

Brussels
12th of October 2023

Task Force Employment of the AEBR

EWRC Workshop:

Cross-border teleworking: challenges, opportunities and impacts



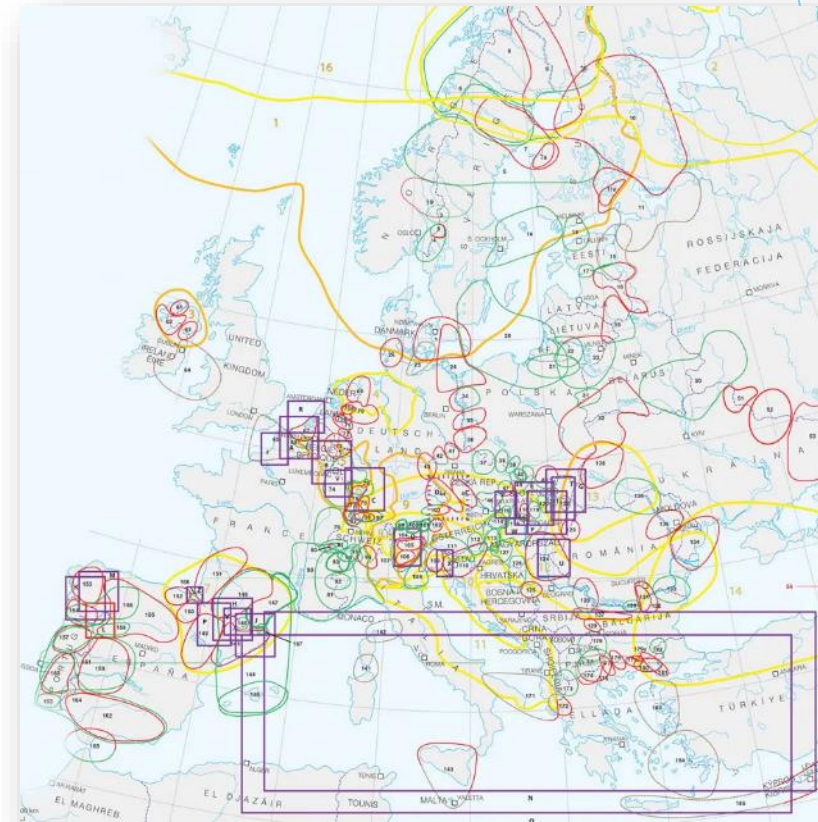
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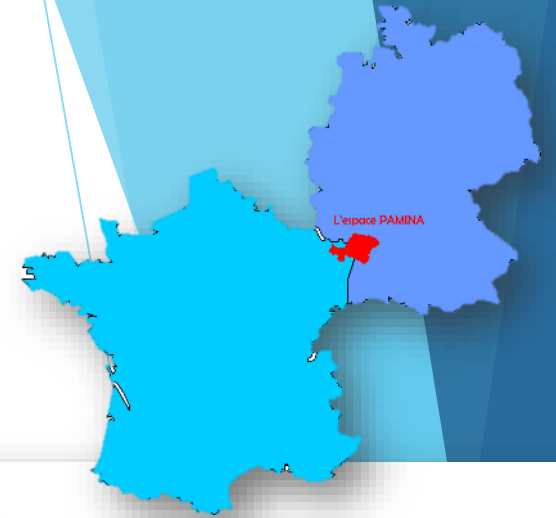
General information

- ▶ Association of European Border Regions
- ▶ Network of some **100 members** from the European Union and its neighbouring countries
- ▶ Cross-border alliance with other networks such as the French MOT and the Hungarian CESC
- ▶ One General Assembly and several Executive Committee meetings per year
 - ▶ **Task Forces work on specific topics:** Youth, External Borders, INTERREG, Health, Employment
- ▶ **Task Force Employment** under presidency of the Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig (DE/DK)



Cross-border Labour Market in the Eurodistrict PAMINA

- ▶ Eurodistrict with ~ 1,7 million inhabitants and ~ **16.000 cross-border commuters** (mainly from France to Germany)
- ▶ Very well integrated border region with a strong labour market, but **growing challenges** due to the **transformation of the work environment**, the **lack of skilled workers** and **increasing language barriers** (decline of the Alsatian dialect on the French side)
- ▶ Majority of commuters in the **manufacturing sector**, topic of **cross-border telework** nevertheless of **growing importance**
- ▶ **Own counselling structure for cross-border commuters** = INFOBEST PAMINA (part of the INFOBEST network in the Upper Rhine) + external offers like Eures-T and cross-border job placement



Work of the Task Force Employment

- ▶ **Wide range of topics concerning cross-border employment:**
 - ▶ Cross-border employment services
 - ▶ Information and counselling for CB commuters
 - ▶ Commuter flows and cross-border inequalities
 - ▶ Effects of COVID-19 related border closures
 - ▶ Legal and tax related issues
 - ▶ **Cross-border Teleworking**
- ▶ **Conference “Mobile cross-border working”** in Kleve (Euregio Rhein-Waal; DE/NL) at 9th & 10th of March 2023 in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs of Germany
 - ▶ Border Space Academy (*Grenzraumakademie*) in Berlin at the 20th & 21th of April 2023 in with three Federal Ministries
 - ▶ One focus on labour markets and economic development



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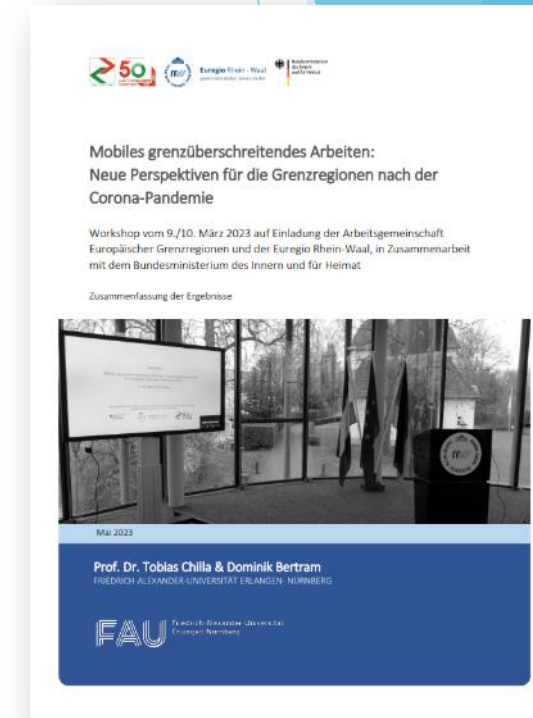
Conference “Mobile cross-border working” in Kleve

► Topics

- Home office' in border regions
- Impact and lessons from the pandemic on cross-border labour markets
- Data availability and exchange on cross-border issues
- Parliamentary attention for border regions

► Participants:

- European Labour Authority & DG Regional Policy and Urban Development
- Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs of Germany
- Task Force Grenzgänger 3.0 of the Greater Region & Euregios
- Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development
- Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
- Parliamentarians from the German-Dutch border region



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Important messages from the Task Force

- ▶ Even if the problems cannot be solved by the Task Force, the **networking** at European level and the **formal and informal exchanges** offer great **added value**
- ▶ **Perspectives** on challenges and problems in the cross-border labour market **can be very different**
 - ▶ what is good for one region/country may be bad for another
- ▶ **Telework is the new normal since Corona** and could be an problem solver for different **challenges in the future**, e.g. with regard to regions/countries with **overburdened infrastructure** or the **shortage of skilled workers**
- ▶ Cooperation with **European and national authorities** is very important (multi-level approach)
 - ▶ **B-Solutions** is a component in this field
- ▶ View on **telework and (cross-border) labour markets** must increasingly consider issues such as "**digital nomads**" and **migration challenges**
- ▶ **Need for an European framework for telework/new forms of labour**
 - ▶ **Holistic approach** (labour law, social security law, tax law)
 - ▶ **Flexible approach** (Consideration of regional/national specificities, citizen-oriented tailor-made regulations)



Thank you very much

► Contact

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