

# Cross-border vocational education and training as a process of cross-border learning.

## The example of the Saarland-Lorraine border region

### ABOUT

Cross-border vocational education and training (VET) becomes more and more important in the Saarland (DE)-Lorraine (FR) border region – even if so far there is only a small number of cases. It may be a solution for high youth unemployment rates in Lorraine and difficulties to find appropriated apprentices in Saarland. The main research questions of the research project are: 1. How does cross-border VET develop since the introduction of the Framework agreement on cross-border vocational and further training Saarland/Lorraine in 2014? 2. Which learning processes are related with the development of cross-border VET?

### ABSTRACT

#### CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND

Adaption of the concept of Rural Regional Learning (Wellbrock/Roep/Wiskerke 2012)

#### STEPS OF ANALYSES

**2015/16:** 20 problem-centred in-depth interviews in Saarland

**2018:** Evaluation of the developments since 2016

#### MAIN RESULTS

##### Positive development of cross-border VET ...

- Different forms of cross-border VET for different needs
- More and more enterprises are interested
- Pioneers boost the development
- Emerging „real“ cross-border structures
- Growing confidence in partners
- Experts with in-depth know-how und contacts to other border regions

#### ... but

- Cross-border VET needs very intensive and individual support
- Tacit knowledge is hardly accesible for some actors
- Discontinuity of financial support for structures
- Opportunistic behaviour in some cases
- Language and intercultural barriers

#### The cross-border learning processes are:

- intra- and interregional
- based on learning-by-doing
- region-specific
- contingent

#### How to foster these learning processes?

- By making know-how easier accessible
- By the adoption and implementation of experimentation clauses
- By manifold forms of interaction and exchanges

### REGIONAL LEARNING IN THE SAARLAND-LORRAINE BORDER REGION

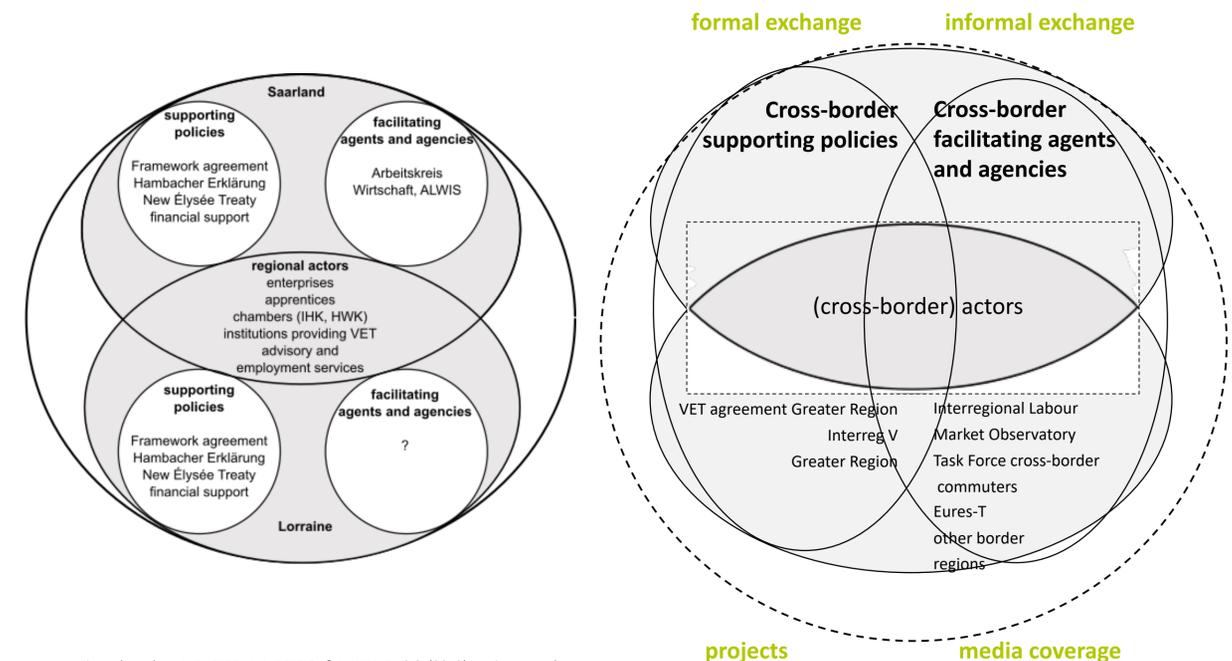


Figure based on: WELLBROCK, W., ROEP, D. & WISKERKE J.S.C. (2012): An integrated perspective on rural regional learning, in: European Countryside, 1, 10.

### KEY MOMENTS

- **Workshop:** „Grenzüberschreitende Berufsausbildung: Bestandsaufnahme, Herausforderungen, Perspektiven“, 11.12.2015 in Saarbrücken
- **Presentations:** Deutscher Kongress für Geographie, Tübingen 2017, Association for Borderlands Studies World Conference, Vienna 2018
- **Publication:** „La formation professionnelle transfrontalière en tant que processus d'apprentissage et mobilisation du savoir transfrontaliers, in: Hamez, G. et al. (ed.): Réalités, perceptions et représentations des frontières de l'Union Européenne. Editions Modulaires Européennes, collection « Proximités Sociologie » (in print)

**Dr. Ines Funk (Saarland University)**

ines.funk@uni-saarland.de

**Prof. Dr. Birte Nienaber (University of Luxembourg)**

birte.nienaber@uni.lu

**Prof. Dr. H. Peter Dörrenbächer (Saarland University)**

p.doerrenbaecher@mx.uni-saarland.de