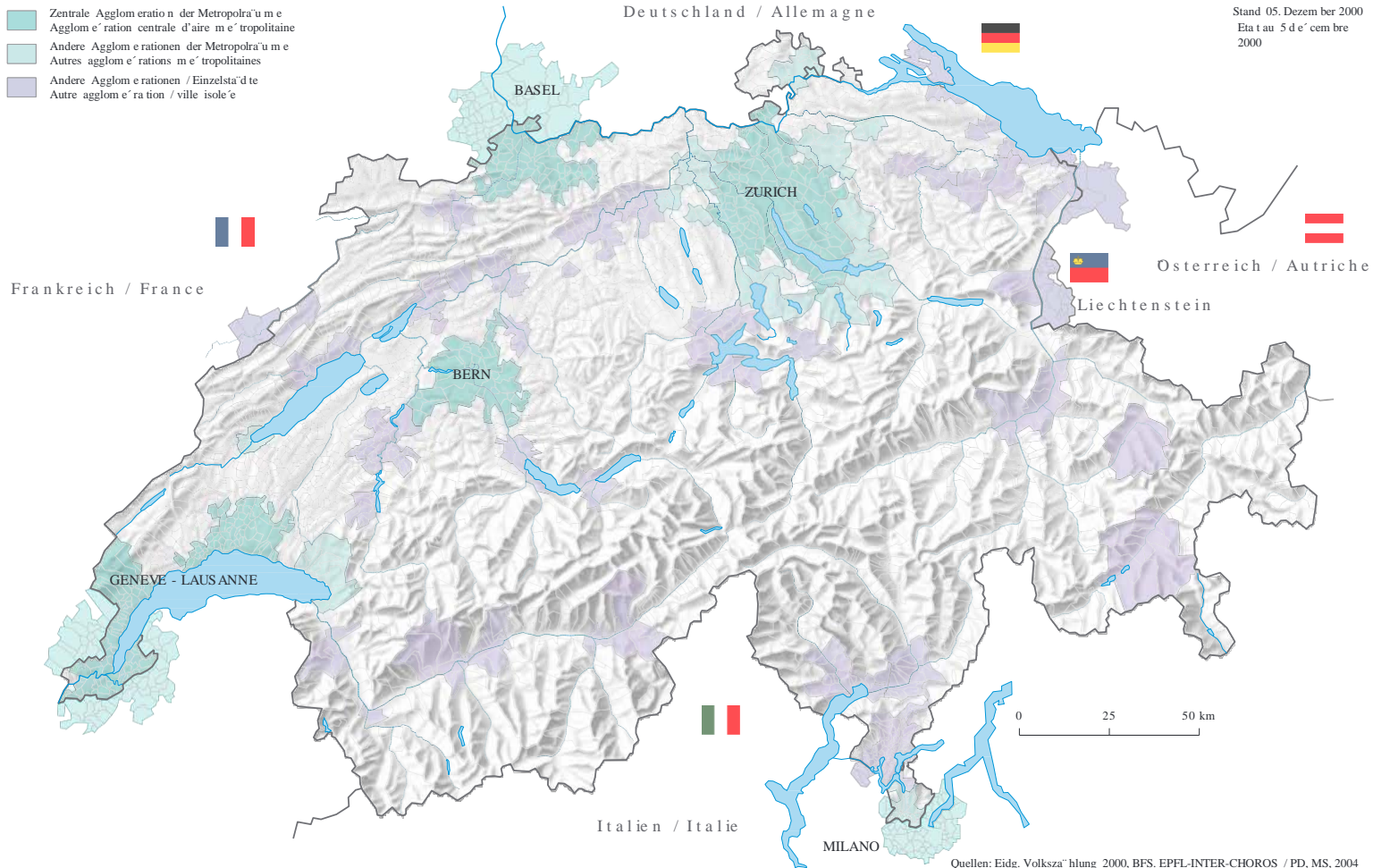
Both – the common historic trajectory and the increasing international competition – had the following result:

The border is not predominantly seen as an instrument for security but for a disadvantage. Transnational integration is an advantage. The consequences:

- intensifying the institutional cooperation
- using this situation as an asset and as Unique Selling Proposition.

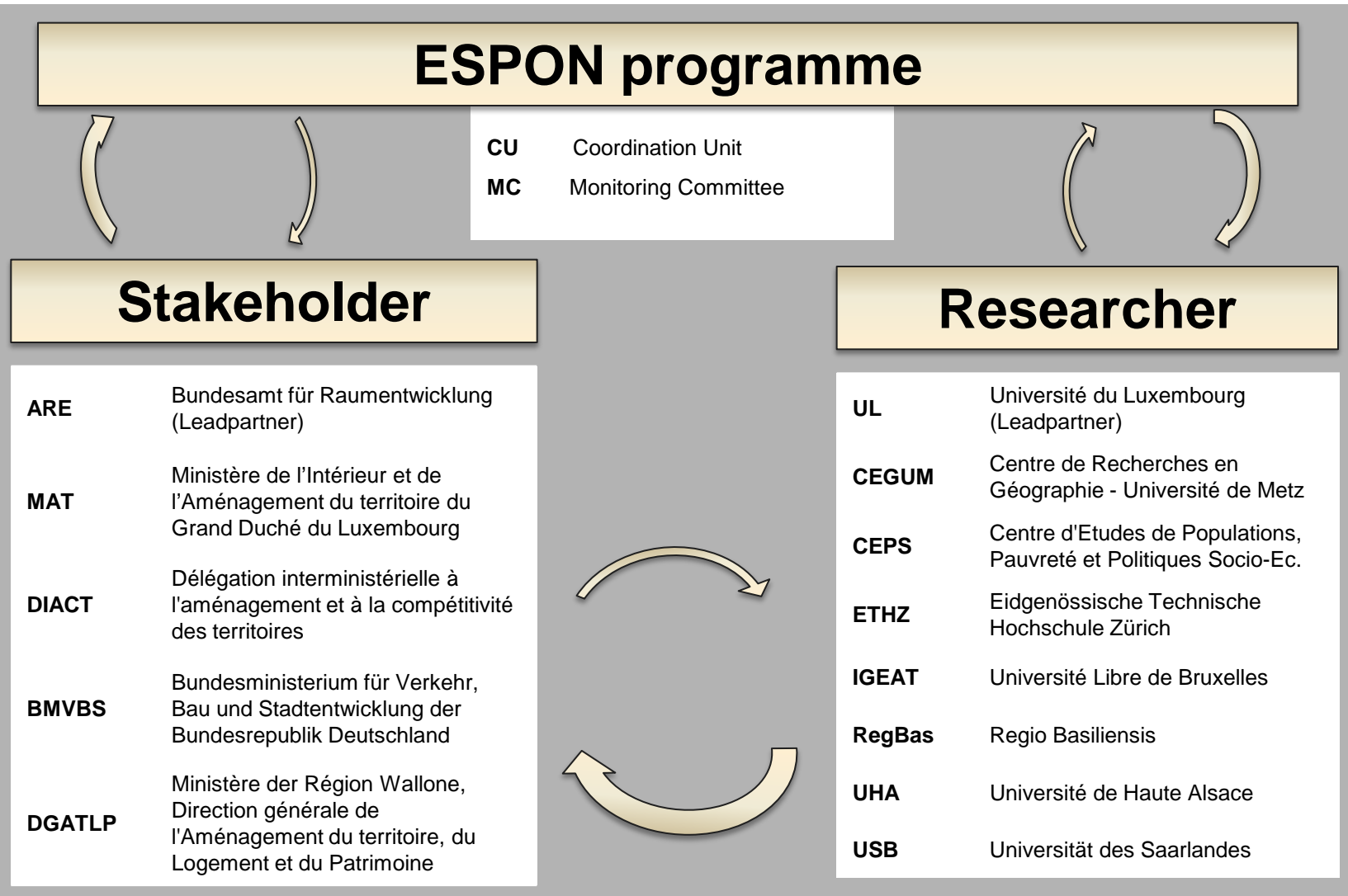
5 Metropolräume
Les 5 aires métropolitaines

-  Zentrale Agglomeration der Metropolräume
Agglomération centrale d'aires métropolitaines
-  Andere Agglomerationen der Metropolräume
Autres agglomérations métropolitaines
-  Andere Agglomerationen / Einzelstädte
Autre agglomération / ville isolée

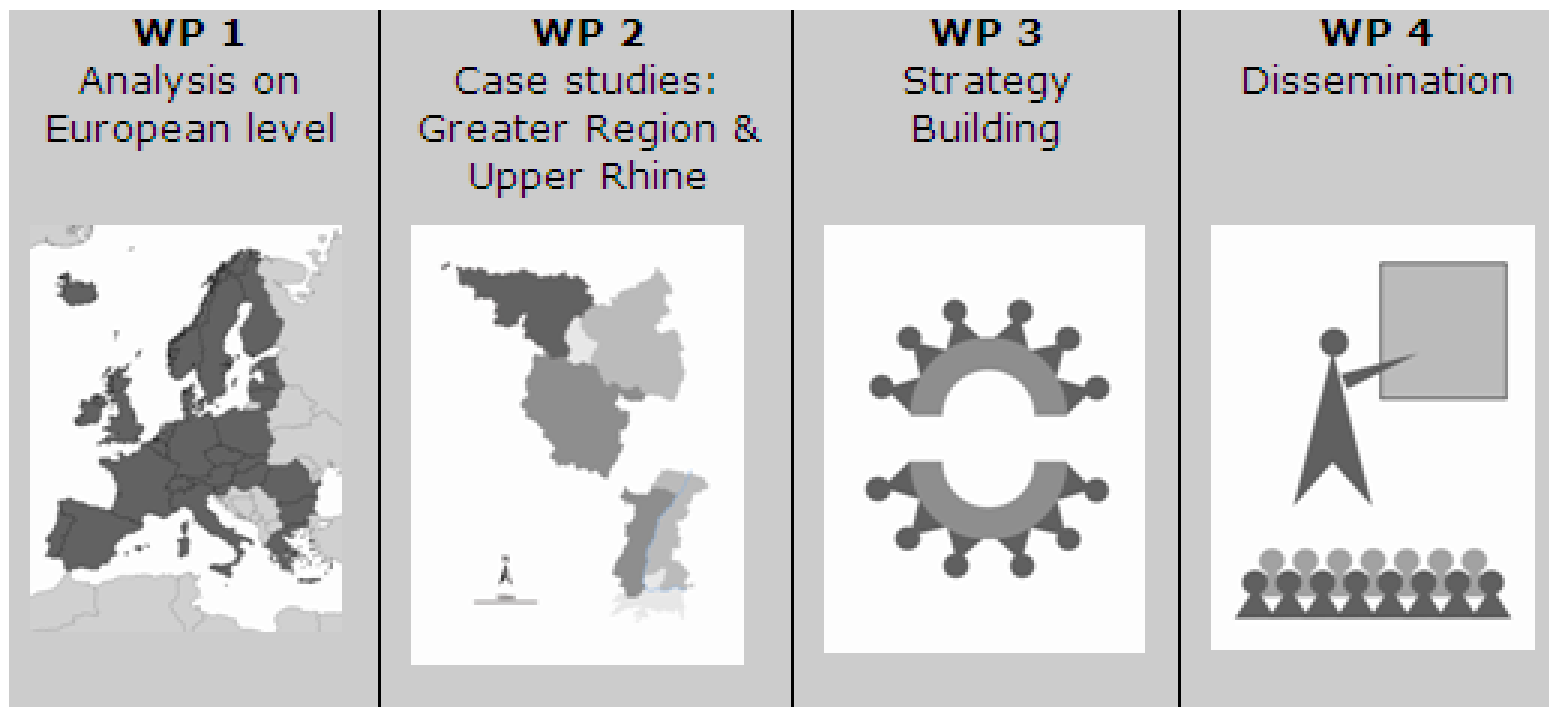


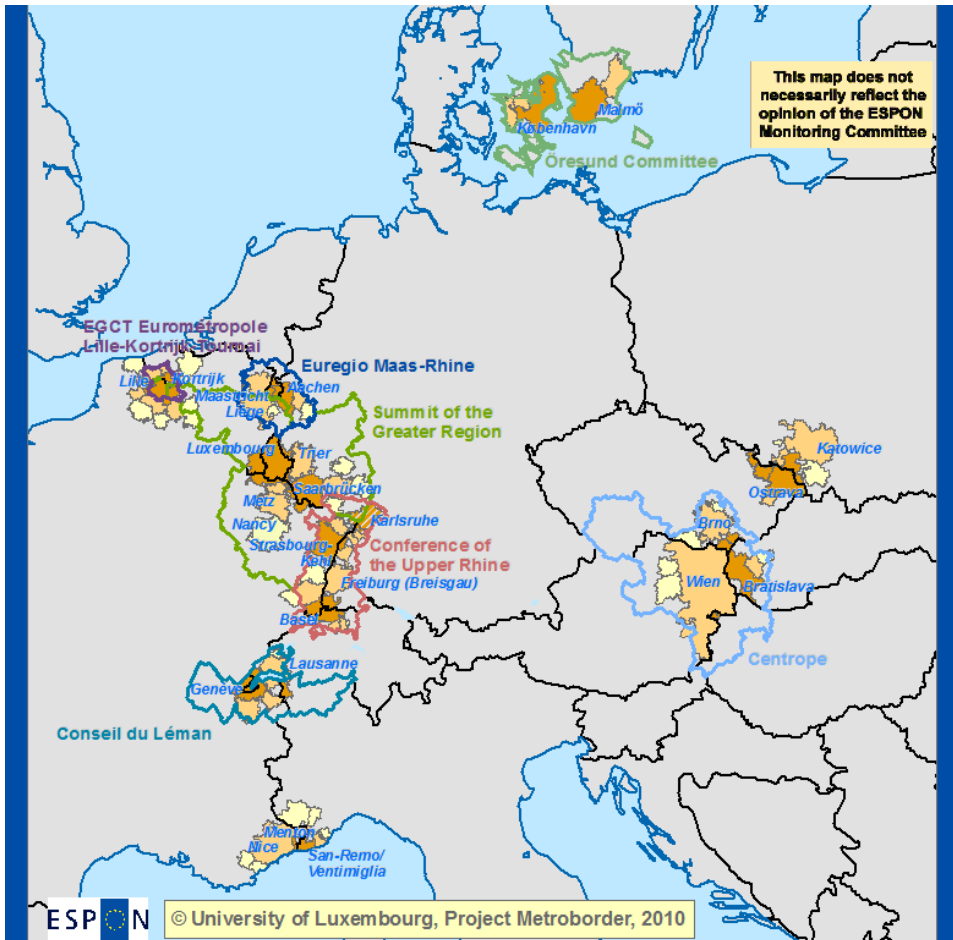
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2. Some Features of ESPON-Metroborder



Workpackage structure









Functional urban areas (FUAs) of the cross-border polycentric metropolitan regions

Cross-border cooperation perimeters

'Functional Urban Areas' (FUA)

-  Core FUA
-  Neighboring FUA of the core FUA
-  Surrounding FUA of the neighboring FUA

 National borders

Modul 1.1: Europäische grenzüberschreitende Metropolregionen - Funktionale Integration

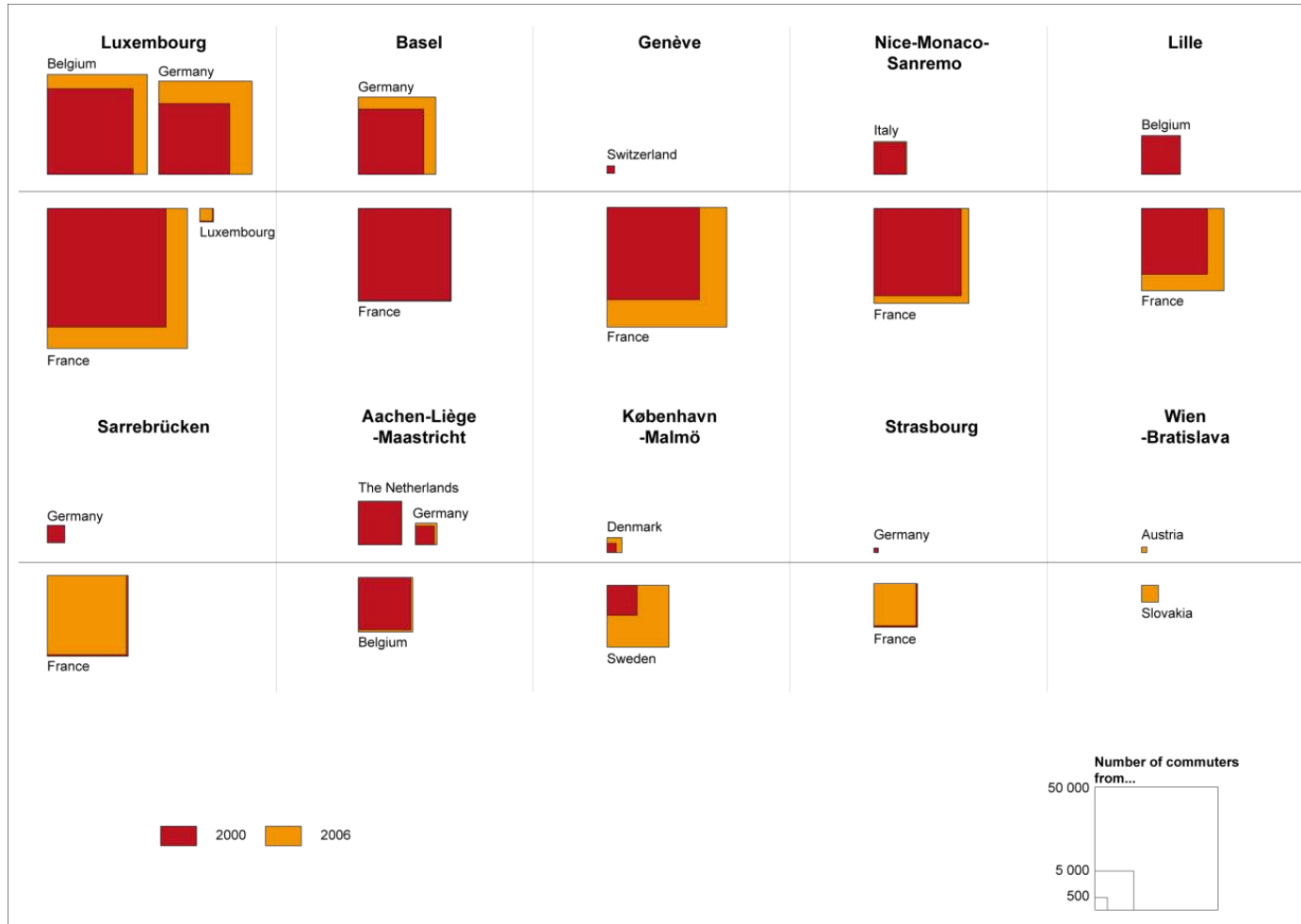


Abb. 4: "Cross-border commuters in metropolitan areas, 2000 and 2006"

Modul 2.1: Grossregion und Oberrhein - Institutionelle Integration

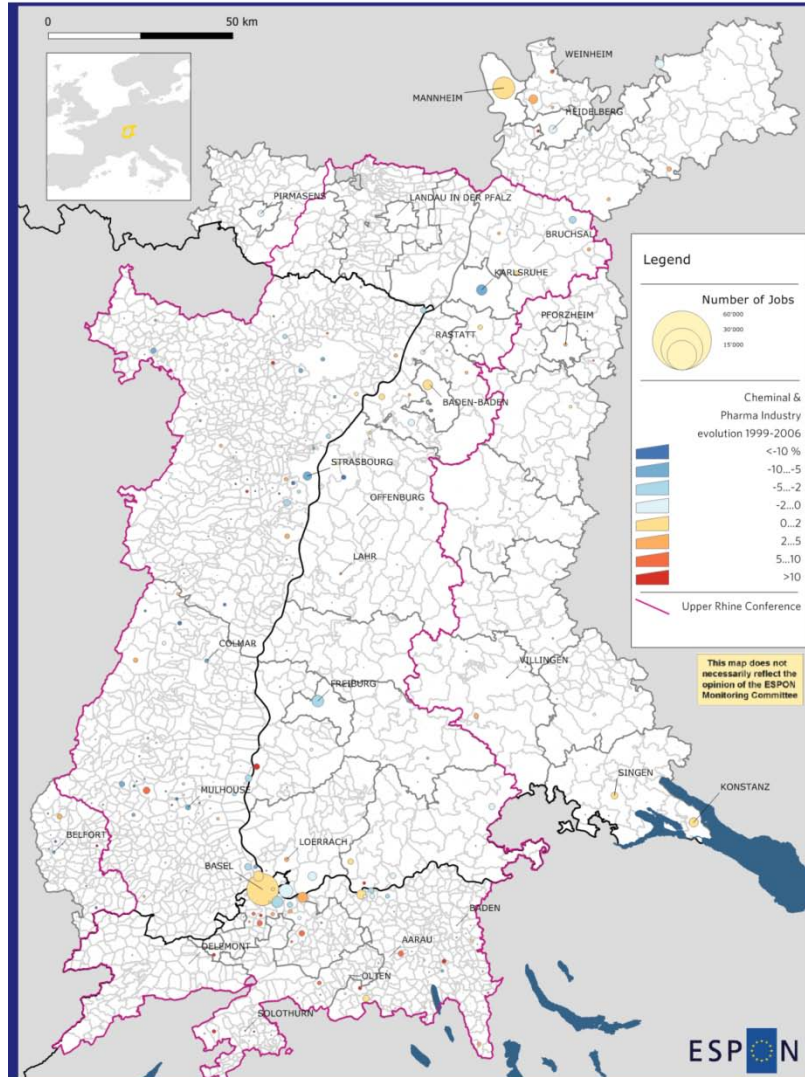


Abb. 10: “Number of jobs in the chemical industry in the Upper Rhine region”

Modul 2.2:

Grossregion und Oberrhein – Institutionelle Integration

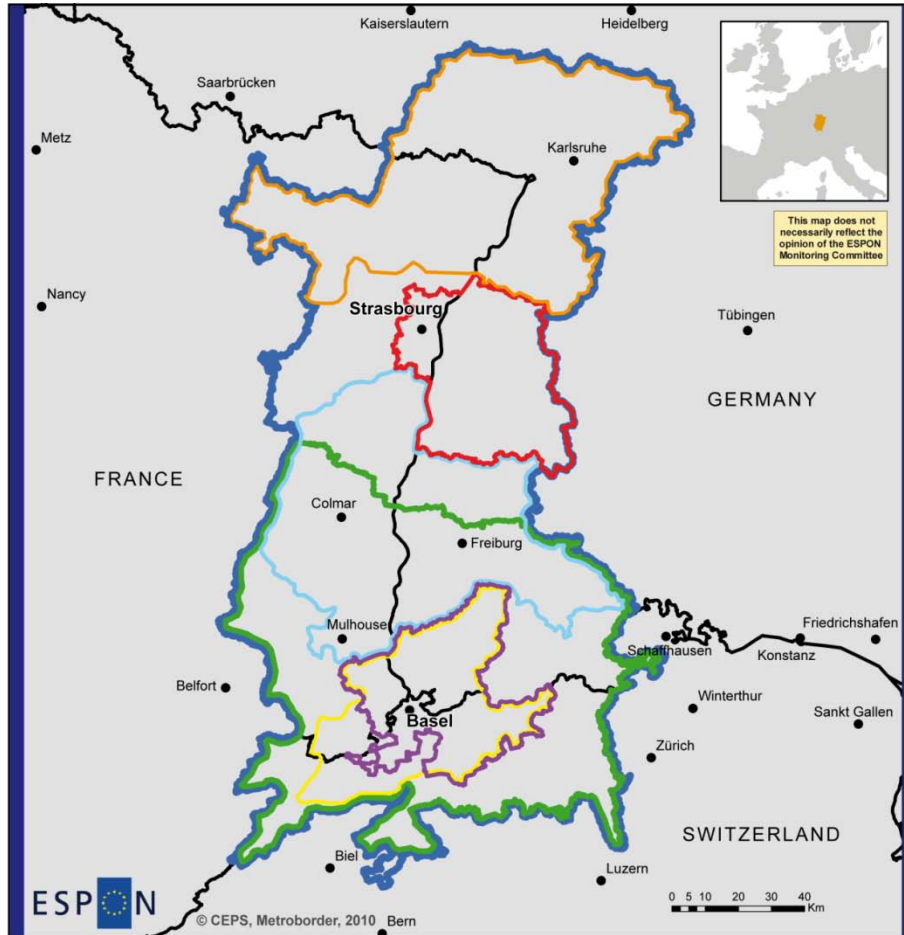


Abb. 11: “Institutional perimeters of cooperation in the Upper Rhine region”





Modul 2.2: Grossregion und Oberrhein – Institutionelle Integration

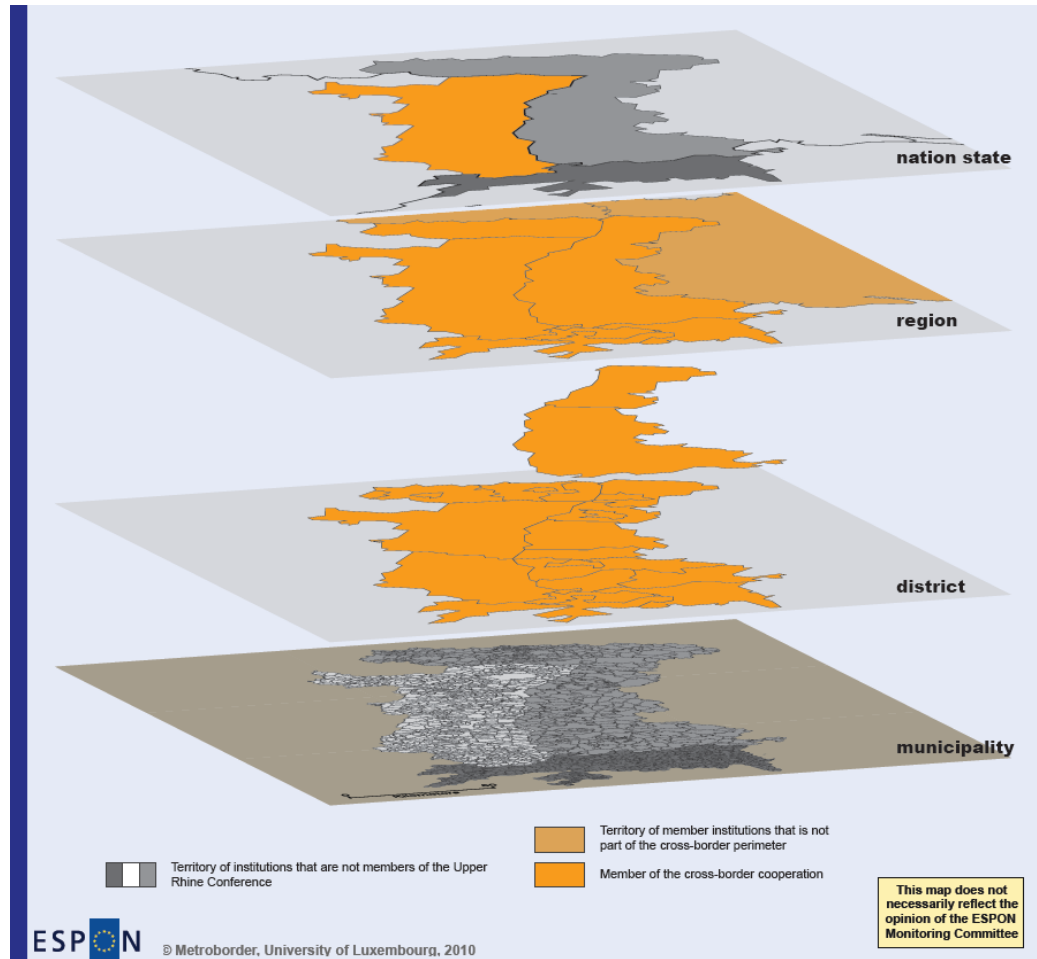


Abb. 12: “Institutional Mapping Upper Rhine Conference”

Modul 2.2: Grossregion und Oberrhein – Institutionelle Integration

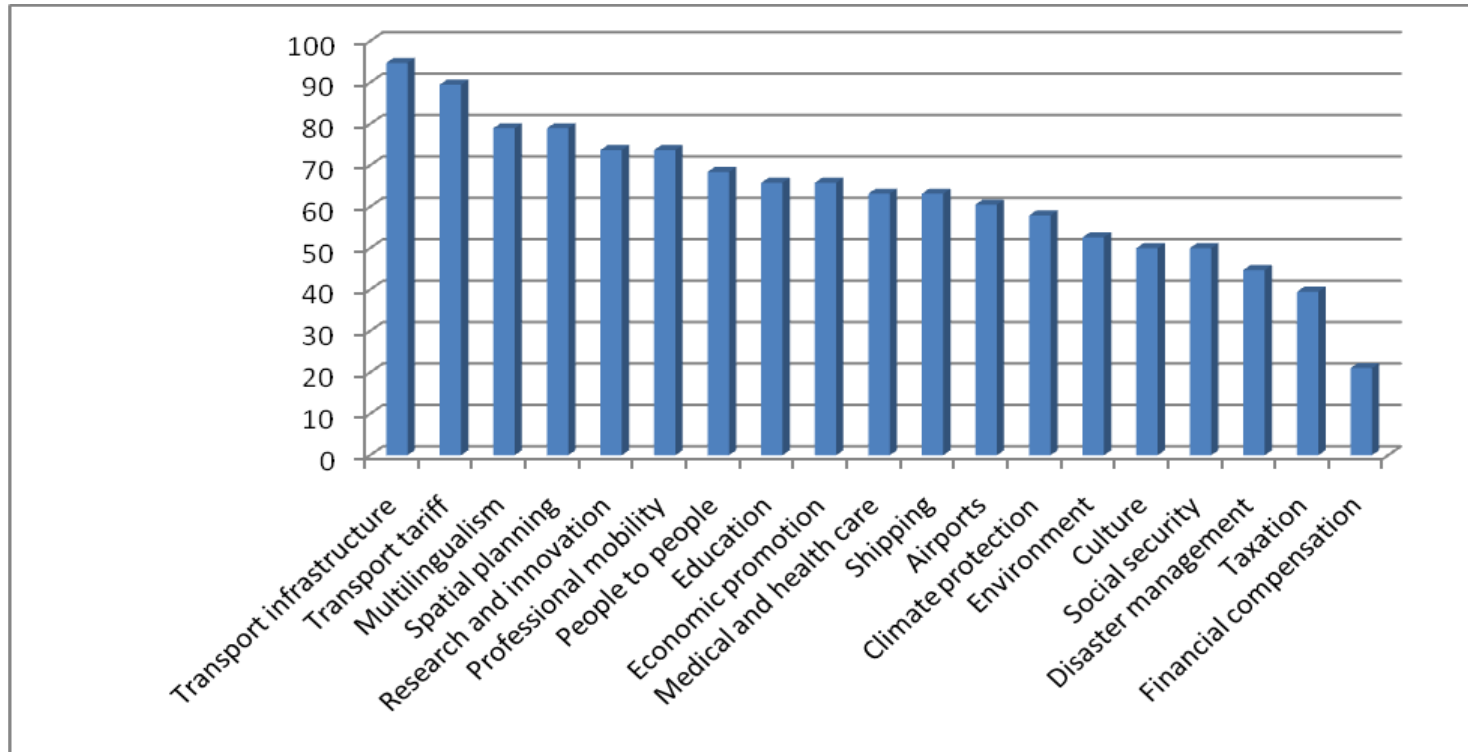


Abb. 14: “Policy fields in which the cross-border cooperation in the Upper Rhine region should be intensified (in %)”

Modul 2.2: Grossregion und Oberrhein – Institutionelle Integration

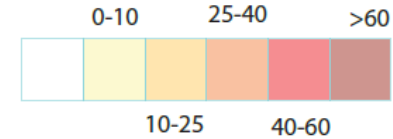
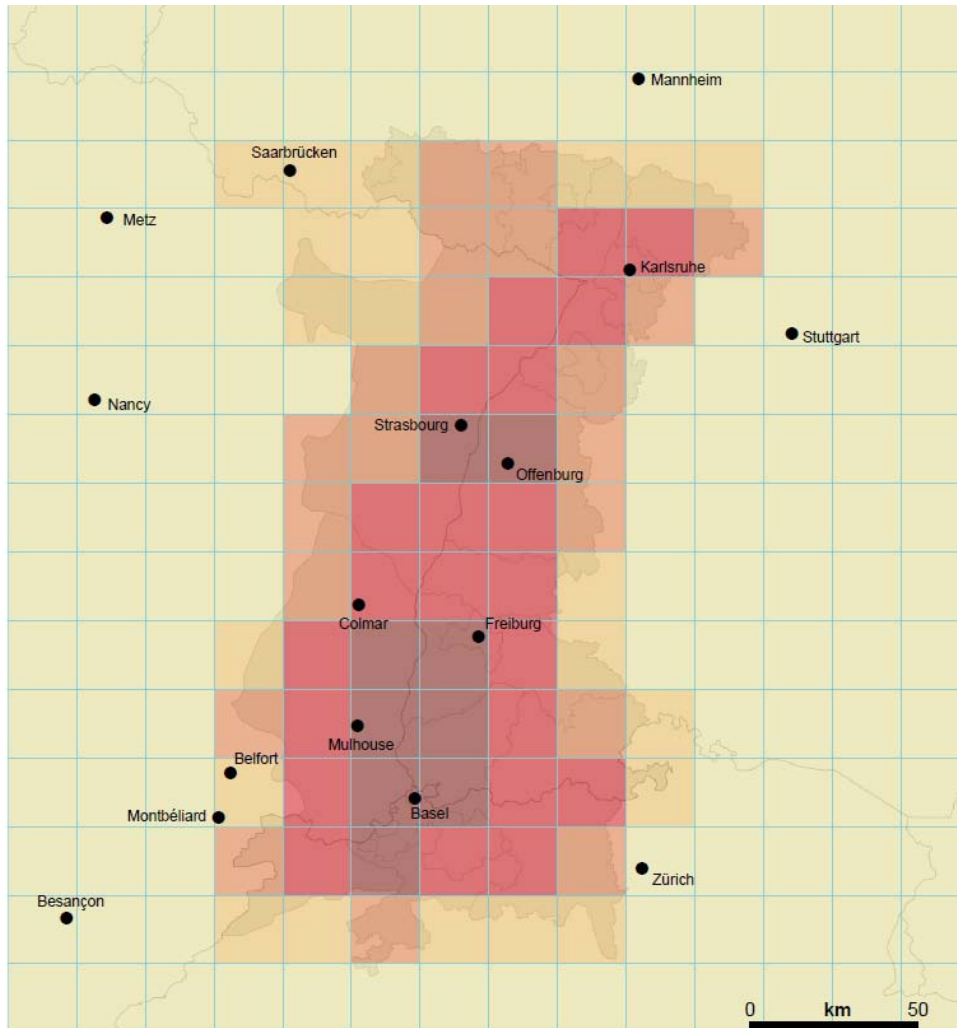


Abb. 13: “Territories that need the particular attention of the cross-border cooperation within the Upper Rhine region”

Modul 2.2: Grossregion und Oberrhein – Institutionelle Integration

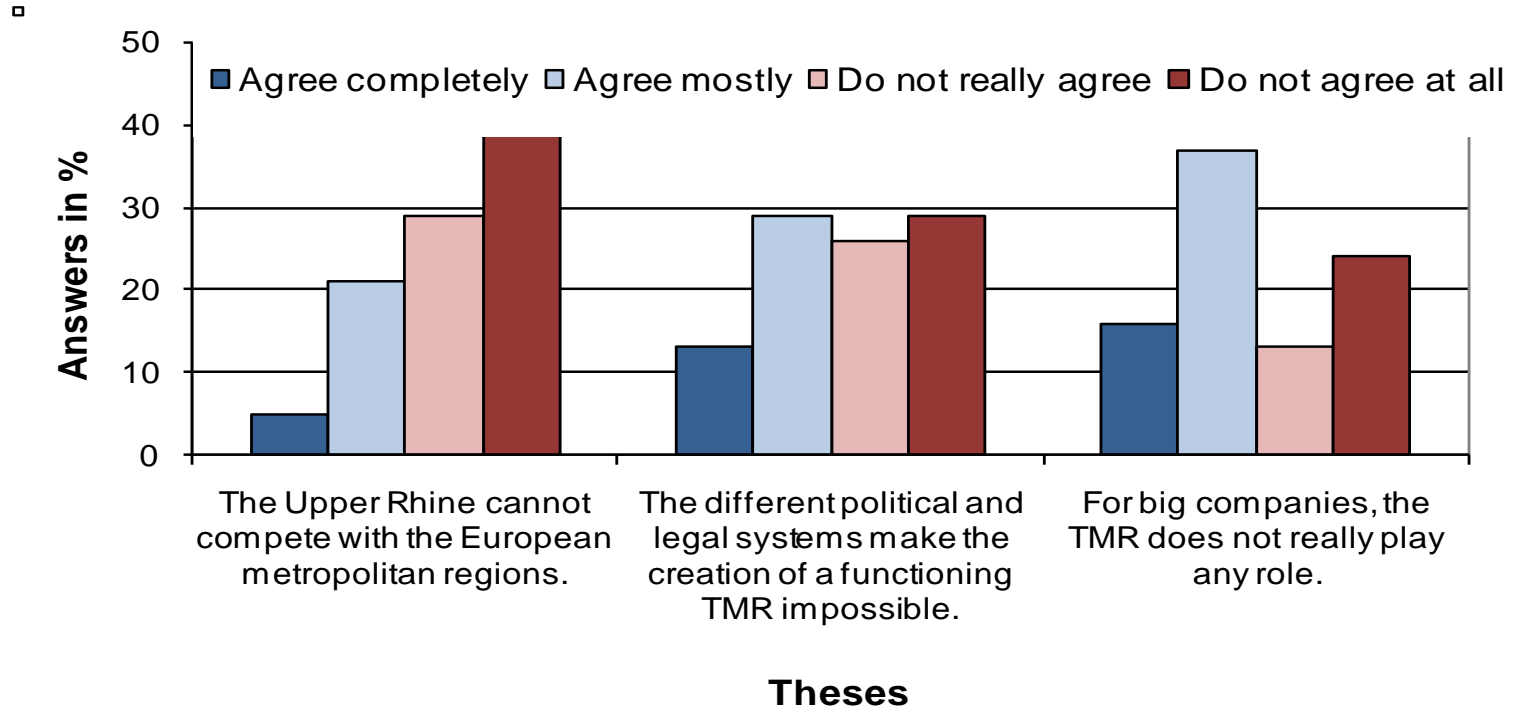


Abb. 15: “Positions of experts towards theses on the Trilateral Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine”

3. Cooperation under the Impact of European Regionalism

All perfect? Not at all.

The cooperation in the Tri Rhena region has a long history and the institution building was started in the post-war era (Regio Basiliensis was founded 1963).

But there are new countertendencies:

- Regionalist tendencies of rich sub-regions to reduce cooperation due to individual cost-benefit calculations*.
- National states which are indebted and want to impose national interests

Examples:

- The canton of Basel-Landschaft (the periurban part of Basel) had very low taxes and become attractive for wealthy dwellers. Now the canton is indebted and does not want to fulfil its obligations towards the city (university, theatre etc.)
- The French state wants to have French law also on the Swiss part of the binational airport Basel-Mulhouse to raise the VA Tax for the national budget
- The Swiss Telecom operator is no longer allowed to offer its services at the airport, only the French provider
- The weakening of the Euro has generated a high gradient between Swiss Franc and Euro. Retailers and gastronomy in Switzerland suffer.

* cf. Laurent Davezies, 2015: *Le nouvel égoïsme territorial*

4. Summary

- The Upper Rhine Region takes its frontier situation as an asset but these economic logics cannot fully compensate the disadvantages. Moreover the entrepreneurial approach of territories (competitive regions and states) counteracts deeper cooperation.
- Cooperation will not work if the commitment deals only with costs/benefits and urban competition. It will not work if there is not a desire and a preference of the majority of the population. Currently (European desindustrialisation and urban gentrification) the poor parts of the population do not see advantages in transnational cooperation.
- More political and economic integration is not the actual mainstream but has to be kept in mind.

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