

2nd European Observatory of State Territorial Action

**The STR and the regional fact
22-24 October 2009 - Leuven (Belgium)**

Round table III

What role for the STR in dialogue between state and region?

**How can STRs perform successfully
as “bridge builders” in cross-border cooperation ?**

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**President of the District Government, Freiburg
(Baden-Württemberg/Germany)**



Who we are - The Upper Rhine Region



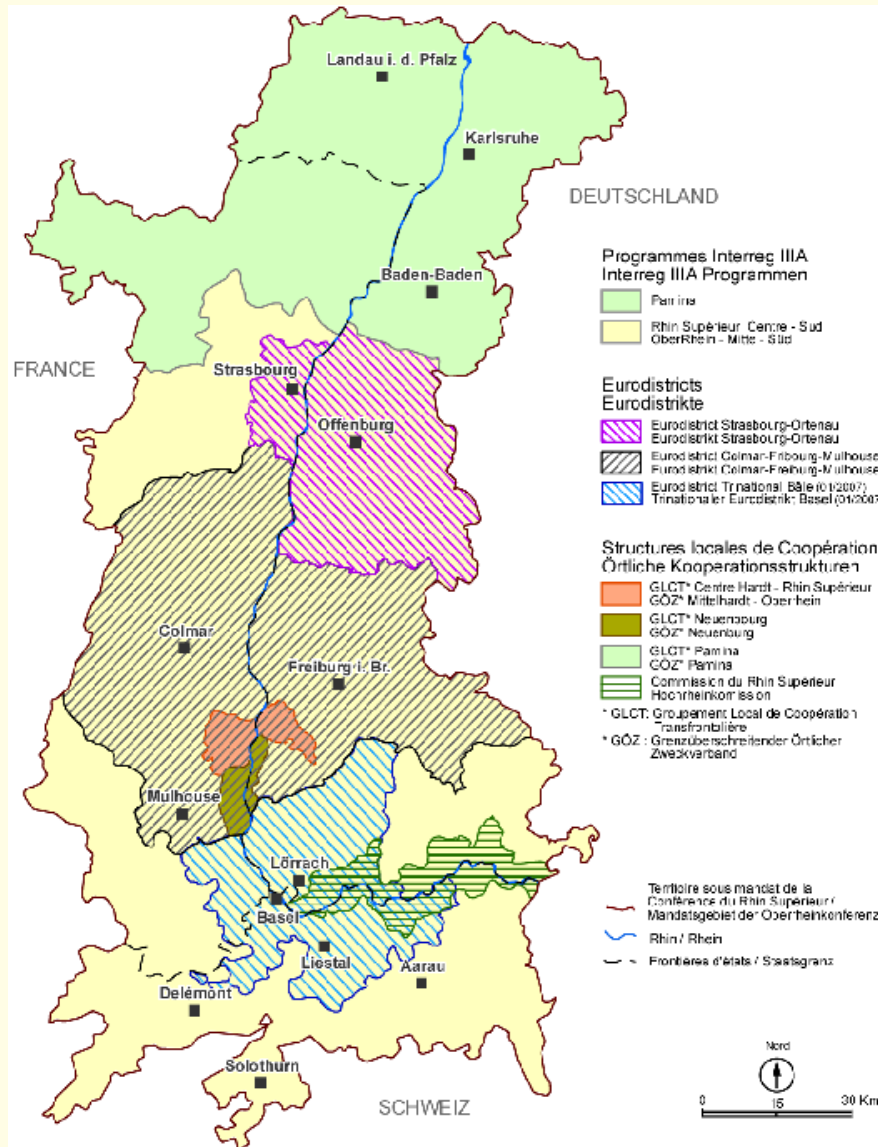
In the center of Europe where the European Parliament is located

A region with great potentials:

- 6 million people
- 165 billion EUR Gross Domestic Product
- over 35 years of experience in cross-border cooperation
- more than 350 INTERREG-projects
- 100,000 cross-border commuters
- more than 1,000 players actively involved in cross-border cooperation



Cross border cooperation in the Upper Rhine Region - a review



It started in 1975 by a state initiative:
Creation of the inter-governmental Commission (D/F/CH)

Conference of the Upper Rhine

Council of the Upper Rhine

INTERREG as instrument for implementation

cooperation in higher education and security

4 Eurodistricts



Characteristics of a „Land“ like Baden-Württemberg

- extensive competences in the fields of education (schools), higher education (universities), police, justice and road construction
- teachers, professors, police staff and judges are civil servants of the Land of Baden-Württemberg (and not of the Federal Republic of Germany)
- all other domains: competences of the Federal Republic of Germany
- different conditions D/CH (federal State) versus F (unitary State)



My role in the region

- President of the District Government, Freiburg
 - = State Territorial Representative of the Land of Baden-Württemberg
 - = nominated by the prime minister of Baden-Württemberg
- The Federal Republic of Germany itself does not have any State Territorial Representatives <-> French Republic



How to work together with STR colleagues?

- STR in Freiburg = “Small Foreign Office”
- “unit for cross-border cooperation and European affairs”
- STR-President = rotating presidency of the Upper Rhine Conference (tri-national administrative level of cross-border cooperation)
- different roles
 - networking
 - driving force
 - intermediary



Cross-border INTERREG Projects

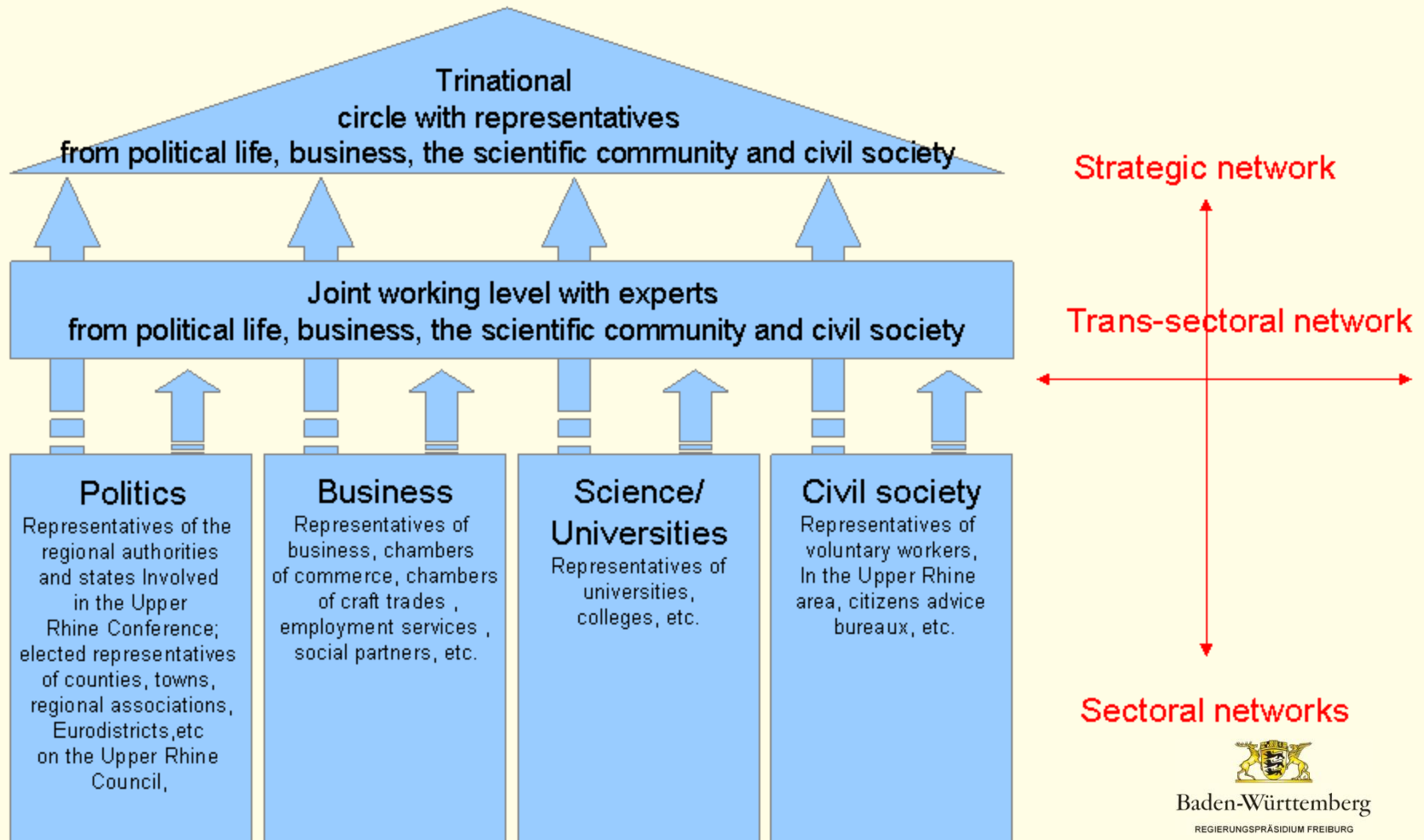


Joint Police Headquarters



The future of cross-border cooperation?

Multi-level governance



The STR's role



- Provides appropriate legal and administrative framework
- Networking
- Lobbying, mainly in Brussels
- Funding

Thank you very

much for

your attention!

