

ITEM CROSS-BORDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT 2020

With its annual Cross Border Impact Assessment, ITEM provides more insight into the effects on cross-border regions of European and national legislative and policy initiatives. The report is intended as a valuable tool for policymakers at regional, national and European level in making decisions regarding (cross-)border regions. In particular, these impact assessments help to identify existing or future cross-border effects and thus contribute to the political debate. In addition, the results of the examination of individual dossiers allow for timely adaptation of legislative proposals while they are still pending.



1. COVID-19 IMPACT ANALYSIS

AN EX-POST ASSESSMENT OF CROSS-BORDER COORDINATION, OR NON-COORDINATION, OF CRISIS RESPONSE

- Joint research collaboration with the Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network (TEIN)
- Effects include mobility obstructions across Member States
- Best practices highlighted per region!



SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILED RESULTS



2. DUTCH STRATEGY ON SPATIAL PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT (NOVI)

EX-ANTE ASSESSMENT OF DUTCH NOVI STRATEGY-IN-THE-MAKING REGARDING ITS POTENTIAL CROSS-BORDER EFFECTS

- National environmental strategy, part of the new Dutch Environmental and Planning Act (Omgevingswet)
- Clear cross-border ambitions but no clear vision on their implementation
- Different planning cultures Netherlands and Germany, limited citizens participation across the border



INSUFFICIENT USE OF EXISTING CROSS-BORDER GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES IN SPATIAL DOMAIN

3. RHEINISCHES REVIER STRUCTURAL INVESTMENT

greenhouse gas emissions neutral by **2050**

EX-ANTE ASSESSMENT ON GERMAN ACT ON STRUCTURAL REINFORCEMENT OF COAL REGIONS' CROSS-BORDER POTENTIAL

- The federal parliament decided to end coal-based power generation ("Kohleausstieg") in Germany

€ **40 billion** of aid until 2038



CROSS-BORDER CONSIDERATIONS DELIBERATELY LEFT OUT OF THE RHENISH PROGRAMME, DUTCH ACTORS LARGELY UNFAMILIAR AND SLOW TO REACT

4. CROSS-BORDER TRAINING BUDGETS

EX-POST ASSESSMENT OF EU AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE IMPACT ON JOBSEEKERS' ACTIVATION BY TRAINING

- Diverging national rules limit the full use of active labour market programmes in a cross-border context
- EU free movement principle calls for unimpeded cross-border labour market access for and activation of jobseekers



FINANCING OF CROSS-BORDER TRAINING MEASURES PROVE PARTICULARLY CHALLENGING

Euregional training voucher a possible solution

5. GERMAN BASIC PENSION (GRUNDRENTE)

EX-ANTE ANALYSIS OF THE CROSS-BORDER EFFECTS OF THE NEW GERMAN GRUNDRENTE, EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2021

- Grundrente supplements German statutory pension, recognising lifetime work performance by improving the income situation
- Compatible with EU law (exportable), cross-border workers equally eligible but long "insured period" needed
- First estimation on number of potential Dutch-Belgian Grundrente beneficiaries



EVOLVED TO MORE OF A SUPPLEMENT RATHER THAN A BASIC PENSION COMBATting OLD-AGE POVERTY

6. DECENTRALISATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

EX-POST ASSESSMENT OF 2015 DUTCH YOUTH ACT (JEUGDWET) IMPACT ON CROSS-BORDER CHILD PROTECTION AND COOPERATION

- Youth Act to simplify Dutch youth care legislation, transferring responsibility to municipalities
- Dutch Act renders existing EU coordination rules on access to youngsters' mental health treatment in the neighbouring country "inapplicable, problematic for NL-D "border families"
- Complex cross-border legal framework: Applicable legislation and administrative competences differ per country



STILL PRACTICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE GAINS (CONTENT-DRIVEN APPROACH) AS RESULT OF DECENTRALISATION IN EUREGIONAL YOUTH COOPERATION

Joint research collaboration with partners of the Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network (TEIN)

The COVID-19 research project looks into the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the extent and effects of cross-border (non)coordination across cross-border regions.



General conclusions:

- Hard to distinguish ex-post assessment and ex-ante evaluation of governmental crisis response measures, uncertain effects of certain ad hoc measures in the long term (especially in the economic domain)
- Border closures meant harsh disruptions of cross-border family life and disruption of cross-border mobility
- Working from home: ad hoc political agreements to mitigate impact on taxation and social security of cross-border workers (caused by European coordination rules)
- Mixed picture regarding cross-border economic impact (acute lack of data) still exposing important interdependencies – (political priority) to keep trade and retail functional as much as possible
- Crucial role of cross-border information points, institutions and European civil society organisations in responding to concerned citizens' requests and as vital information source to governmental cross-border coordination
- Need to create a win-win situation for cross-border cooperation, taking into account realities of life in border regions, to overcome political representatives' tendency towards clinging to national approaches
- Cross-border governance structures were not always properly equipped for a cross-border health crisis but some adjusted quickly and provided resilient infrastructure for coordination:

BEST PRACTICES HIGHLIGHTED!



CROSS-BORDER REGION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND/THE UNITED KINGDOM (CCBS)

TWO CONTACT TRACING PHONE APPS LAUNCHED SEPARATELY IN NI-IE, BUT DESIGNED TO BE INTEROPERABLE AND TO WORK CROSS-BORDER



- Virtual "open" border regime
- Shortfall of authorities in treating the cross-border territory as a functional or integrated region



GERMAN-POLISH BORDER REGION AND TWIN TOWNS FRANKFURT (ODER)-ŚLUBICE (B/ORDERS IN MOTION)



GRASS-ROOTS PROTESTS AGAINST BORDER CLOSURES PROBABLY CONTRIBUTING TO PARTIAL RE-OPENING OF BORDER IN EARLY MAY



- Complete border closure for **37 days**
- Students and employees barred from attending school/ university and work for more than one month
- Frankfurt-Slubice Cooperation Centre provided heart of cross-border cooperation and bilingual hotline for cross-border issues



EUREGIO MEUSE-RHINE CROSS-BORDER REGION BETWEEN BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, GERMANY (ITEM)

SOLID CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION EMERGENCY PLATFORM (EMRIC) ESSENTIAL FOR HEALTH COORDINATION



- Transfer of **58 patients** NL → DE (most in NRW)
- Closure of BE border: no travel for non-essential reasons for **89 days** (cross-border work permitted)
- Need for protocol on dealing with pandemics – Joint Interreg project PANDEMERIC established



UPPER RHINE REGION BETWEEN GERMANY, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND (EURO-INSTITUT)



EPI-RHIN EXPERT GROUP ORGANISED TRACKING INFECTION CHAINS ACROSS BORDERS

- **90 days** of border controls between 3 countries
- Free movement of goods but restrictions on services, decrease of cross-border mobility
- Negotiation of permissions at cross-border level
- Transfer of **62 patients** FR → CH + DE

