

Jean Monnet Project

EUREGIO – Regions and regionalism in European Union Additional activity: lecture to students

Governance in European cross-border areas

Governance in European cross-border areas: the example of the Greater Region SaarLorLux

13th & 17th November 2015
Estelle Evrard, University of Luxembourg

Context

The four freedoms initiated with the European integration have tremendous impacts on cross-border areas. Work, housing, economy, leisure are some of the domains where commuting is more and more frequent. From separation line, the border inside the EU common market has become an interface that is sometimes used as a resource, sometimes as a barrier. At local and regional levels, cross-border practices challenge spatial planning traditions, thus questioning the extent and the effective possibilities for cross-border cooperation.

The Greater Region SaarLorLux

Dating back to 1970s, the Greater Region SaarLorLux is a particularly iconic cross-border area. It brings together a state (Luxembourg), three federated states (Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and Wallonia), two federated political communities (German-speaking and Francophone communities in Belgium) and four decentralized authorities (Prefecture of Lorraine, Lorraine Region, Meurthe et Moselle and Moselle local authorities). It is the largest cooperation area in Europe and has the most significant concentration of cross-border commuters (213,400 persons in 2013). Since 2007, it has also a unified INTERREG programme. Since 2010, the Greater Region institutionalized its cooperation and created two European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), one manages the INTERREG A Greater Region programme (the only of this kind in Europe), the other is in charge of the Secretariat of the Summit of the Executives, the most significant political institution.

Objective of the course

This course helps the students identifying and analyzing the main functional and governance challenges that cross-border cooperation nowadays encounter in the context of the EU integration.

Taking the Greater Region SaarLorLux as the main area of study, it provides the students with an overview of its historical roots, its current functional challenges and with a critical analysis of the cross-border governance that has been progressively established since the 1970.

Description

The course takes stock of several research projects conducted in the Greater Region to critically reflect upon the governance mechanisms that have been progressively developed in this cooperation area. The course relies on a wide range of material (e.g. analytical concepts and tools from academic articles and publications, maps from OIE, ESPON, Eurostat and graphs from research projects).

Course outline

Introduction

- a. Cross-border cooperation in Europe: overview of the main conceptual and methodological challenges
- b. The Greater Region, one of the most iconic European cross-border cooperation area

1. The Greater Region SaarLorLux: historical roots and current functional challenges

- a. From 1971 to nowadays: Main steps of the cross-border cooperation
- b. Multiple functional interdependencies and latest political initiatives
 - i. Economic heterogeneity & cross-border labor market
 - ii. Spatial planning (incl. transport, retail)
 - iii. Demographic trends & residential mobility

2. From the “multi-level mismatch” to cross-border governance?

- a. The institutional architecture of cooperation: coping with the multi-level mismatch (incl. Summit, CESGR, CPI, EuRegio, INTERREG)
- b. From interregional cooperation to supraregional cooperation? Analytical framework for analyzing cross-border governance

(incl. EGTC INTERREG A Greater Region and EGTC Secretariat of the Summit)

3. From political objectives to concrete cross-border projects and strategies: case studies

- a. Overall cooperation strategy: INTERREG V
- b. Culture: Luxembourg & the Greater Region European capital 2007
- c. Spatial planning: Metroborder & SIG-GR
- d. Transport: task force for cross-border workers
- e. Economy: study in preparation to the territorial development scheme

Conclusion

Contact

Estelle Evrard

Research fellow (Ph.D.)

Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning

University of Luxembourg

Maison des Sciences Humaines (E02-N203)

11, Porte des Sciences

L-4366 Esch-Belval

T +352 46 66 44 95 78

estelle.evrard@uni.lu

Bibliography

Belkacem, R. et Pigeron-Piroth, I. (dir.) *Le travail frontalier au sein de la Grande Région Saar-Lor-Lux – Pratiques, enjeux et perspectives*, Presses universitaires de Nancy, Collection Salariat et transformations sociales, 2012, 502 p.

CEPS (ed.) : *Etude préparatoire à l'élaboration du volet économique du schéma de développement territorial de la Grande Région*, disponible sous : http://www.granderegion.net/fr/documents-officiels/Annexes-a-la-declaration-commune/Rapport_Final_FR_SDTGR_Novembre_2014.pdf

Chilla, T., Evrard, E et Schulz C., *On the Territoriality of Cross-Border Cooperation: "Institutional Mapping" in a Multi-Level Context*, *European Planning Studies*, vol. 20, n°6, 2012, p. 961-980.

Decoville, A.; Durand, F.; Sohn, C. et Walther O. (2013): *Spatial integration in European cross-border metropolitan regions: A comparative approach*, CEPS/INSTEAD, Working Paper 2010-40.

Dörry, S; Walther, O. (2015): *Contested relational policy spaces; in two European border regions*, *Environment and Planning A*, 47(2), p. 338-355.

ESPON et Université du Luxembourg, *Cross-border polycentric metropolitan regions – final report*, Luxembourg, ESPON Monitoring Committee, 2010, 193p.

Evrard, E. (2013): *Suprarégionalisation transfrontalière? Grande Région Saar-Lor-Lux*, Thèse de doctorat soutenue le 26.03.2013 à Luxembourg

Evrard, E. (accepted): *The European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC): Towards a Supraregional scale of governance in the Greater Region SaarLorLux? Geopolitics*

Hahn, C. (2013): *The transboundary automotive region of Saar-Lor-Lux: Political fantasy or economic reality?* *Geoforum* 48, p.102-113

Sohn, C. (ed.), *Luxembourg – an emerging cross-border metropolitan region*, PIE Peter Lang, Bruxelles, 2012b.

Walther, O., Schulz, C. and Dörry, S. (2011) : *Specialised international financial centres and their crisis resilience: The case of Luxembourg*. Geographische Zeitschrift, 99(2-3): 123-142.

Wille, C. (2015): *Grenzüberschreitende Alltagspraktiken in der Großregion SaarLorLux: eine Bestandsaufnahme*. In: Wille, C. (Ed.): *Lebenswirklichkeiten und politische Konstruktionen in Grenzregionen. Das Beispiel der Großregion SaarLorLux: Wirtschaft – Politik – Alltag – Kultur*. Bielefeld, transcript, 2015, S. 133-156.