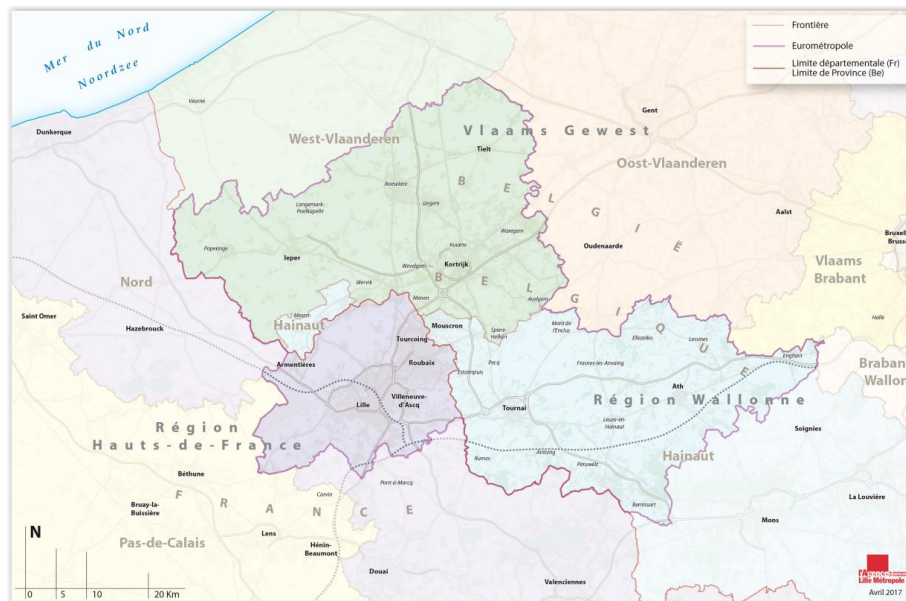


Facilitating cross-border mobility within the scope of dual education in the Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai

Partners: EGTC Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai, The Hauts-de-France Region, The Walloon Region, The Flemish Region / the Flemish Community

The Territory

The Eurometropolis covers an area of 3,550 km² and consists of 152 Flemish, Walloon and French municipalities, with a total of 2,1 million French or Dutch-speaking inhabitants. The Eurometropolis is also a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), bringing together 14 French, Walloon and Flemish partners: 2 countries, 3 regions, 2 provinces and 1 department as well as 5 inter-municipal associations.



The Identified Obstacle

In general, the lack of harmonisation at European level makes it difficult to develop the concept of cross-border apprenticeships. Many obstacles were found in terms of cross-border mobility of French and Belgian apprentices, as for example a linguistic barrier, different age limits, different financial arrangements and a weak mobilisation of stakeholders due to a lack of information for the apprentices and companies. Furthermore, there are different dual education contract systems and labour agreements linked to different legal statutes of the apprentice (dual education contract, trainee, apprentice, etc.) and different legal arrangements regarding the labour law and social law applicable to the apprentice (remuneration, social security, financial support).

The Proposed Solution

In the light of the obstacles mentioned, it is necessary to systematically carry out an in-depth analysis of the practices stemming from the different laws applicable in the territory of the Eurometropolis. Within the framework of *b-solutions*, a detailed diagnosis of the cross-border obstacles will be carried out in order to find an appropriate solution by means of a derogation or a system of equivalence. This should lead to a framework agreement feasible for all competent authorities of the territory. Secondly, in order to test the cooperation formula resulting from the diagnosis, the Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai will implement a field experiment to test the cross-border apprenticeship contract, allowing some apprentices to perform their apprenticeship on both sides of the border.