

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)-SŁUBICE (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

