



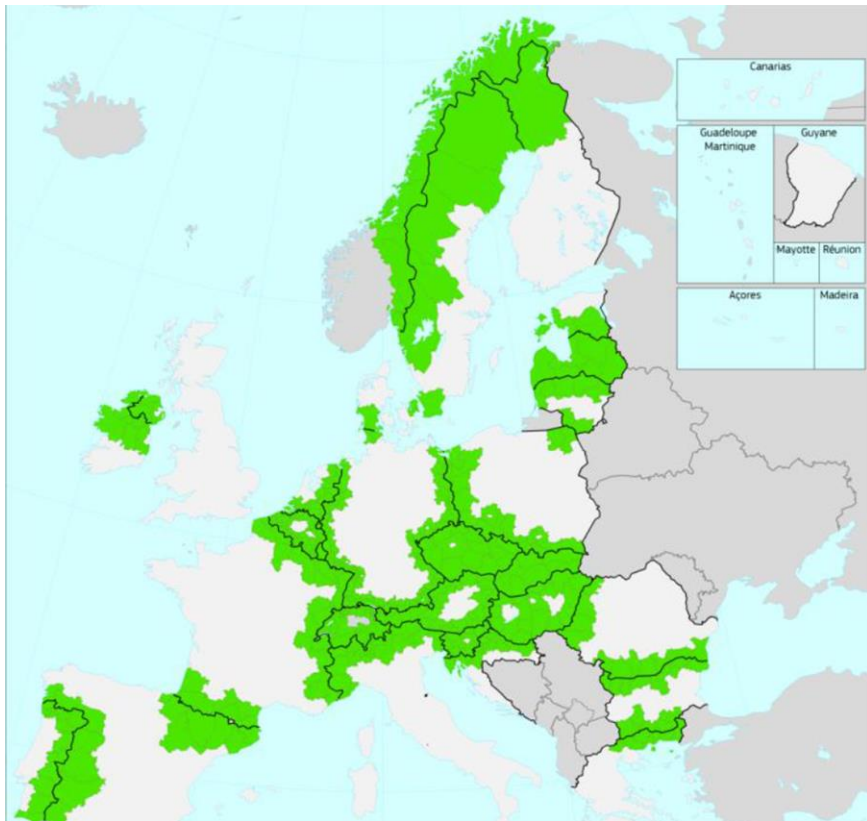
Producing cross-border statistics

Organisational and statistical challenges

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(CBC unit of) DG Regio needs data



- To monitor the impact of INTERREG projects
- To have information on the border areas comparable across regions
- To identify obstacles or opportunities for cross-border cooperation

Cross-border statistics not available?

- Need for comparable data on the border regions: low regional detail and harmonised
- **EU data:** based on harmonised surveys, allowing not much regional detail
- **National data:** regional detail based on administrative sources, not harmonised



Production is challenging

Cross-border statistics are difficult to produce, because they ...

- Require low regional detail,
- using international comparable methods and sources and
- measuring flows of persons & goods

➤ Strong incentive to explore new sources!



Recent communication of the EC



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 20.9.2017
COM(2017) 534 final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions

{SWD(2017) 307 final}



Ten lines of action



deepen cooperation and exchanges



improve the legislative process



support cross-border employment



promote border multilingualism



facilitate cross-border accessibility



e-government to enable
cross-border public administration



provide reliable and understandable
information and assistance



promote greater pooling of health
care facilities



consider the legal and financial
framework for cooperation



build evidence for better
decision-making

Pilot-project *Cross-border data collection*

Objective: Development of methods for cross-border stats

Consortium: PL, DE (IT.NRW), BE, FR, DK, IT, SI and NL (lead)

Duration: 12 months (July 2017-July 2018)

Focus: Labour market statistics at NUTS 3 level

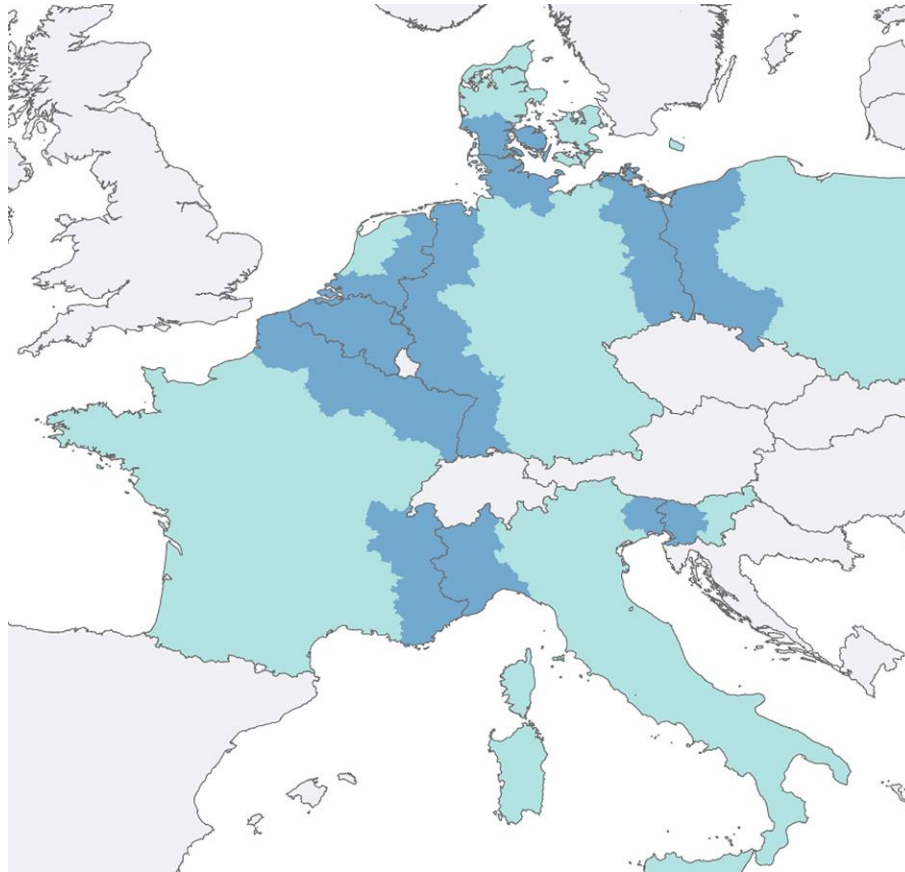
Contents:

- 1a. Better use of Labour Force Survey
- 1b. Use of administrative data
- 2. Exploring mobile phone data (NL&BE)

Expected publication final report: September 2018



Regions covered in the project



LFS of limited use for x-border stats

- NUTS 3 estimates on *unemployment* not reliable in (large) countries: DE, FR, PL
- Employment rates possible but not much added value compared with readily available NUTS 2 data
- Using NUTS 3 regions as building blocks to generate larger (border) regions has potential

Administrative data has potential

- Social security files are available, containing valuable information to measure cross-border workers
- Timeliness of data is good (reference year 2016)
- Place of residence is not available for cross-border workers
- Nationality is relevant but not always available
- Place of work has quality issues



Some findings admin data on x-border work



Preliminary conclusions

	(Labour Force) Survey	Admin data	Mobile phone data
Comparability	++	+	++
Richness of data	++	+	++
Cross-border mobility	-	+	+
Accessibility	++	+	-
Regional detail	-	++	+++
Maturity of methodology	++	+	-



Successful project?

Project will prove:

1. valuable cross-border labour market information can be produced for the countries involved
2. Statistical institutes are willing to cooperate in the context of cross-border data
3. Statistical institutes are able to produce data with limited resources



Next steps?

- Extend LFS & admin indicators to the remaining countries and regions
- Further R&D:
 - more regional detail (LAU2)
 - mobile phone methodology
 - other themes
- Organisational issues:
 - How to organise a structural x-border data collection?
 - How to make such data available?
 - Extra work so extra resources?

Future?



Cooperation of statistical institutes is needed

- To use existing data creatively
- To explore new sources
- To develop methodology for impact assessment

In close cooperation with international organisations and stakeholders!



Potential data providing services

- Network of statisticians responsible for cross-border statistics (under heading of ESS?)
- Dataset of basic indicators for border regions
- Internet tool for aggregating and presenting data for cross-border regions
- Database of detailed information available for specific local research projects



Questions?



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