

Chapter 10

The Rural Regions of the Old-industrialized Saarland – Between Globalization and Regionalization

Birte Nienaber and Violetta Frys

Introduction

Globalization increasingly shapes and challenges European regional development. Therefore the interlinkage between the global and the regional level are often of increasing importance. Elbe (2011) argues that regionalization is a specialization, while Benz and Fürst (2003) talk of spatial positioning and a concretion of globalization, regionalization and regional development together with globalization being two faces of one coin. Increasingly, internationalized property markets, large international enterprises and global actors represent new challenges for traditional environmental management. At the same time, however, globalization has reordered notions of 'core' and 'periphery' that have historically marginalized rural regions (Copus 2001, Dühr 2009, Eriksson 2008, Labrianidis 2004, McDonagh 2002, Wild and Jones 1993), and which now assign a whole new importance to rural areas.

Two main aspects of globalization are of interest for this chapter: international migration and regional learning in an era of globalization.

Due to the diverse impacts of globalization, the potential for individual mobility increases considerably. Faster and cheaper travel, especially the complex systems of mass air travel, favours international migration movements (Urry 2007, Adey 2006). Migration is often named as one of the main features of globalization (for example Karakayali 2011 and Ptak 2011). The new trends of international migration also include rural areas and bring new forms of migration into rural areas as well as internationalize the rural population. Cid Aguayo even argues that from this trend of international migration to rural areas evolves a 'global village' (Cid Aguayo 2008, p. 542). Flows in/to rural regions are not uni-directional, but are 'composed of movements into, out of, within and through rural places' (Milbourne 2007, p. 385). This plays an important role for the new trend of transnational migration. This form of migration does not only occur for example in big cities, it also affects people in rural areas. Transnational migration includes living and acting in more than one state and has impacts especially on larger metropolitan areas or on rural border areas (Nienaber and Kriszan 2013). These transmigrants live a 'special globalized life and build up their own social, economic and cultural

spaces. The [...] cross-border social spaces that are being formed are serving to define, more and more, the social worlds of those involved. Such networks, once established, are themselves serving as facilitators of new waves of migration, of return, moving on and re-return. Indeed, the growing complexity of contemporary international migration pathways, nodes, moorings and way-stations- as well as their global reach, is without precedence' (Conway and Potter 2009, p. 1). The internationalization of home-ownership, labour migration and commuter movements in rural areas, such as those in Saarland, are also typical signs of a cultural globalization. Rapid exchange of ideas and cultural services can now more easily take place than ever before. The results of such cultural exchange are different and can be identified between standardization, cultural innovation and segmentation of specific local areas (Brock 2008).

Another focus of the research presented in this chapter is the arrangement of support for regional learning and innovation in rural Saarland with regard to globalization and regionalization. Learning and innovation are very important for rural regions because they develop capacities, knowledge and skills which are especially needed in economically poor border regions like Saarland. Grassroots initiatives in Saarland, therefore, help provide people in rural areas with new information, knowledge and skills as well as facilitate and support different stakeholders in learning to work together, to network and to reach a collective development aim.

Saarland is a federal state in Western Germany, with strong cross-border links to the neighbouring countries of Luxembourg and Northeastern France. The region is characterized by globalization processes, a very strong European cross-border integration process as well as internal regionalization processes. The region has a restructuring industrial economy, from coal and steel to a more diversified economy. It is an urbanized region and includes the city of Saarbrücken, which is also the state capital. Saarland is located in the so-called 'Greater Region', a term used to identify the transfrontier region Saar-Lor-Lux that contains the regions of Saarland, Lorraine, Luxembourg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Wallonia. The formerly used term 'Saar-Lor-Lux' referred primarily (since 1969) to the industrialized borderland of Saarland, Lorraine and Luxembourg. Furthermore, Saarland is integrated into other cross-border cooperations such as the 'Quattropole' (Saarbrücken, Trier, Luxembourg and Metz) and the cross-border metropolitan area. In these cooperations, the impact of globalization is to be found mainly in an urban context. Although Saarland is categorized as primarily an urban region by the OECD, there are rural parts of the Saarland that have gone through specific globalization and regionalization processes that cannot be compared directly with their urban counterparts. Consequently, this chapter focuses on two aspects of globalization that are obvious in parts of rural Saarland: international migration into rural northwestern Saarland; and capacity building, governance and knowledge systems as a globalization-driven regionalization process. By overcoming international borders, globalization is in this region very closely connected with the European integration process and Europeanization as well as regionalization in a transfrontier context.

The C
Stud

Saarland
of the
Hamb
histor
affilia
betwe
Germ
in 19
distr
and S
towns
worki
substa
18 co
at one
mines
An
global

The ut
only 4
where
takes u

The Old-industrialized Federal State of Saarland as a Rural Case Study Region

Saarland has a total area of 2,570 square kilometres and is one of the smallest of the 16 federal states of Germany, being only larger than the city-states of Hamburg, Bremen and Berlin (Statistisches Amt Saarland 2010a). Its unique history results from French and German influence: Saarland was economically affiliated with France from 1920 to 1935 and from 1947 to 1956. In the time between the formation of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949 and the German reunification in 1990, Saarland was the only territory to rejoin Germany in 1957 after the Saar referendum. The state consists of six administrative districts: Merzig-Wadern, Sankt-Wendel, Saarlouis, Neunkirchen, Saarpfalz and Saarbrücken. Historically the region comprised a patchwork of industrial towns around coal mines and steelworks, with much of the population living and working in the same community. In the last half-century these industries have substantially declined. In 1957, there were nearly 64,000 people employed in 18 coal mines in Saarland, but by 2006 only 6,400 mining employees were left at one single mine (Dörrenbächer 2007). This process affected not only the coal mines, but also the steelworks.

Analysing the statistics and literature on Saarland, the following aspects of globalization are notable:

- The contribution of global competition, market forces and economic restructuring to deindustrialization, in particular the decline of the mining and steel industries and their associated sectors;
- The importance of foreign capital to Saarland industry, exemplified by the Ford car factory, and the integration of the region's major industrial employers into international trading networks, with the majority of their output exported;
- The increasing significance of cross-border ties in the 'Saar-Lor-Lux+Greater Region', with cooperation in areas ranging from economic development to policing;
- Fluidity of movement across international borders with France and Luxembourg in both directions for work and residential relocation, including the settlement of Luxembourg citizens in the Perl community of Merzig-Wadern district; and
- The long-term presence of foreign migrant workers, especially from Southern Europe and Turkey, concentrated in Saarbrücken city and the smaller industrial and mining towns (Jones and Woods 2010).

The utilized agricultural area of Saarland (1,130 square kilometres) represents only 44 per cent of the total area. Forestry covers 33.4 per cent of the federal state, whereas settlement and traffic areas take up approximately 20 per cent. Cropland takes up more than half of the utilized agricultural area. Pasture land has a share

of 35 per cent. The Natural Parks cover an area of 101,708 hectare (Statistische Ämter der Großregion 2008 and Brücher et al. 1982).

In 2010, little more than 1 million inhabitants lived in Saarland, equating to 396 inhabitants per square kilometre (Statistisches Amt Saarland 2011). The largest part of the population lives in the south, which includes the capital city of Saarbrücken and the traditional big industrial locations along the Saar River. Saarbrücken is a central place of high-order, which has a great appeal that goes well beyond the borders of Saarland. The state's urban agglomerations extend from Neunkirchen in the east to Völklingen in the west and from Saarbrücken to Saarlouis and Merzig in the northwest. The region of Saarbrücken forms a cross-border agglomeration area together with the Lorraine towns of Forbach, St Avold and Sarreguemines (Geppert 2007). The north of Saarland (Merzig-Wadern and Sankt-Wendel) and the southern part of Saarpfalz (Bliesgau) have a lower population density. They have a rural character and no major industrial hubs. The northwestern district of Merzig-Wadern has the lowest population density of the state, and was therefore chosen as the rural case study area for this migration research.



Figure 10.1 The case study area and its neighbouring regions
Source: author's graphic

Migration into Saarland and the Neighbouring Countries as Part of a Globalization and Europeanization Process

For decades, Saarland has been facing new and complex challenges. These can be thought of in the first instance as:

The decline in the birth rate and the migration deficit are (...) the determining tendencies for the population development and they shape the process of ageing and the decline in the population of Saarland. (Ertl 2007, p. 21)

While the second important element is the:

Declining population figures and an ageing society represent an enormous challenge for Saarland. For politics and economy, this means that they have to respond to these demographical processes and to form them. (Ertl 2007, p. 29)

Besides the high population density, there is a high birth deficit in Saarland: the birth deficit declines together with the population density, which means that the lower the population density, the lower the birth deficit is. In 2009, the birth deficit in Saarland varied between -545 in the district of St Wendel and -1743 in the regional district of Saarbrücken (Statistisches Amt Saarland 2010b). This is not surprising, since rural regions in Germany register higher birth rates than urban areas.

In comparison to internal migration, external migrations develop more dynamically. In addition to the economic situation of Saarland (especially with the coal and mining crisis and the decrease in employment opportunities), external migrations also depend on political situations, decisions and policies of the outgoing and in-coming region. Thus, in-migration from abroad has been declining constantly due to the Asylum Procedure Act of 1993, although the 1990s also saw an increase in ethnic German migrants from Eastern European countries due to the fall of the Iron curtain and the declaration of these migrants as German citizens by Article 116 of the German 'Grundgesetz' (German Constitution). As such, the balance of international migration was in 2006 only slightly positive (+280). This was not enough to outweigh losses through domestic migration (total of -2066 persons in 2006). This trend is slightly inverted in 2010 (total +190 persons) (Ertl 2007, Grundgesetz für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland 2009, Statistisches Amt Saarland 2010d). In general, only the rural district of Merzig-Wadern registers a positive balance, resulting from the influx of Luxembourgers (+21 inhabitants in 2009) (Statistisches Amt Saarland 2010b).

A large amount of migrations in Saarland can be identified as cross-border migrations. These result from proximity to France and Luxembourg. There are two forms of cross-border migrations in Saarland: in-migration from Luxembourg (mostly employees who work in the highly developed south of Luxembourg) and out-migration to France (especially to the rural spaces of Lorraine). In

08 hectare (Statistische

Saarland, equating to 396
and 2011). The largest part

capital city of Saarbrücken

River. Saarbrücken is a

at goes well beyond the

and from Neunkirchen in

to Saarlouis and Merzig

cross-border agglomeration

Wald and Sarreguemines

and Sankt-Wendel) and the

population density. They have a

western district of Merzig-

was therefore chosen as



a survey conducted in 2003, 67.8 per cent of Saarlanders and 43.6 per cent of Luxembourgers declared that they could imagine living in the neighbouring country (Cavet et al. 2006). An unusual aspect of the Greater Region are the so-called atypical migrants or commuters: while living in the neighbouring country (for example Luxembourgers in Saarland), these migrants still work in their home country (for example Luxembourg) and commute on a daily basis between the two nation states (IBA 2007a, Wille and Internationale Arbeitsmarktbeobachtungsstelle n.d.). These atypical cross-border commuters from Luxembourg have an impact on the rural areas of Saarland close to the border (district of Merzig-Wadern). An increasing number of atypical cross-border commuters from Luxembourg positively influence the balance of migration in the rurally characterized district of Merzig-Wadern.

In historical terms, the border between Saarland and Lorraine is both a place of German-French confrontation over centuries and of German-French reconciliation and European integration. The phenomenon of residence shifting was one indication for this recent past with the 'first traces of property and real estate acquisition by wealthy Saarlanders in nearby Lorraine could already be registered in the 1960s. The trend of cross-border leisure and tourism emerged, which intensified in the 1970s and, by acquiring more and more construction permits, Saarlanders have become increasingly resident in Lorraine in the following years' (translated according to Wille and Kuntz 2005, p. 51). In the 1980s, especially individuals from the cities of Saarbrücken and Saarlouis as well as middle-class citizens (mainly with children) from almost all communities of Saarland moved into the border-zone area of Lorraine. The properties, which were originally in demand, were the largest properties, located in the most favoured areas (for example good infrastructural connection to Saarland, high amenity value and low prices). Since the mid-1990s Saarlanders also bought agricultural land as these were properties awaiting a future designation as building land (Ramm 1999). More than 30 per cent of all 727 Moselle communities in France registered Germans (1998), of whom 90 per cent were Saarlanders (Wille and Kuntz 2005). However, this trend seems to have stopped since the early 2000s due to the increase in property prices in Lorraine (Wille and Internationale Arbeitsmarktbeobachtungsstelle n.d.). Concerning the motivation for the shifting of residence to France, 60 per cent named quality of life, like the rural and recreative ambience of the Moselle communities, as well as the French lifestyle (Wille and Kuntz 2005, Ministerium für Umwelt – Saarland and Préfecture de la Région Lorraine 2001). Wille and Internationale Arbeitsmarktbeobachtungsstelle (n.d.) claimed that the most important aspects for Saarlanders to move over to Lorraine are economic and financially driven ones.

There are also a large number of typical cross-border commuters who do not change their registered residence in the study region and whose movements shape Saarland and the whole Greater Region. Estimations by the European Council, on cross-border commuting in the Greater Region between the border-zones of the countries Luxembourg, Belgium, France and Germany, are more than ten times that for the EU-25 (EU-25: 0.4 per cent of employees, Greater Region: 4.2

per cent of employed people), illustrating the extraordinary importance of this phenomenon (Bläser and Wille 2009). While the number of the cross-border commuters employed in the Grand Duchy is constantly growing, more and more Luxembourgers move their residence across the borders to the neighbouring countries and commute to work. The Luxembourgian commuters consequently show preference for the German regions on the other side of, and close to, the border of their home country as their new residence. Between 1999 and 2006, the number of Luxembourgers with a residence in Germany has almost tripled. On the German side, they prefer the city of Trier and its rural hinterland and the northern Saarland (especially in the district of Merzig-Wadern and the municipality of Perl therein). In Belgium, the Luxembourgers are located especially in the border-zone areas of the region of Wallonia – in particular in the city of Arlon. On the French side of the border the Luxembourgish migrants settle down in northern Lorraine (for example in Thionville and Longwy). It is not only the Luxembourgish citizens however that prefer to settle in these border-zone areas of the Luxembourg neighbouring regions, but also citizens from other countries working in Luxembourg (Brosius and Carpentier 2010, IBA 2007b). This commuting and foreign homeowners' residential zone is within a corridor of 20 to 30 kilometres along the Luxembourgian border with good infrastructural connections. Decisive reasons for the residential shifting of Luxembourgers are, along with real estate prices in Luxembourg, high living costs, the wish to become homeowners as well as family, cultural and fiscal reasons. The downside of this development is the fact that the prices, especially for home ownership, real estate and construction ground, in areas bordering Luxembourg increase because of the demand of affluent customers of the Grand Duchy. This is also a disadvantage for the local, non-commuting population (Bläser and Wille 2009, Carpentier 2010, IBA 2007b). These developments evoke social, ecological and infrastructural problems. The rapidly increasing rental and real estate prices squeeze the local population and their successors from the residential market. Moreover, many border-zone communities develop into dormitory towns with less integration of new residents. The housing development areas mean new land use conflicts between the locals and the new residents. Furthermore, the increase of motorized individual transport between the residential areas and the working places causes increased traffic and consequent ecological problems (Bläser and Wille 2009, Carpentier and Gerber 2010).

Indeed it has also been argued by Wille and Kuntz (2005) that:

closely connected to the phenomenon of the atypical German and Luxembourgian cross-border worker and foreign home owners are questions concerning Germans and French as well as German and Luxembourgian people living together. To meet the demand of attractive residential properties in Lorraine, municipal 'lotissements' (areas of new housing) were established in many communities. For local residents and newcomers, this results in Germans concentrating in one place and the Lorrainers staying among themselves in the original core of

the settlement. This form of 'ghettoization' leads only partially to integration. Perceptions of coexistence between German newcomers and native Lorrainers are inconsistent, with 80 per cent of the Saarlanders questioned in one study considering themselves to be integrated whereas 86 per cent of the French mayors did not take this for granted, at least only partially. (p. 51).

The same situation is indicated for Perl. The municipality of Perl (district of Merzig-Wadern) has 7,583 inhabitants and is located in the border triangle. Perl borders the French département Moselle (Apach in the south) and Luxembourg (Schengen in the west). There are 101 persons per square kilometre, which is the lowest population density in Saarland (Statistisches Amt Saarland 2011) with 1,297 Luxembourgiens living in the municipality of Perl in 2007 (Statistisches Amt Saarland 2010c). These Luxembourgiens live particularly in the segregated and isolated areas of new housing.

The Impact of Globalization in Saarland

The following analysis of the impacts of globalization is based on the research carried out in the EU FP7 project DERREG. The research methodology combines an intensive literature review, a statistical overview of secondary data of the federal state of Saarland as well as of the district and municipality level, 25 qualitative interviews with migrants, 27 expert and stakeholder interviews on migration, environment, planning, administration and regional learning throughout Saarland, as well as three expert workshops. All interviews and expert workshops took place during the DERREG project. The authors of this chapter carried out the interviews and workshops. The interviews were transcribed and analysed with a text analysis tool.

International Migration into Saarland

Two main factors determine Saarland as a part of the globalized network of migration: the first is proximity to French and Luxembourgian borders at the 'heart' of the European integration process. Indeed the town of Schengen – where the free movement agreement ('Schengen agreement') was signed – is right in the middle of this border triangle. The second factor is the steel and coal mining history of Saarland, which provided jobs mainly for the so-called 'Gastarbeiter' (guest workers), who first came from Turkey, Italy, Spain and former Yugoslavia especially, contrasting current workers who mostly originate from Central and Eastern European countries; albeit guest workers now search for new job opportunities in the rural areas as the steel and coal mining industry decreases. The sample includes migrants from the Czech Republic, India, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Poland, China, Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, France and Russia. Indeed, because one of the main reasons for migrant workers to leave their home country

and to move to the district of Merzig-Wadern is the improvement of their own economic situation which is often connected to a bad political or economic situation in their home country, there is often a feeling of being satisfied with the situation in the region of arrival:

My motivation to come to Germany was the hope for a better future – simply to move to a country, where people have a higher standard of living than people in Poland at that time, in Communist Poland. Simply away from poverty and cruelty and to a better life. (Translated according to the interviewed migrant worker 6)

We came here, because there has been war for some time in our city and that was exhausting for us. After a year, we emigrated to Germany. At that time, emigrating as fast as possible was the only opportunity we had. (Translated according to the interviewed migrant worker 10)

The second group of migrants, foreign homeowners, buy or build houses on property which is relatively cheap compared to prices in Luxembourg. Another reason for Luxembourgers to move to Saarland is the feeling of cultural foreignness. A special impact of globalization can be detected here: since Luxembourg hosts one of the main headquarters of the European Union, as well as being a globally important financial centre, a large number of migrants move into the country and to the Greater Region of Saar-Lor-Lux. The high percentage of foreigners (43.2 per cent of the population in 2011 (Statistiken der Großregion 2011) living in Luxembourg leads to this feeling of cultural foreignness of some people in their home country. The respondents expressed very positive views on their living situation in the case study region and were rather critical about their home country:

The people here are really very nice. That's not the case in Luxembourg, I'm abroad here as well and for heaven's sake, I'm not a racist, but in our country [Luxembourg] that's too multicultural. It's getting out of hand. There were Cubans, my husband couldn't talk to them at all; my husband is Portuguese. There was a Belgian, there were Germans, there were Portuguese. (...) [In Luxembourg], everything is multicultural, that's too much. You can't [speak] your own language in your own country anymore. And here, I can still speak it. (Translated according to interviewed foreign homeowner 11)

This open border situation between Germany, France and Luxembourg is also a special advantage of a globalization or Europeanization process as it enables the people in the region to 'use the best' of each country. This is also a reason for migrants to move into this part of Saarland. Other interviewees, migrant workers as well as foreign homeowners, search for the amenities of rural landscapes, the calmness or the fresh air, and therefore choose the rural Saarland as their new residential place:

Now we settled down here and I think it's very comfortable and, as I already said, the landscape is really beautiful. (...) Okay, it actually is a bit cheaper here, but that was not the essential motive why we came here. (...) Well, landscape, that you live here more on the countryside and not necessarily in the city centre. (...) 'Rural' was a criteria which was important for me. I have always lived in a rural environment; I am not a town person and so, that was a criterion. (Translated according to interviewed foreign homeowner 1)

The poor public transport and the absence of a larger city as well as the lack of jobs for foreigners and of ethnic association were mentioned as problems by some of the migrants:

Foreigners should get more opportunities to find work more easily or to learn more at a language school. There should be more possibilities for foreigners. (Translated according to the interviewed migrant worker 3)

In fact, I'm from North Rhine-Westphalia and what strikes me is that we had a lot of culture associations for all kinds of nations: Italians, the Spanish, they all had their own club. These associations also had a restaurant which was open for everybody and they organized a lot among themselves, celebrations, for example, but they did it for everybody. Something like that doesn't even exist here. (...) What I saw, but which isn't there anymore, was a Turkish meeting place in the pedestrian precinct. And that was really the only thing I've seen so far in this area. And only Turkish people actually went there, not one single German. This custom of inviting each other does not take place. (Translated according to the interviewed migrant worker 9)

Some of the respondents, especially foreign homeowners, did not make a big effort to become integrated into Germany as a result of their professional integration and social rootedness in Luxembourg. Furthermore, the Luxembourgian migrants did not intend to change their jobs because they felt more secure with the more favourable tax policy and the well-balanced health care system of their home country. They live in both countries, benefiting from 'the best' of each. Processes and impacts of globalization in rural Saarland are therefore evident in the range of home countries of immigrants, as well as in the transnational way of life of most of the respondents.

Regional Learning in a Globalized Context in Saarland

Strategies and support for 'regional learning' are of great importance in Saarland. These strengthen social and human capacity for regional development, and can be positioned as part of a regionalization response to globalization. Saarland is one of the NUTS 2 regions of the EU and therefore participates in EU-funded programmes,

instruments and initiatives (for example ESF). Moreover, it has access to funds of the national and federal state government (for example Weiterbildungsdatenbank Saar (database for further education) or the project 'Lernortleh'). The most important and effective form of support and facilitation from public administration appears to be financial support by means of formal subvention contracts like LEADER or ILE (integrated rural development concepts). One example is the initiative KuLanl (Cultural Landscape Initiative St Wendeler Land) which is a LEADER local action group, established in the 1990s as a grassroots initiative and transformed into a LAG (local action group) in 2003. The main focus of KuLanl is preserving and further developing the cultural landscape of 'St Wendeler Land' (an area in north-east Saarland, bordering Rhineland-Palatinate). There are three spheres of activity: raising awareness (local schools and school camp 'BiberBurgBerschweiler'), organizing a local commodity market ('Lokalwarenmarkt St Wendeler Land') and supporting tourism ('St Wendeler Land - Steinreich'). These focal points ensure the support and facilitation of the grassroots development initiative with grants and supports from the EU, federal ministries' and Saarland ministries' policies. At this point, it is possible to detect a future internationalization: KuLanl is building up contacts to French, Polish, Lithuanian and Luxembourgian grassroots initiatives for knowledge exchange. Other examples are Biosphere Bliesgau Association (Biosphärenverein Bliesgau e.V.), Integrated Rural Development Concept Region Illtal (ILEK - Integriertes ländliches Entwicklungskonzept) or the Saar Countrywomen's State Association (Landesverband SaarLandFrauen e.V.).

Even if some networks have an artificial character, the networking in the region facilitates knowledge transfer, the dissemination of support and sustainable development. Most of the networks are judged to be sustainable after being established. Analysing the support and knowledge infrastructure in Saarland, it is possible to identify opportunities and risks for integration into global networks. Public information and advisory services were evaluated as partly complex and difficult to use. Sometimes, there are different contact persons in different authorities that all have to be included as each authority has different information strategies and different regulations that have to be followed. The easy accessibility and availability of new information, however, are the most important advantages of this support form in rural Saarland. The most crucial and sustainable support for grassroots development initiatives in the future is the establishment of networks mediated by public authority. The grassroots development initiatives appreciate the opinions of external experts, who they mostly know personally, and obtain the latest knowledge available in this way. Also, scientific studies concerning grassroots development initiatives are seen as professional and efficient. The high costs of scientific research and resources, however, do not allow the grassroots development initiatives to use this form of support very often. Similar aspects apply to various stakeholders from other knowledge institutions of public authorities. No costs however are involved if consultants at federal state level, for example at the ministries, provide their support. Those consultants are paid by the state within the scope of their position.

Within these chosen initiatives a process of learning occurs from each other. The members' learning process includes not only the work within their own initiative but also cooperation with partners of other projects, whether established or potential ones. For this reason, it is also a question of a learning process in which the participants can broaden their horizons and where they can casually proof which new cooperation partners are good to work with (for example other communes). Apart from this fact the employees and members join different advanced training courses, meetings, conventions or skill-enhancement workshops. One example is the strategy meeting which is organized every six months by the regional manager (cooperation partner of the initiative). This assistance is project-oriented and based on specialist counselling and a research project. There are also training, workshops and meetings with experts for members of the initiatives concerning certain topics (for example, medical science, insurances, communication or legal matters). Afterwards, the acquired knowledge is passed on to other members:

Nowadays there is this trend, so everything is anonymous. Information will be exchanged via email, SMS, data transfer, on electronic ways. A counter-pole will be established there [by the Saar Countrywomen's State Association]. The members of the initiative maintain a personal contact and this personal level is another way of communication. So we go in contrary to the trend in society to do everything in the chat room, on the internet and say: local exchanges to each other strengthen the social network that serves everybody, serves the organization because this is our elixir. This is basically the database; the personal contact is our database. Of course, we have a modern office communication, but it is not possible without the personal connection and I think that's why we are sitting here together on a personal level to get to know. And it binds and that's the goal that this bond is estimated, because it supports each other. So, the members support the organization that can use this support to perform their work (...) and the organization as a service provider gives something back to the members, (...) e.g. by building a network. (Translated according to an interview partner)

Furthermore, according to the initiative, support exists from their own ranks, allowing information and knowledge to be exchanged at different levels (for example local or national level). Knowledge institutes often offer an advisory support free of charge. Thus, the selection of topics is carried out in a system-oriented, project-oriented and territorial-oriented way.

Albeit there can certainly be a demand for additional support, for example by charitable foundations. A definite know-how is the condition for a successful collaboration, as well as the consideration of further cooperative domains with other organizations or institutions. One important support refers to the acquisition of new members who would join just for the project itself. Moreover, the acceptance of the population is generally of great importance. Depending on the topic, the initiatives foster regional identity which can only be seriously recognized through

acceptance.
public instit
through pub

Conclusion

Globalization
mining and
rural region
focus was c
side, and th
The research
(global) cit
for migran
on – is giv
Germany, a
flows as we
in rural are
the so-calle
1970s from
of economi
countries. A
good infras
proximity t
These are t
main part o
The globali
due to the
particularly
and networ
live concep
based on i
region. By
closely con
well as reg
of our rese
challenges
several dif
for exampl
'luxurious
as the infr
interesting
Germany o

acceptance. To receive this support the initiatives require the encouragement of public institutions in order to appeal to potential cooperation partners and members through public campaigns.

Conclusions

Globalization has different impacts across rural Saarland. Saarland, with its coal mining and steel history along the river Saar in the centre of the region, and the rural regions at its periphery, promotes different processes. In this chapter, the focus was on the rural regions at the border of France and Luxembourg on one side, and the northeastern rural areas bordering Rhineland-Palatinate on the other. The research has shown particularly that migration is not only a phenomenon of (global) cities, but can be a significant process in rural areas when the framework for migrants – politically, historically, economic, fiscal, social, cultural and so on – is given. Saarland has historically shifted several times between France and Germany, and consequently the region has always been connected with migration flows as well as people from different countries living next to each other – even in rural areas. Within this, a very important group of international migrants are the so-called 'Gastarbeiter' (guest worker) coming mainly in the 1960s and early 1970s from South European countries, Turkey and other countries and new forms of economic workers coming since the 1990s from Central and Eastern European countries. Another very important aspect regarding migration is the proximity and good infrastructural connections to economically thriving Luxembourg as well as proximity to the village of Schengen – the so-called 'heart of European integration'. These are the main aspects that constitute the breeding ground for migration as the main part of globalization processes in the district of Merzig-Wadern in Saarland. The globalization process leads to increases of multiculturalism and transnationalism due to the rise in the number of international migrants. The cross-border migrants particularly, but also many of the labour migrants, build up transnational spaces and networks integrating their former and their new residential countries into the live concepts. The increase of networks and connections to other parts of the world based on international migration is a second implication of globalization in this region. By overcoming international borders, globalization in this region is very closely connected with the European integration process and Europeanization as well as regionalization in a transfrontier context as could be seen in the analysis of our research as well as in the case of 'Schengen'. Besides these more positive challenges, the rural region of Merzig-Wadern in Saarland also has to overcome several difficulties due to the different forms of increasing international migration: for example the difficulties of integration as the Luxembourgnians live in their own 'luxurious ghettos' and the problems of language acquisition for all migrant groups as the infrastructure of language schools are quite poor in rural areas. Another interesting aspect of this research was the reason for moving from Luxembourg to Germany due to perceptions of cultural foreignness in the home country. This can

also lead to integration problems as migrants become foreigners in the receiving country as well.

So, for further research studies, it seems to be important to have a closer look at rural areas not only as donors of migrants, but also as recipients of migrants – even international ones. The second process, stated above, that shows a somehow more anti-globalized, regionalized process that seems to be strengthened due to globalization, include the learning and support strategies (except the support and guidelines of the European Union). In this case, a focus on the regional level, on regional stakeholders and regional or national support can be informative. The global faces of the coin, in keeping with Benz and Fürst (2003), are the influences of internationally learning cooperations as well as external support, policies and guidelines that form the framework in which an initiative like KuLanI, for example, can arrange its regional networks and regional development. These are just some of the aspects of globalization in Saarland; there are many others (for example the environmental management of UNESCO biosphere reserve Bliesgau or the connection of enterprises). Further insight on the initial aspects deduced from the literature and statistical review can be found in the case study contextual report (Jones and Woods 2010) as well as in articles on the environmental capital of the biosphere reserve (Frys and Nienaber 2011, 2013).

References

- Adey, P. (2006) 'If mobility is everything then it is nothing: towards a relational politics of (im)mobilities', *Mobilities* 1, 75–94.
- Benz, A. and Fürst D. (2003) Region – 'Regional Governance' – Regionalentwicklung, in Adamaschek, B. and Pröhl M. (eds) *Regionen erfolgreich steuern. Regional Governance – von der kommunalen zur regionalen Strategie*. Gütersloh, 11–66. Available at: http://www.bertelsmannstiftung.de/cps/rde/xbcr/SID-OEC8EF64-65BA54A4/bst/xcms_bst_dms_15213_15214_2.pdf [accessed: 16 January 2013].
- Bläser, R. and Wille C. (2009) Grenzgänger im Großherzogtum Luxemburg, *Geographische Rundschau*, 61 (1), 36–42.
- Brock, D. (2008) *Globalisierung. Wirtschaft – Politik – Kultur – Gesellschaft*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.
- Brosius, J. and Carpentier S. (2010) Grenzüberschreitende Wohnmobilität von in Luxemburg ansässigen Erwerbstätigen, in Carpentier, S. (ed.) *Die grenzüberschreitende Wohnmobilität zwischen Luxemburg und seinen Nachbarregionen. (Forum Europa, Vol. 6)*, pp. 15–36. Luxembourg: Édition Saint-Paul.
- Brücher, W., Quasten, H. and Reitel F. (eds) (1982) *Pilotstudie zu einem Saar-Lor-Lux-Atlas. (Schriftenreihe der Regionalkommission Saarland-Lothringen-Luxemburg-Rheinland-Pfalz, Vol. 8)*. Saarbrücken, Metz, Luxembourg, Trier: Regionalkommission Saarland-Lothringen-Luxemburg-Rheinland-Pfalz.

Carpent
in C
Luxe
Lux
Carpent
gren
die
Woh
Euro
Cavet, I
der
Groß
Lux
Cid Agu
Glob
Conway
Mig
(eds
Mob
Copus,
Spat
Dörrenb
des
Wag
Insti
Dühr, S
ther
Elbe, J.
Erph
Moa
Eriksson
new
Ertl, D.
seit
Frys, W
Con
Bios
v10
Frys, W
Dev
UNI
Use
Rur
für

- Carpentier, S. (2010) Gründe für den Umzug auf die andere Seite der Grenze, in Carpentier, S. (ed.) *Die grenzüberschreitende Wohnmobilität zwischen Luxemburg und seinen Nachbarregionen. (Forum Europa, Vol. 6)*, pp. 37–62. Luxembourg: Édition Saint-Paul.
- Carpentier, S. and Gerber P. (2010) Welche Konsequenzen hat die grenzüberschreitende Wohnmobilität auf die täglichen Fahrten und die Aktivitätsräume, in Carpentier, S. (ed.) *Die grenzüberschreitende Wohnmobilität zwischen Luxemburg und seinen Nachbarregionen. (Forum Europa, Vol. 6)*, pp. 87–113. Luxembourg: Édition Saint-Paul.
- Cavet, M., Fehlen, F. and Gengler C. (2006) *Leben in der Großregion. Studie der grenzüberschreitenden Gewohnheiten in den inneren Grenzräumen der Großregion SaarLorLux/Rheinland-Pfalz/Wallonien. (Forum Europa, Vol. 2)*. Luxembourg: Édition Saint Paul.
- Cid Aguayo, B.E. (2008) Global Villages and Rural Cosmopolitanism: Exploring Global Ruralities. *Globalizations*, 5 (4), 541–54.
- Conway, D. and Potter, R.B. (2009) Return of the next Generations: Transnational Migration and Development in the 21st Century, in Conway, D. and Potter, R.B. (eds) *Return Migration of the Next Generations. 21st Century Transnational Mobility*, pp. 1–16. Farnham.
- Copus, A. (2001) From Core-periphery to Polycentric Development: Concepts of Spatial and Aspatial Peripherality, *European Planning Studies*, 9(4), 539–52.
- Dörrenbächer, P. (2007) 50 Jahre Saarland – 50 Jahre Kohlekrise. Die Entwicklung des saarländischen Steinkohlenbergbaus, in Dörrenbächer, P., Kühne, O. and Wagner J.M. (eds) *50 Jahre Saarland im Wandel*, pp. 101–13. Saarbrücken: Institut für Landeskunde im Saarland.
- Dühr, S. (2009) Regional development and regional policy in the Netherlands: are there peripheral regions?, *Raumforschung und Raumordnung*, 67(4), 300–307.
- Elbe, J. (2011) *Die Wirksamkeit von Sozialkapital in der Regionalentwicklung. Erprobung eines anwendungsorientierten Analysekonzepts am Beispiel des Modellvorhabens 'Bioenergie-Regionen'*. Aachen: Shaker.
- Eriksson, M. (2008) (Re)producing a 'peripheral' region. Northern Sweden in the news, *Geografiska Annaler, Series B*, 90(4), 369–88.
- Ertl, D. (2007) Bevölkerungsentwicklung 2006: Stärkster Bevölkerungsrückgang seit 1978, *Statistisches Quartalsheft Saarland III*, 2007, 21–9.
- Frys, W. and Nienaber, B. (2011) Protected Areas and Regional Development: Conflicts and Opportunities – Presented on the Example of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Bliesgau. *European Countryside*, 3, 208–26. DOI: 10.2478/v10091-012-0005-8.
- Frys, W. and Nienaber, B. (2013) Conflicts and Opportunities for Regional Development arising from the Designation of Protected Areas – the example UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Bliesgau, in Kriszan, M. and Burdack, J. (eds) *Use or Protect – Environmental Capital and Regional Development in the Rural Areas of Europe. Forum ifl*, Heft 20, pp. 14–35. Leipzig: Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde.

- Geppert, J. (2007) *Regionalprofil Saar-Lor-Lux-Rheinland-Pfalz*. Großrosseln: EURES Transfrontaliers Saar-Lor-Lux-Rheinland-Pfalz.
- Grundgesetz für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Stand vom 15. Juli 2009. Baden-Baden: Nomos.
- Interregionale Arbeitsmarktbeobachtungsstelle (IBA) (2007a) *Bericht zur wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Lage der Großregion. Bericht der Interregionalen Arbeitsmarktbeobachtungsstelle für den Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuss der Großregion*. Saarbrücken: Interregionale Arbeitsmarktbeobachtungsstelle.
- Interregionale Arbeitsmarktbeobachtungsstelle (IBA) (2007b) *Die Arbeitsmarktsituation in der Großregion. 5. Bericht. (Bericht im Rahmen des 10. Gipfels der Großregion)*. Saarbrücken: Interregionale Arbeitsmarktbeobachtungsstelle.
- Jones, L. and Woods, M. (with input from B. Nienaber and W. Frys) (2010) *Case Study Contextual Report 5: Saarland (DERREG – Developing Europe's Rural Regions in the Era of Globalization)*, Aberystwyth, Available at: <http://www.derreg.eu/system/files/Saarland%20WP5%20contextual%20report.pdf> [accessed: 3 September 2011].
- Karakayali, S. (2011) Migration und Flucht, in Niederberger, A. and Schink, P. (eds): *Globalisierung. Ein interdisziplinäres Handbuch*, pp. 180–187. Stuttgart/Weimar: Verlag J.B. Metzeler.
- Labrianidis, L. (2004) *The Future of Europe's Rural Peripheries*. Aldershot: Ashgate.
- McDonagh, J. (ed.) (2002) *Economy, Society and Peripherality, Experiences from the West of Ireland*. Dublin: Arlen Academic.
- Milbourne, P. (2007) Re-populating rural studies: Migrations, movements and mobilities, *Journal of Rural Studies*, 23, 381–6.
- Ministerium für Umwelt – Saarland and Préfecture de la Région Lorraine (eds) (2001) *Grenzüberschreitende Raumordnungsstudie Saarbrücken-Moselle-Est. (Schriftenreihe der Regionalkommission Saarland-Lothringen-Luxemburg-Trier/Westpfalz. Arbeitsgruppe Raumordnung, Vol. 12)*. Saarbrücken, Metz: Regionalkommission Saarland-Lothringen-Luxemburg-Trier/Westpfalz.
- Nienaber, B. and Kriszan, A. (2013): Entgrenzte Lebenswelten: Wohn- und Arbeitsmigration als Ausdruck transnationaler Lebensentwürfe im deutsch-luxemburgischen und deutsch-polnischen Grenzraum, *Raumforschung und Raumordnung*, 71 (3), 221–32. DOI: 10.1007/s13147-013-0230-2.
- Ptak, R. (2011) Ökonomie, in Niederberger, A. and Schink, P. (eds) *Globalisierung. Ein interdisziplinäres Handbuch*, pp. 9–23. Stuttgart/Weimar: Verlag J.B. Metzeler.
- Ramm, M. (1999) Saarländer im grenznahen Lothringen. 'Invasion' oder Integration?, *Geographische Rundschau*, 51(2), 110–115.
- Statistiken der Großregion (2011) *Anteil der ausländischen Bevölkerung*. Available at: <http://www.grande-region.lu/eportal/pages/StatTemplate.aspx?view=stat&id=471> [accessed: 3 September 2011].

- Statistische Ämter der Großregion (ed.) (2008) *Saar-Lor-Lux-Rheinland-Pfalz-Wallonie – Statistiques en bref 2006, Statistische Kurzinformationen 2008*. Saarbrücken, Nancy, Luxemburg, Bad Ems, Namur: Landesamt für Zentrale Dienste.
- Statistisches Amt Saarland (ed.) (2010a) *Fläche, Bevölkerung in den Gemeinden am 30.06.2010 nach Geschlecht, Einwohner je km² und Anteil an der Gesamtbevölkerung*. Available at: http://www.saarland.de/dokumente/thema_statistik/staa_FB300610.pdf [accessed: 8 November 2010].
- Statistisches Amt Saarland (ed.) (2010b) *Statistik: Grafiken, Tabellen und Artikel*. Available at: <http://www.saarland.de/6772.htm> [accessed: 4 November 2010].
- Statistisches Amt Saarland (ed.) (2010c) *Ausländische Bevölkerung in den Kreisen des Saarlandes am 31.12.2007 nach EU-Staatsangehörigkeiten*. Unpublished documents.
- Statistisches Amt Saarland (ed.) (2010d) *Wanderungen 2010. Statistische Berichte AIII1, j 2010*. Available at: http://www.saarland.de/dokumente/thema_statistik/STALA_BER_AIII1-J-10.pdf [accessed: 15 January 2013].
- Statistisches Amt Saarland (ed.) (2011) *Tabellen und Grafiken aus dem Bereich 'Gebiet und Bevölkerung'*. Available at: http://www.saarland.de/dokumente/thema_statistik/staa_FB311210.pdf [accessed: 15 August 2011].
- Urry, J. (2007) *Mobilities*. Cambridge and Malden: John Wiley & Sons.
- Wild, T. and Jones P. (1993) From peripherality to new centrality? Transformation of Germany's Zonenrandgebiet, *Geography*, 78, 281–94.
- Wille, C. and Internationale Arbeitsmarktbeobachtungsstelle (n.d.) *Atypische Grenzgänger nach Luxemburg. GR-Atlas*. Available at: http://geo.uni.lu/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1820&Itemid=660 [accessed: 15 January 2013].
- Wille, C. and Kuntz L. (2005) Im eigenen Land wohnen, beim Nachbarn arbeiten? Komplexität und Vielschichtigkeit des Grenzgängerwesens in der Großregion am Beispiel deutscher Grenzgänger und von Grenzgängern mit Wohnsitz in Deutschland, in EURES and OIE (eds) *Dimensions socio-économiques de la mobilité transfrontalière. Actes du séminaire transfrontalier EURES-OIE*, pp. 47–55. Luxembourg: EURES.