

EVENTS

DECEMBER 2011 -
JANUARY 2012

Urbact Days – Infodays



From mid-December to end-January, URBACT Infodays are being held in a

number of European countries. The objectives of these meetings are to draw the lessons from the implementation of the URBACT programme and from national participation in URBACT, and to present the terms of reference of the third call for URBACT projects. The Infoday in France will take place on **18 December in Paris-Saint Denis**. www.urbact.eu

APRIL 2012

MOT general assembly

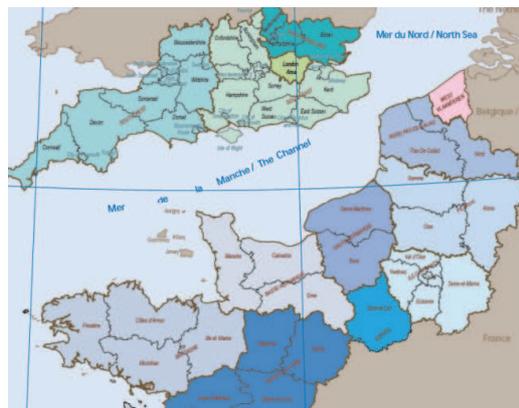


The **2012 general assembly of the MOT** will take place on **4 April** in Paris.

A meeting of the technicians' platform (restricted to network members) will be organized on this occasion. The platform, which aims to identify the topics of interest of the MOT network, will discuss the working programme for 2012, and particularly the launch of a working group for 2012 on the theme of renewable energies, in liaison with the Eurodistrict Regio Pamina.

www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

Cross-channel projects



The 20 million passengers crossing the Channel by ferry each year make it the busiest sea crossing in the world. It is also an area of economic cooperation, a vector of tourism and cultural exchanges, as well as a vast nature reserve. The cooperation themes are many and supported for example by two Interreg IVA programmes¹, one Interreg IVB programme² and by the “Channel Arc” project³. Focus on two current projects.

CAMIS project and Cross-Channel Forum

On 22 November in Rennes, the Bretagne regional council hosted the 2nd meeting of the Cross-Channel Forum, set up within the framework of the Interreg IVA CAMIS project⁴. Some hundred French and British stakeholders were able to discuss issues concerning the sustainable and coordinated development of the Channel area.

Launched in October 2009, the project brings together 19 British and French partners. By the end of 2013 it plans:

- the development of tools for sustainable maritime governance: integrated maritime strategy, Cross-channel forum, Channel area resource centre and scientific committee;
- the implementation of

practical actions around four topics: vocational training, innovation and maritime clusters, transport, and maritime safety.

Towards a cross-Channel metro

Also on 22 November, another conference took place, organized by the Nord-Pas-de-Calais regional council in Lille as part of the Interreg IVB RoCK (Regions of Connected Knowledge) project. This project concerns the promotion of cross-border rail services to strengthen economic exchanges between French, English, Belgian, Dutch and German towns. Much on the discussion was on the conclusions of a current study⁵ analyzing the options for using the high-speed line between London and Brussels to set up a “cross-Channel

metro”. This would link the two shores via the international stations of Lille and Calais in Nord-Pas-de-Calais, and Ashford and Ebbsfleet in Kent.

¹ Interreg programmes “France (Manche)-England” and “2 Seas”: www.interreg4a-manche.eu

² Interreg programme “North-West Europe”: www.nweurope.eu

³ Political project based on an informal voluntary network of local authorities. Set up in 2003, it led to the formation of the Channel Arc Assembly in 2005.

⁴ Channel Arc Manche Integrated Strategy. <http://camis.arcmanche.eu>

⁵ Study conducted by consulting firms Ingerop and Halcrow and the MOT. The conclusions will soon be on line on the project site: www.rock-project.eu

IN BRIEF

Aquitaine-Euskadi

The Aquitaine-Euskadi Euroregion was launched officially on 12 December in Vitoria, Spain, with the signature of the “Aquitaine-Euskadi” cooperation convention and the statutes for the establishment of a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).



Patxi Lopez, president of the Basque government, and Alain Rousset, president of the Aquitaine regional council, on 12 December 2011.

Interalpes - a French-Italian project

The “Interalpes” transalpine intermodal transport project was launched on 21 November in Turin. The partners are the *Conférence des Alpes franco-italiennes* (CAFI), *Transalpine* (committee for the Lyon-Turin European link) and its Italian counterpart *Transpadana*, and the employers’ associations *Medef Rhône-Alpes* (France) and *Confindustria* (Italy). Funded

by the Interreg Alcotra programme, its objective is the development of intermodality in the French-Italian territory, in accordance with existing and future infrastructure and services, transport flows and the regulatory, technological and economic context. Its objectives include a proposal for the establishment of a single French-Italian monitoring unit.