

Call for Papers

# CROSS-BORDER WORK IN EUROPE: REGIONAL PRACTICES AND REALITIES

International conference in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg  
5 and 6 May 2022

**Conference location:**

Chambre des salariés du Luxembourg (CSL),  
2-4 Rue Pierre Hentges  
Luxembourg-Ville



## **Topic of the conference**

Living in one country and working in another is a daily reality for thousands of people in Europe. Taking into account the EU-28 countries and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, the total number of frontier workers in Europe was 1.9 million in 2017 (European Commission, 2018). The growth of flows of cross-border work, as well as its socio-economic, political and legal dimensions, are increasingly relevant to further analysis. It is a subject at the center of much analysis in different disciplines in the social sciences, humanities and environmental studies.

Cross-border work has developed between European countries long before the foundation of the European Economic Community established by the Treaty of Rome (Lentacker, 1973; Ricq, 1981). Cross-border work has become an important economic, social and human phenomenon within border territories in Europe (Van Houtum, 2000; Haas and Osland, 2014; Rietveld, 2012), the characteristics of which will be questioned during the conference.

The main countries of residence of cross-border commuters are France (405,000 or 21% of the total number of cross-border commuters), Germany (249,000 or 13%) and Poland (202,000 or 11%) (European Commission, 2018). The main countries of employment are Germany (391,000), Switzerland (387,000), Luxembourg (186,000) and Austria (175,000) in 2017.

As shown by studies on the Greater Region (Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg-Wallonia-Rhineland-Palatinate), one of the most important areas of cooperation in Europe (Wille, 2012; Belkacem/Pigeron-Piroth, 2012; Wille, 2016; Wille/Nienaber 2020), the geographical situation on the border, the regulatory standardisation of cross-border work, the connection of spaces by traffic infrastructures, etc. have encouraged the development of cross-border workers' mobility. Within this cross-border region, approximately 240,000 cross-border commuters are registered (OIE, 2019).

Cross-border work shows a great heterogeneity in use and forms. Certain specificities become visible according to the socio-economic characteristics of the territories in which cross-border work operates and develops (e.g. more industrial towards Germany, more service-oriented in Luxembourg and Switzerland).

## **Objectives of the conference**

The flow of workers between the various European countries has not only increased, but has also become more diversified. Behind the cross-border work are men and women, young and old, with very different economic and social situations and motivations. Cross-border work in Europe therefore encompasses very diverse economic, social, human and legal realities that we would like to identify more clearly in order to detect similarities but also differences. The identification of common challenges will also make it possible to analyse the elements that can be transposed to other regions or not, depending on the context.

In addition, this colloquium also wishes to address the issue of cross-border work in small European states. Although data on these flows of workers are particularly well known in Luxembourg for example where 200,000 cross-border commuters work, we still have little information on the everyday realities of cross-border workers in the microstates of Europe (Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Vatican, San Marino).

The questions we wish to address by this conference are divided into 4 specific topics:

- TOPIC 1: Legal aspects related to the presence of a border between the country of residence and the country of employment (taxation, social contributions, teleworking, etc.)
- TOPIC 2: Economic aspects (organisation of labour markets, profiles of cross-border workers, training, etc.)
- TOPIC 3: Issues related to the socio-cultural practices of these commuters (multilingualism, interculturality, perception, social cohesion, etc.)
- TOPIC 4: The territorial impacts of these cross-border flows (traffic, transport infrastructures, mobility, cross-border governance, etc.).

This colloquium addresses all researchers (geographers, economists, sociologists, legal experts, etc.), and economic and social actors from various cross-border regions of Europe who have elements to contribute on one or more of the above-mentioned topics. We are expecting lectures and talks on the situation of cross-border work in Northern, Eastern, Southern and Central Europe, as well as in microstates.

## **Important dates**

Proposals for presentations should be sent by e-mail by 30 June 2021 exclusively to Franz Clément (franz.clement@liser.lu).

The decision on the acceptance of the presentation proposals will be communicated to the authors around 30 September 2021.

## **Information for speakers**

Proposals for presentations, written in English or French, should not exceed 400 words and include:

- A title
- The precise contact details of the author(s)
- The status or function of the author(s)
- An explicit problematic, elements of methodology
- The topic which fits with the presentation (1. legal aspects, 2. economic aspects, 3. socio-cultural aspects or 4. territorial impacts) and its geographical scope.

Written papers will be requested after the colloquium for publication.

The working languages of the conference will be English and French (with simultaneous translation).

## **Scientific board**

Andrea Albanese, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)  
Rachid Belkacem, UniGR-Center for Border Studies (University of Lorraine)  
Franz Clément, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)  
Frédéric Docquier, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)  
Peter Dörrenbächer, UniGR-Center for Border Studies (Saarland University)

Frédéric Durand, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)  
Grégory Hamez, UniGR-Center for Border Studies (University of Lorraine)  
Isabelle Pigeron-Piroth, UniGR-Center for Border Studies (University of Luxembourg)  
Christian Wille, UniGR-Center for Border Studies (University of Luxembourg)

## Illustrative bibliography

- BELKACEM, R., PIGERON-PIROTH, I., 2012, *Le travail frontalier au sein de la Grande Région Saar-Lor-Lux. Pratiques, enjeux et perspectives*. Nancy, PUN, Éditions Universitaires de Lorraine.
- BELKACEM, R., PIGERON-PIROTH, I., 2020, *Borders and cross-border labor markets: Opportunities and challenges*, UniGR-Center for Border Studies, Thematic Issue, Borders in Perspective, vol 3.
- CLEMENT, F., 2008, La construction sociale du territoire de la Grande Région : une confusion entre les concepts de collaboration et d'intégration, *Gouvernance & Emploi*, n°2, avril.
- CLEMENT, F., 2012, Quelle représentation sociopolitique pour les travailleurs frontaliers au Luxembourg et dans la Grande Région ?, *Travail, capital et société*, Vol. 45, N°1, pp. 152-178.
- DE GISJEL, P. et al. (Eds.), 1999, *Understanding European Cross-Border Labor Markets*, Metropolis-Verlag.
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 2018, Annual report on intraEU mobility.
- KNOTTER, A., 2014, 'Perspectives on cross-border labor', in Europe: "(Un)familiarity" or "Push-and-Pull"?, *Journal of Borderland Studies*, 29:3, pp. 319-326.
- PIGERON-PIROTH, I., WILLE, C., 2019, Les travailleurs frontaliers au Luxembourg et en Suisse : emploi, quotidien et perceptions. In : UniGR-CBS Thematic Issue. Borders and cross-border labor markets : opportunities and challenges. Vol. 2, DOI : <https://doi.org/10.25353/ubtr-xxxx-2824-db4c>
- CGET, 2017, Dynamiques de l'emploi transfrontalier en Europe et en France, Fiche d'analyse de l'observatoire des territoires 2017, Commissariat général à l'égalité des territoires, Observatoires des territoires, novembre, 28 p.
- HAAS, A., OSLAND, L., 2014, Commuting, Migration, Housing and Labour Markets: Complex Interactions. *Urban Studies*, 51 (3), pp. 463-476.
- LENTACKER, F., 1973, La frontière franco belge. Etude géographique des effets d'une frontière internationale sur la vie de relation. Thèse pour le doctorat ès lettres présentée devant l'Université de Paris IV.
- OIE, 2019, *XIe rapport sur la situation du marché de l'emploi dans la Grande Région en 2018*.
- RICQ, C., 1981, Les travailleurs frontaliers en Europe : essai de politique sociale et régionale. Thèse n° 270 présentée à la Faculté des sciences économiques et sociales de l'Université de Genève pour obtenir le grade de Docteur es sciences économiques et sociales mention sociologie.
- RIETVELD, P., 2012, Barrier Effects of Borders: Implications for Border-Crossing Infrastructures. *European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research*, 12 (2), pp. 150-166.
- VAN HOUTUM, H., 2000, An Overview of European Geographical Research on Borders and Border Regions. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 1, pp. 57-83.
- WILLE, C., NIENABER, B., 2020, Border Experiences in Europe. Everyday Life – Working Life – Communication – Languages (Border Studies. Cultures, Spaces, Orders, vol. 1). Baden-Baden, Nomos, <https://doi.org/10.5771/9783845295671>
- WILLE, C., 2016: Grenzüberschreitender Arbeitsmarkt in der Großregion SaarLorLux: Politische Visionen und empirische Wirklichkeiten. In: Lorig, W. H. / Regolot, S. / Henn, S. (eds.): Die Großregion SaarLorLux. Politischer Anspruch, Wirklichkeiten, Perspektiven. Wiesbaden, VS Verlag, pp. 115-143.
- WILLE, C., 2012: Grenzgänger und Räume der Grenze. Raumkonstruktionen in der Großregion SaarLorLux. (Luxemburg-Studien / Etudes luxembourgeoises, Bd. 1), Frankfurt/M., Peter Lang.