

**18th EUROPEAN WEEK of
REGIONS and CITIES**

05>09 OCTOBER 2020 12>16 OCTOBER 2020 19>22 OCTOBER 2020

Time to measure impact in border regions: COVID-19 crossing borders

**How Covid-19 has thrown a light on the need to consider
life in the border regions
Example of the Upper Rhine Region March-June 2020**



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European Committee
of the Regions



Context in the Upper-Rhine (F/D/CH)

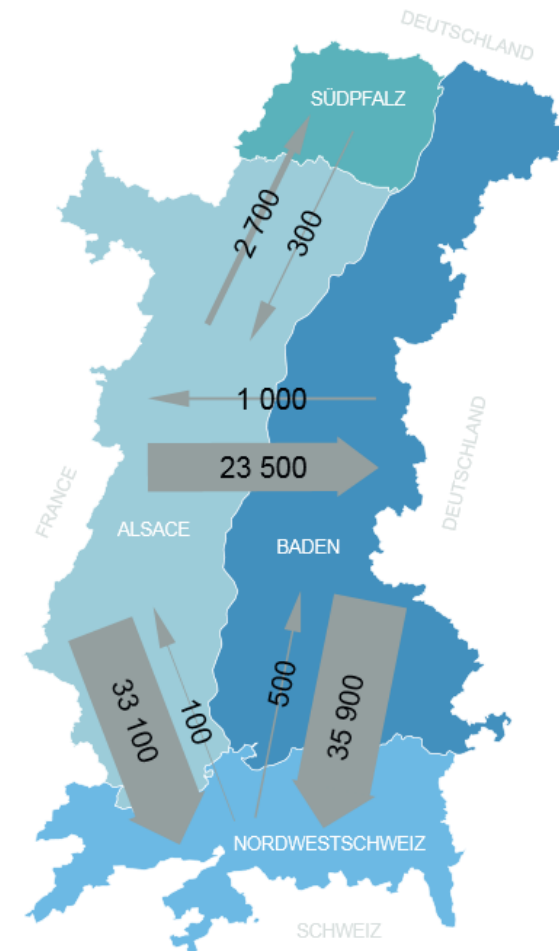
- Crisis situation:
 - No time for ex-ante impact assessment
 - Reactive decisions of national or regional executive
 - No common material purchase
- Neighbour is “dangerous” : 90 days border controls, discrimination by country of residence, quarantine rules
- Great mobilisation of local institutions to improve the coordination at cross-border level



Border controls, a surprise for:

- 97,100 cross-border workers
- + 2,100 cross-border pupils
- 6 million citizens used to crossing the border easily :
 - Consumers
 - Families, unmarried couples
 - Land, apartment, horse, car...
 - Patients
- Companies with clients and suppliers from several countries

Grenzgänger im Oberrheingebiet 2018



Available data:
Cross-border workers
Vehicles / Traffic of goods



Allowed to cross the border

- With special permission
- Only for working
- New awareness of laws conflict country of residence / of working

Less available data:
Cross-border active companies

Economical amount of cross-border shopping
Cross-border families



New awareness of legal problems, partially possible cross-border services → reduction of turn-over

Not possible until mid-June 2020
Allowed to cross the border from end of April 2020 under conditions, difficult access to social aids

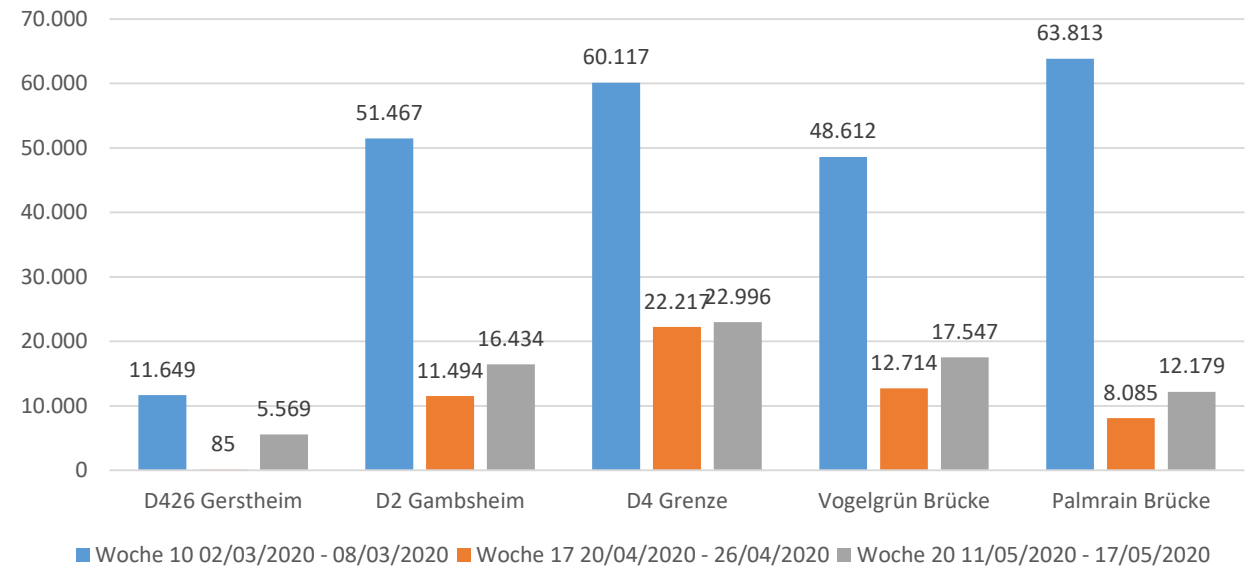
Cross-border patients
Members of cultural, sport... associations

Progressively allowed from the end of April 2020
Not allowed until mid-June 2020

Strong decrease of mobility

- Crossing the border is not the rule but an exemption to be justified
- Interruption of public transport
- Closed Rhine bridges 1-2 months
- Stronger reduction of traffic than on other roads: up to - 80%
- Less economical exchanges

Entwicklung des grenzüberschreitenden motorisierten Verkehrs an der deutsch-französischen Grenze



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Good practices

- Information of the citizens
- Reactive fiscal and social bilateral agreements
- Network: daily exchange between administrative levels: F-D, D-CH, cross-border structures
- Solidarity : transfer of 62 patients
- EPI-Rhin: Cross-border tracking of infections, monitoring of the incidence rate



Short term impacts / long term impacts

• Assessed at short term:

- Impact of border controls on daily life
- Access to social aid in crisis situation
- Cross-border mobility during the crisis
- Work of cross-border networks and institutions during the crisis
- More unemployment

• To be assessed at long term:

- Impact on cross-border job market and rate of unemployment
- Impact on GDP or turn-over of some branches
- Impact on the sense of belonging of the population
- Impact on the wish to cross the border for citizens and companies
- Cross-border cooperation

