

# ITEM CROSS-BORDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT 2023

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. These impact assessments notably help to identify existing or future cross-border effects and are thus contributing to the political debate. Ideally, the results of the examination of individual dossiers allow for timely adaptation of legislative proposals while they are still in preparation.



THIS DOSSIER ENDORSES THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE CROSS-BORDER STATISTICS AND A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF CROSS-BORDER INTERACTIONS AND IMPACTS BETWEEN REGIONS AND POLICIES

## DOSSIER 1 BROAD PROSPERITY FROM A CROSS-BORDER PERSPECTIVE

### A RESEARCH BY ITEM AND NEIMED ON THE CROSS-BORDER DIMENSION OF THE BROAD PROSPERITY IN BORDER REGIONS

- Broad prosperity includes everything people find of value. For effective policy, it is important to take into account how a region can influence a neighbouring region. This varies by region and topic
- The national border is still often an administrative boundary in many measurements and assessments. The lack of cross-border statistics means that border regions and measurements of (objective) broad prosperity indicators are not fully captured
- For a better Euroregional picture of broad prosperity, a more uniform way of data collection and Euroregional understanding of Broad Prosperity and SDGs is important
- The impact of Broad Prosperity is highly dependent on the specific geographical and policy context in which it takes place. More knowledge is needed about cross-border interactions and impacts in a Euroregion

## DOSSIER 2 POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF CURRENT TRANSNATIONAL/CROSS-BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ON BORDER REGIONS

### AN EX-ANTE ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF DIVERS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE "STRATEGIC URBAN REGION EURODELTA" (NL, BE, DE) ON CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES

- In line with European Integration objectives (e.g. Fit for 55) in the field of carbon neutrality (e.g. hydrogen pipelines) and scientific excellence (Einstein telescope)
- Need for further harmonisation or coordination of permitting, subsidy schemes, spatial planning procedures, technical standards and interoperability
- The cross-border Einstein telescope is supporting cohesion across the border, since Euroregional partners join forces and play a key-role
- Hydrogen or electricity grid related projects are driven by transnational objectives (with big commercial players), where it is still open whether the needs of border cities and regions are met
- As in the case of the rail connection 3RX (alternative to Iron Rhine), the benefits of infrastructure projects are often not equally distributed, leading to potential conflicts in border regions.



TRANSNATIONAL PROJECTS ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY POSITIVE FOR THE BORDER REGIONS: EUROREGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS HAVE TO JOIN FORCES AND LOBBY FOR THEIR COMMON INTEREST



**EX-POST RESEARCH UNDERLINING THE NEED FOR MORE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES WHEN APPLYING AND INTERPRETING NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION**

### **DOSSIER 3** KINDERZUSCHLAG AND KINDGEBONDEN BUDGET: THE BORDER WORKER CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE?

#### AN EX-POST ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR GERMAN KINDERZUSCHLAG AND THE DUTCH KINDGEBONDEN BUDGET AND AMENDING NATIONAL INTERPRETATIONS UNDER EUROPEAN SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION

- Entitlement to the German Kinderzuschlag and the Dutch kindgebonden budget is based to a residence criterion. A frontier worker may not be eligible for either benefit in certain cases
- Until July 1, 2022, non-residents, for example, residents of the Netherlands working in Germany, could also claim Kinderzuschlag, i.e. the Zuschlag was exportable across borders
- From July 1, 2022, the benefit will no longer be exported by Germany, with adverse consequences for these border workers
- This case shows that this unilateral change in interpretation of European social security legislation by Germany is marked by a lack of cooperation and information across the border

### **DOSSIER 4** FUTURE-PROOF ACUTE CARE IN THE NETHERLANDS: 360° CROSS-BORDER PERSPECTIVES

#### AN EX-ANTE ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES REGARDING FUTURE-PROOF CARE

- The provision of acute care is under pressure due to an aging population, rising demand for healthcare, and a shortage of healthcare professionals, especially in shrinking border regions that are aging rapidly
- The Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport, proposed a policy aimed at creating a future-proof acute care in the Netherlands ensuring high-quality and accessibility of acute care to everyone, by developing quality standards and better care coordination
- The policy has raised concerns about its potential impact on the availability of acute care in border regions. Concentration measures may force regional hospitals to scale down or close care services, leading to situations where patients in border regions have to travel long distances for (acute) healthcare
- However, in border regions, an acute care facility may be closer to a patient's home just across the border. Could reaching these policy objectives on ensuring quality and accessibility of acute care be achieved via cross-border collaboration, with a 360-degree perspective that expands beyond the national borders, and to what extent could cooperation be enhanced?



**THIS DOSSIER EXAMINES THE MINISTER OF HEALTH'S PROPOSED POLICY OBJECTIVES ON ENSURING QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF ACUTE CARE AND THE IMPACT OF THESE POLICIES ON THE PROSPERITY OF BORDER REGIONS**



### **DOSSIER 5** PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN THE EUROREGION MEUSE-RHINE

#### MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM OF STUDENTS RESEARCHING THE STATUS QUO OF CROSS-BORDER PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE EMR

- The cross-border public transport system in the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion demonstrates a higher level of efficiency and effectiveness in comparison to other border regions
- Despite the presence of numerous passionate stakeholders, there is a noticeable lack of coordination among them
- Frequent delays and technical issues have had a negative effect on public trust towards cross-border public transport, resulting in fewer passengers and an illusion of low demand for such services
- A lack of government priority and a focus on the national rather than supranational transport sector slows down cross-border public transport development

**AT THIS POINT IN TIME, CROSS-BORDER PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS RECEIVE BOTH INSUFFICIENT FUNDING AND ATTENTION FROM GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, UPON WHICH THEIR SUCCESS VERY MUCH DEPENDS**