



13th European Week of Regions and Cities

OPEN Brussels

DAYS 12 - 15 October 2015

Opportunities of cross-border cooperation between small and medium cities in Europe

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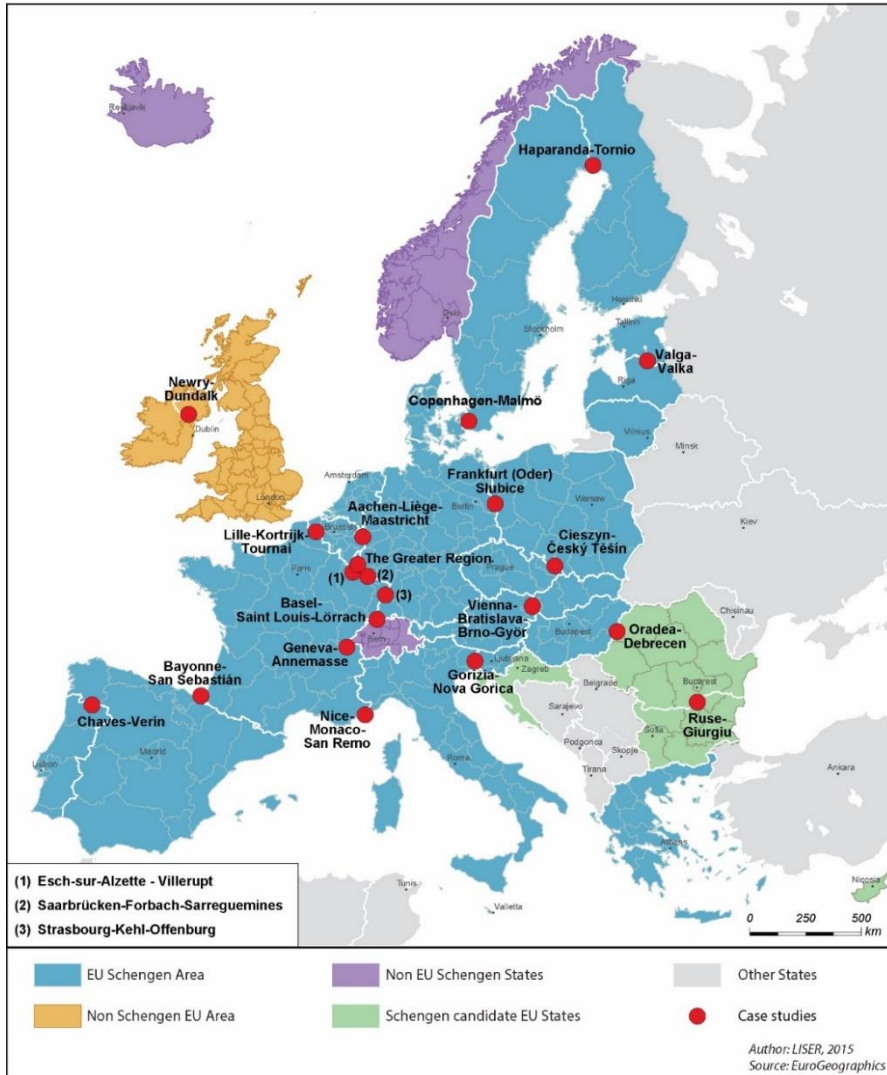
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Overview of the presentation

1) The main **challenges** of cross-border cooperation between small and medium cities

2) the **factors** which seem to influence the process of cross-border integration

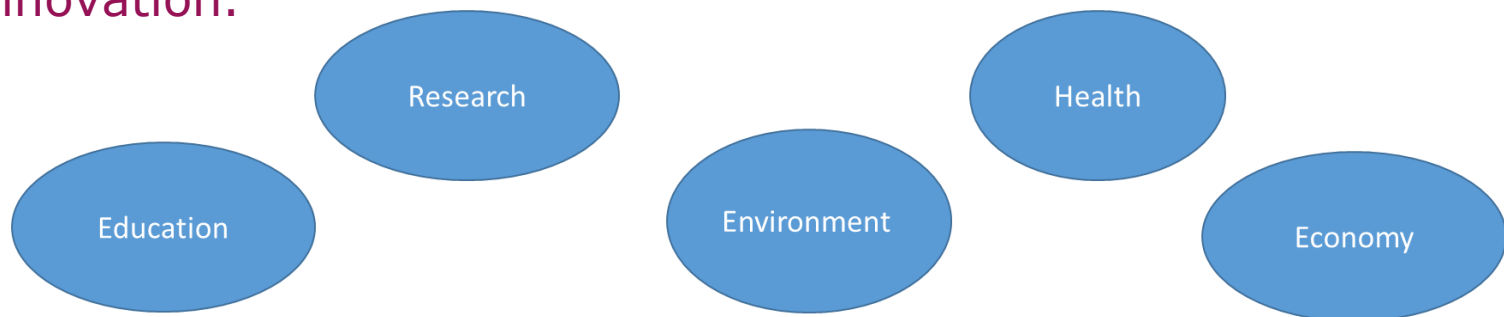




I) The challenges involved in linking up small and medium cities

1. To combine the means, know-how and resources to acquire a critical mass

- By pooling resources to set up and operate large scale infrastructure projects or events.
- By fostering the networking of competencies in order to generate innovation.





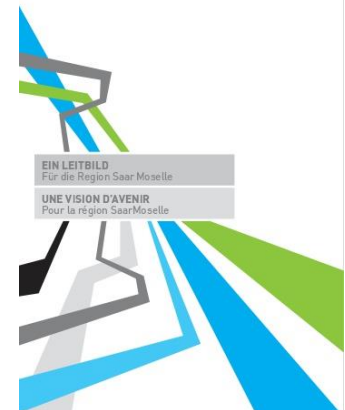
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I) The challenges involved in linking up small and medium cities

2. To bring more “spatial coherence” through the elaboration of common territorial strategies





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I) The challenges involved in linking up small and medium cities

3. To provide an international image of the cross-border region

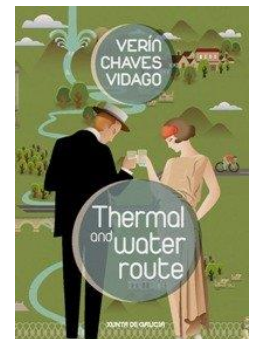
- Through the promotion of the territory to foreign investors
- Through the development of a more attractive and welcoming image of the cross-border area



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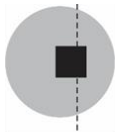
ETB Eurodistrict Trinational de Bâle
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II) The factors which influence cross-border integration

1. The belonging to a transnational space and the history of cooperation
2. Spatial configurations between small and medium cities



In cross-border agglomerations, the authorities are confronted with the necessity to manage together local services and infrastructures.



The « distance collaboration » within polycentric regions is often more flexible and focused on a limited number of strategic collaborations.



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II) The factors which influence cross-border integration

3. The cross-border governance structures

Some general principles to improve CB governance:

- To open the governance arena to non-institutional actors
- To use the available legal instruments and means

... But the quality of interpersonal relations between policymakers remains crucial to ensure an efficient cooperation!



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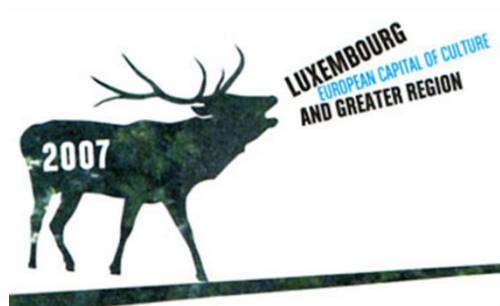
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II) The factors which influence cross-border integration

4. The feeling of sharing a common cross-border living area

Events and actions can develop the sense of belonging to a cross-border community of interests.





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Thank you for your attention !

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