



Initiativkreis Metropolitane  
Grenzregionen

# The “Cross-Border Metropolitan Regions” Initiative // Luxembourg Theses

[www.metropolitane-grenzregionen.eu](http://www.metropolitane-grenzregionen.eu)

With the following Luxembourg Theses, the “Cross-Border Metropolitan Regions” initiative (IMeG) would like to tie in with the Strasbourg Declaration of the German conference of ministers for regional planning (MKRO) dated February 23, 2007, the „Europe 2020“ strategy of the European Commission dated March 3, 2010, and the Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 (TAEU 2020) dated May 19, 2011, and provide an impetus for focussing more on the cross-border, polycentric spatial development in the EU and the innovative networking of urban regions and cities in terms of national planning policies and European cohesion policy:

## **1. Cross-border metropolitan regions are motors for development in Europe**

As motors for economic, societal and social development in Europe the cross-border metropolitan regions follow the principle of territorial cohesion and cooperation. They deserve the same attention and appreciation as the national metropolitan regions.

## **2. Using chances of cross-border metropolitan regions: “Strengthening strengths – removing obstacles”**

The cross-border metropolitan regions are multifaceted living, economic and cultural environments, the potentials of which are characterised by cross-border links and cooperation structures. At the same time, they feature border-specific characteristics in competitive and legal capacities. The objective of all border regions in Europe must be to reinforce strengths and remove obstacles.

## **3. Cross-border metropolitan regions – “Europe in miniature” – Europe close to its people**

The cross-border metropolitan regions make a significant contribution to the permanent securing and advancement of European economic power and integration. They are “Europe on a small scale”. The success of European integration in people’s day-to-day real lives is felt nowhere more

tangibly than here. Which makes the involvement of the population in plans for the border regions all the more important. The perception of these regions must be intensified both on a national as well as on a European level.

#### **4. Strong organisational structures for a strong cross-border metropolitan region**

The cross-border metropolitan regions can fall back on long years of experience in setting up cross-border cooperation structures. The objectives of the border regions are to boost institutional capacity and develop powerful organisational structures. The founding of the Trinational Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine in the year 2010 and the process to create a cross-border polycentric metropolitan region (CBPMR) in the greater region which was initiated by the ESPON Metroborder study are setting good examples!

#### **5. The basis for successful development: territorial strategic approach**

The cross-border metropolitan regions face the future challenge of devising a spatial and functionally integrated development policy. In order to use scarce resources efficiently, the programmes and projects have to target the potentials and obstacles – a strong territorial strategic approach and long-term conflict management are essential.

#### **6. Target-oriented funding instruments for cross-border metropolitan regions**

The cross-border metropolitan regions are accompanying important political processes in European structural and cohesion policy and reveal the special needs of the border regions. For this reason, the structuring of future European funding instruments must be adapted to the requirements of the border regions.

#### **7. Working together!**

The IMeG initiative calls upon the cross-border metropolitan regions with their rich regional identities and cultures and diversity of national backgrounds to exchange views and experience, and to learn from one another. They should face the cross-border challenges together and campaign strongly for their interests on a European level.

### **Imprint**

November 20, 2012

#### **Spokesman region**

Ministry of the Interior and Sport of the Saarland,  
Spatial Planning Department

#### **Further Members of the IMeG**

REGIO Aachen e.V.  
Regionalverband Mittlerer Oberrhein  
Regionalverband Südlicher Oberrhein  
Regionalverband Hoahrhein-Bodensee  
Regionalverband Bodensee-Oberschwaben

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