



Networking across the borders – acting to mutual advantages



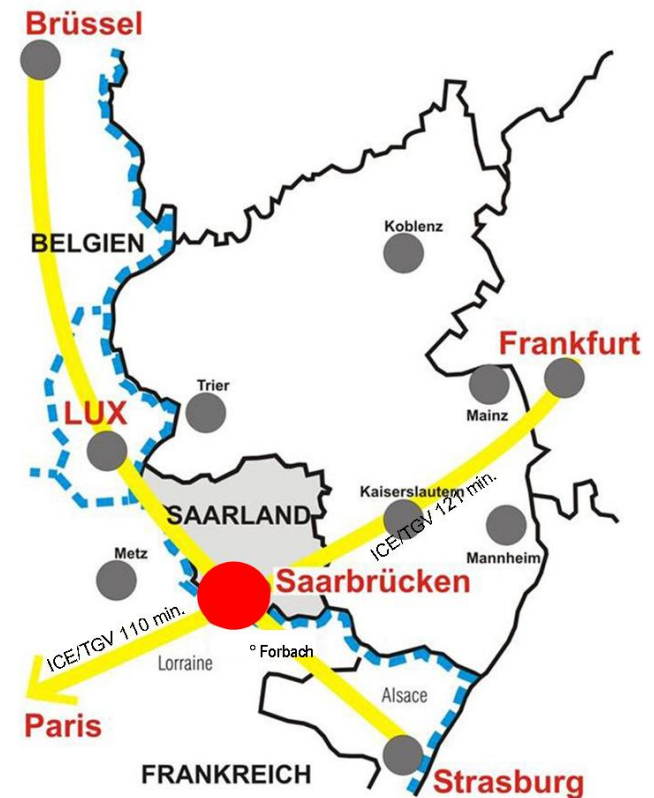
Networking across the borders – acting to mutual advantages



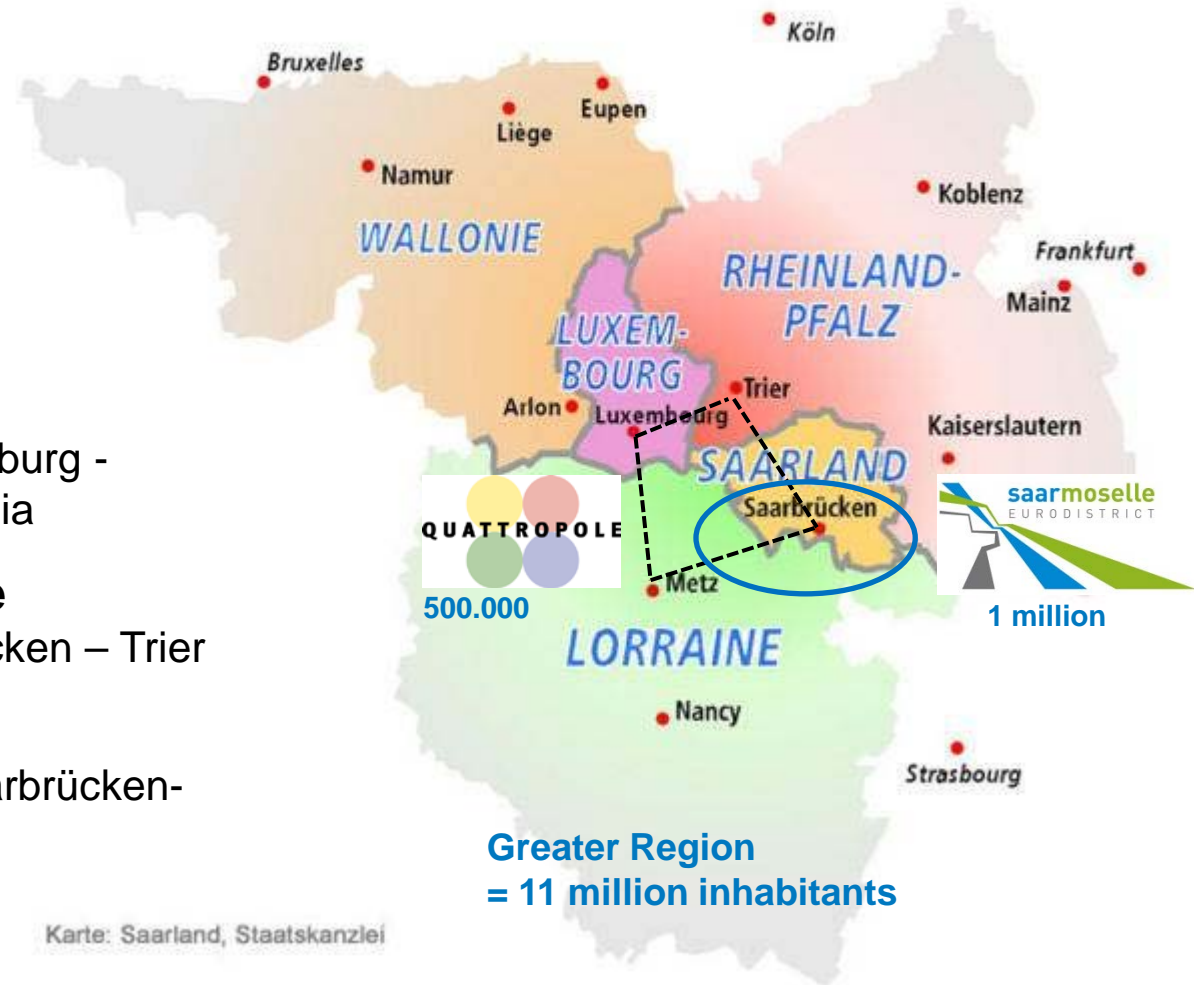


Saarbrücken

- Capital of the federal state Saarland, seat of the ministries and most of the state administrations
- 180.000 inhabitants, conurbation with 10 cities including Saarbrücken 340.000 inhabitants
- University city (7 universities and colleges, 31.000 students)
- Cultural and economic centre, attractive shopping destination, exhibition centre, festivals
- 70.000 commuters/day, from them more than 9000 coming from France
- 20 km national German border to France = 25% municipal border
- Seat of numerous French-German institutions



Regional context



Greater Region:

Saarland -- Lorraine - Luxemburg -
Rhineland-Palatinate – Wallonia

City network QuattroPole

Luxemburg – Metz – Saarbrücken – Trier

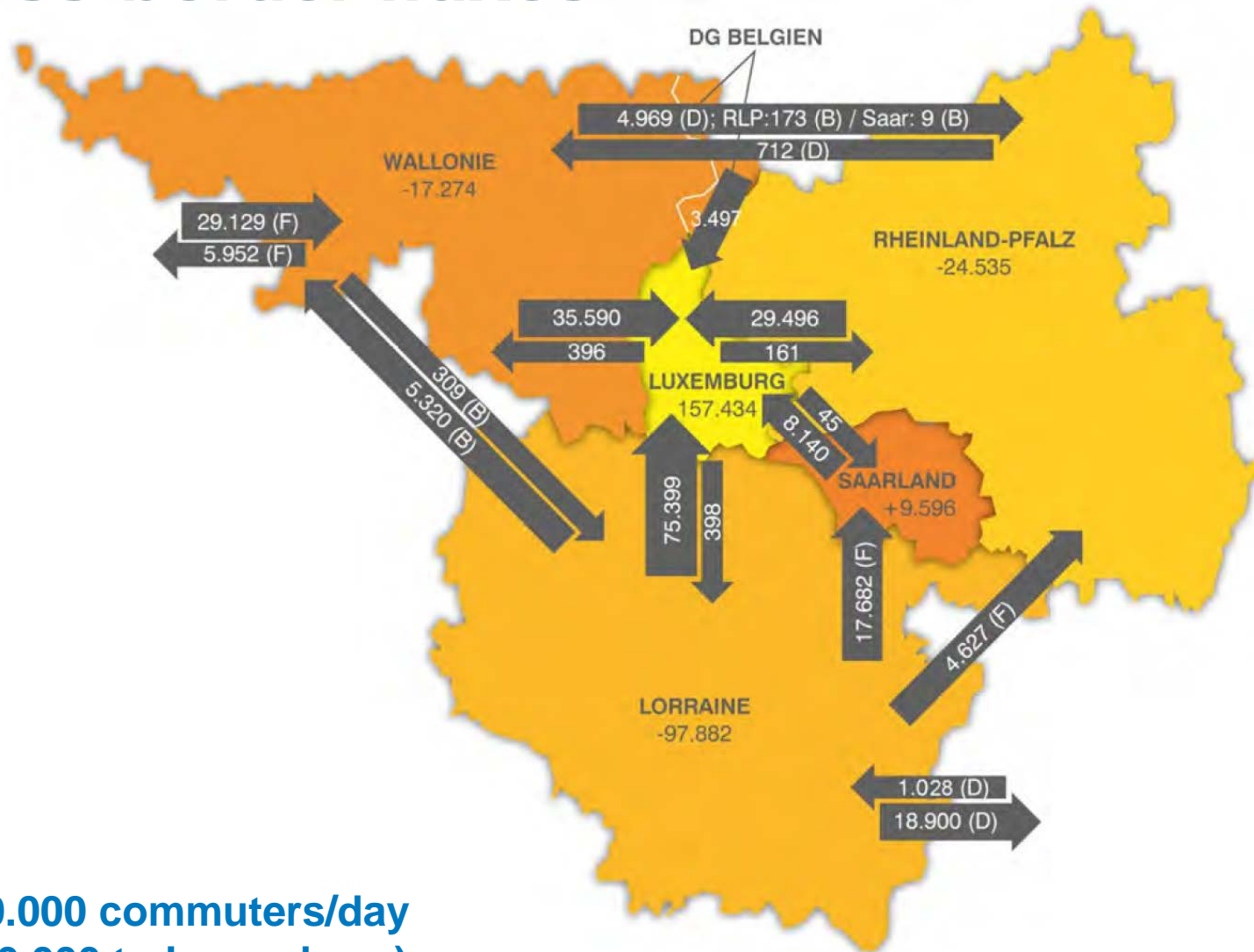
Eurodistrict SaarMoselle

cross-border conurbation Saarbrücken-
East-Moselle

Greater Region
= 11 million inhabitants

Karte: Saarland, Staatskanzlei

Cross-border fluxes



> 210.000 commuters/day
(> 160.000 to Luxemburg)

Berechnungen : IBA / Calculs : OIE (2013)

Challenges

- Barriers caused by the border and different systems (multi-level mismatch) clashing to each other hinder the citizens in their everyday life (for example taxes, mobility, emergency assistance, health services, recognition of qualification ...)
- Lack of knowing the neighbours language
- Economic structural change
- Demographic change - growing lack of qualified manpower (Germany)
- High youth unemployment (France)
- A plunge in municipal financial resources
- Decisions made by national governments without considering the consequences on border regions

Opportunities

- Cope with the structural change
- Make effective use of the potential and the available skills of the border region
- Complement each other to cover lacks
- Improve the attractiveness of the industrial or economic location on both sides of the border
- Create a common regional identity in Europe - as Europe is coming to life especially in the border regions
- Develop experience applicable in other border regions
- Utilize synergetic effects for example by sharing infrastructure

Cross-border networks - why?

- Strategic alliances strengthen the position of cities towards regional/national levels and governments
- Common governance structures enlarge the political visibility
- Strengthening of financial situation (subsidies and grants)
- Uniting resources saves energy and money
- Improve the competitiveness with other European (metropolitan) regions

Eurodistrict SaarMoselle



- Structure: 1997-2010 – registered association in F, since 2010 - **European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC)**
- Members: 7 associations of local authorities in F + G
650.000 inh. (1 million including associated partners)
- Finances: membership fee (0,80 €/inh./year), EU, national and regional grants
- Assembly: 62 local deputies F+G, presidency 2 years changing between F + G

www.saarmoselle.org

**SAAR
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Projects / key areas



- Urban development / spatial planning (
- Transport
- Tourism
- Economic development and regional promotion
- Environment
- Health care
- Language training for the very young / multilingualism
- Apprenticeship
- Communication towards the citizens
- Networking with other European border regions

City network QuattroPole

Luxemburg-Metz-Saarbrücken-Trier



- Structure: founded in 2000 without structure, registered association in G since 2014
- Members: 4 cities (500.000 inh. without conurbations)
- Finances: membership subscription and city subsidies (100.000 €/city/year)
- Assembly: 44 city councilors presidency 2 years changing between the 4 cities

www.quattropole.org

Projects / key areas



- Networking in order to achieve a better political visibility and to defend cities' interests towards national and regional governments (Greater Region and Europe)
- Regional development scheme
- Transport / professional mobility
- Tourism (common marketing)
- Digital economy and innovation
- Culture
- Sustainable development (energy, fair trade)
- Social politic (migration, integration, handicap)
- Communication towards the citizens

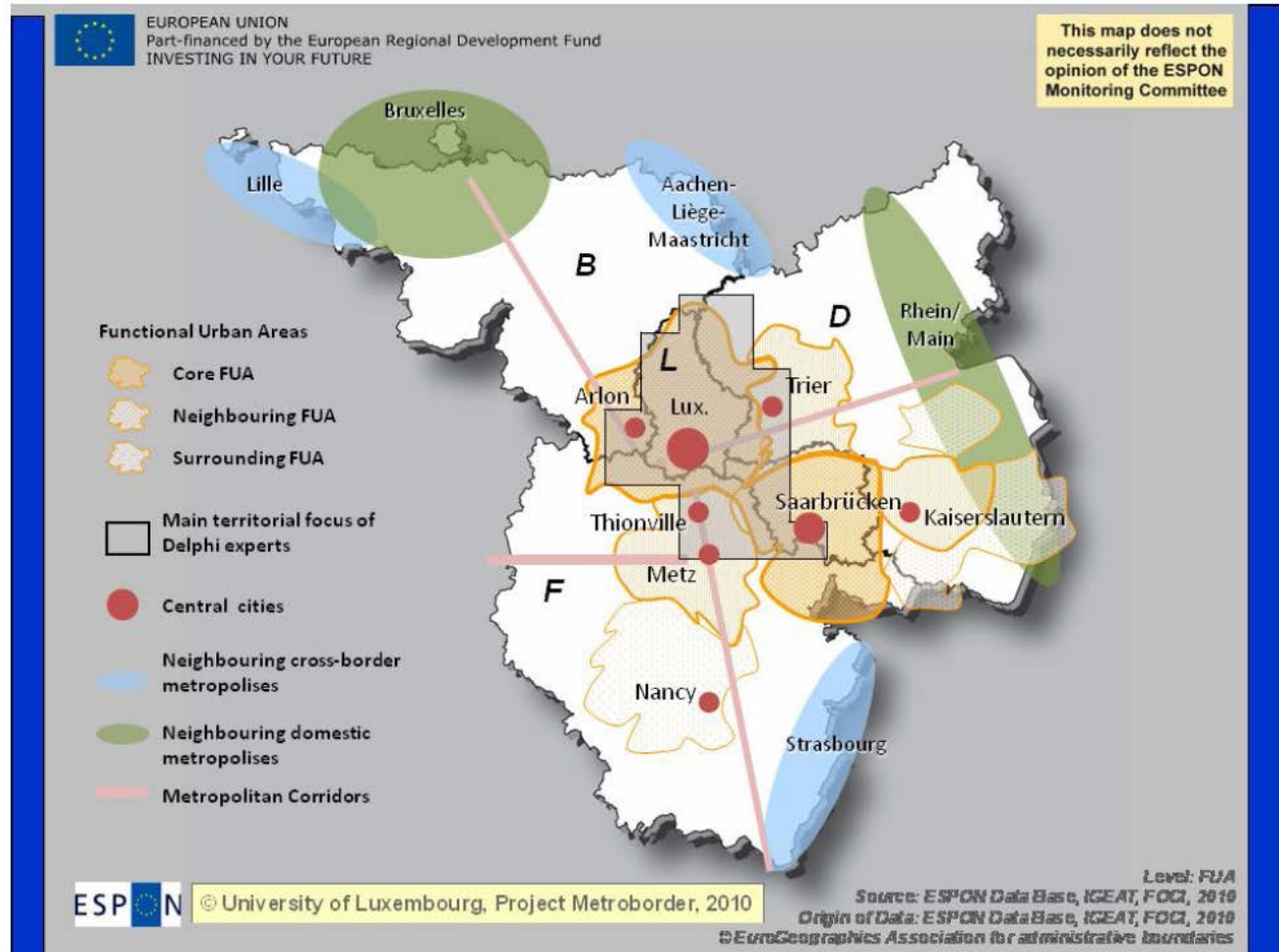
Cross-border polycentric metropolitan region

3,2 million inhabitants
(functional urban areas)

GDP 100 billion €

210 000 commuters/day:
densest cross-border
labour market of EU

Comparable to European
metropolises as
Barcelona



Thank you for your attention!

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Heike Bornholdt-Fried
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