

TEIN Annual Conference 2024

“The future of cross border cooperation and mobility: horizontal integration and beyond.”

Organized by the Institute for Euregional and Transnational cross-border cooperation and Mobility (ITEM)

26 - 27 September 2024 in Maastricht

Abstract

Grasping crises as a whole - About current challenges and perspectives in light of the labour market transformation in the Upper Rhine Region

Currently, labour markets are undergoing a major change due to the interplay and interdependencies of various crises: a shortage of skilled workers, demographic change and digitisation/future technologies to name a few. The paper deals with this polycrisis regarding the transformation of the labour market in border regions. It aims at examining how this interplay of crises is manifesting itself in the Franco-German border region of the Upper Rhine. How is the Upper Rhine region dealing with the transformation processes? To what extent does the polycrisis present itself differently for both the German and the French side? To what extent can cross-border cooperation provide new impetus ensuring the border region to be resilient and capable of action? The paper attempts to answer these questions by first, addressing the notion of “(poly)crisis” before linking it to the current situation of the national labour markets in Germany and France. After analysing the challenges specific to the cross-border labour market at the Franco-German border in the Upper Rhine region, current projects in the area of cross-border employment and thus possible solutions as well as development potential will be discussed with reference to concepts such as agility, new work, 360° approach, or participation. The topic will be approached from a practitioner's perspective, namely the Euro-Institut, an organisation based at the Franco-German border. Thus, methodologically, the analysis will be fed not only with expert interviews, but also with experiences of the Euro-Institut dealing with these topics through studies and projects.

Biographical note

The Euro-Institut is a Franco-German organisation created in 1993 at the Franco-German border in Kehl (Germany). It aims at improving cross-border cooperation in the Upper Rhine region through training and consulting with regard to public policy. It develops and conducts trainings, carries out studies (e.g. feasibility), is involved in several cross-border projects and works as a neutral platform for exchanges and capacity building. Throughout the past 30 years, the Euro-Institut has worked in projects related to the cross-border labour market, especially as experts on intercultural issues, and has conducted several studies in this field (e.g. study on vocational training and professional mobility at the Franco-German border, guide on teleworking). **Margot Bonnafous**, Senior Project Manager, is responsible for the conception, organisation and moderation of trainings and has worked in numerous projects, e.g. on digitisation in French and German administrations. Furthermore, she is Vice-President for cooperation with the Council of Europe within the *Association EUROPA*, a European network for public administration. **Fabienne Schimek**, Project Manager, works in the field of training and is involved in several projects, focusing on interculturality and cross-border employment. She is also in contact with other border regions through her involvement in the coordination of the *Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network*.

Contact:

Margot Bonnafous

+49 7851 7407-26

bonnafous@euroinstitut.org

Fabienne Schimek

+49 7851 7407-30

schimek@euroinstitut.org