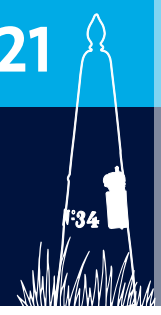


ITEM CROSS-BORDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT 2021

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.



IN COLLABORATION WITH:



DOSSIER 1 CROSS-BORDER EFFECTS OF THE EU'S PROPOSED MINIMUM WAGE DIRECTIVE

EX-ANTE ASSESSMENT OF EU PROPOSAL

- To establish an EU-level-framework for adequate minimum wages to achieve "transparent and reliable wage setting" for all
- Evaluates potential impact of an EU minimum wage-standard on EU border regions, including on the number of cross-border workers or additional burdens for companies
- The minimum wage in BE, DE, NL and PL has in recent years been well below EU thresholds considered adequate, only France has been in line with 50% of gross average wage and 60% of median wage
- Cross-border workers' motivations to cross the border for work are usually more complex than mere economic incentives, and not always rational
- Doubts raised on the proposal's contribution to poverty reduction and Euregional cohesion.

MORE COOPERATION ON MINIMUM WAGE-ENFORCEMENT BETWEEN SOCIAL PARTNERS AND (LABOUR) INSPECTION AUTHORITIES IS RECOMMENDED



DOSSIER 2 IMPACT ANALYSIS INTO THE FUTURE OF WORKING FROM HOME FOR CROSS-BORDER WORKERS POST-COVID-19

EX-POST ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL REGULATIONS AND BILATERAL TREATIES IN COMBINATION WITH EFFECTS OF EU LAW, AND EX-ANTE ASSESSMENT OF PENDING POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES TO FORMALIZE WORKING FROM HOME

- During the coronavirus crisis, many employees were forced to work from home, including cross-border workers
- Possible far-reaching financial effects and uncertainty for cross-border workers and employers from 2022 onwards due to misalignment of tax and social security legislation and international coordination rules
- Possible discrimination of (potential) cross-border workers with respect to entitlement to structural homeworking vis-à-vis non-frontier workers

THE DOSSIER GIVES CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS ON NECESSARY AND URGENT POLICY ADJUSTMENTS

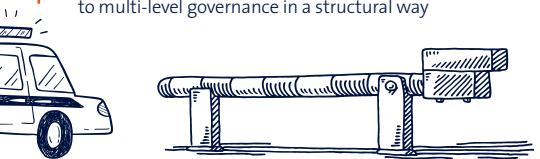


DOSSIER 3 THE EFFECTS OF NATIONAL CORONA CRISIS MANAGEMENT ON CROSS-BORDER CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE EUREGIO MEUSE-RHINE (FOLLOW-UP STUDY)

EX-POST ASSESSMENT COVID-19

- While border restrictions were used as a tool to fight the pandemic, especially affecting border regions, safeguarding the functioning of national hospital capacities (notably IC units) has been the overarching goal
- High frequency in public policy adjustments on each side of the 3 borders rendered the organisational set-up for cross-border crisis management inadequate and aggravated Euregional information flow and decision-making
- To enable more effective use of existing cross-border cooperation networks at regional level in the future, more attention needs to be paid to multi-level governance in a structural way

NEED FOR ADEQUATE PROTOCOLS OR AGREEMENTS ON CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE HEALTH SECTOR TO BE SET UP



DOSSIER 4 IS THE EU PATIENTS' RIGHTS DIRECTIVE FIT FOR PROVIDING WELL-FUNCTIONING HEALTHCARE IN CROSS-BORDER REGIONS?

EU PATIENTS' RIGHTS DIRECTIVE CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

- Cross-border healthcare is essential especially for border regions, where citizens often seek healthcare services across the border due to their geographical proximity
- Access to cross-border healthcare is not always without obstacles: barriers arise, such as health insurers refusing to authorise and reimburse such healthcare
- The research underlines that cross-border regions and their inhabitants have special characteristics and needs related to healthcare access, which could be better reflected in the EU legislation

THE DOSSIER IDENTIFIES SEVERAL 'FACTORS OF SUCCESS' THAT CONTRIBUTE TO ESTABLISHING WELL-FUNCTIONING HEALTHCARE IN CROSS-BORDER REGIONS

