

Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PYRENEES-MEDITERRANEAN EGTC 2009-2014



Euroregió Pirineus Mediterrània
Eurorégion Pyrénées-Méditerranée
Euroregión Pirineos Mediterráneo





Euroregió Pirineus Mediterrània
Eurorégion Pyrénées-Méditerranée
Euroregión Pirineos Mediterráneo



*To our colleague and friend, Elisabet Roges,
who left us the 17th of March 2013.*

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EDITORIAL

It's been 5 years...!

Legally created in August 2009, THE EGTC started in April 2010: there were only offices, a small team, ideas for projects – there was so much to be done.

Creating a public structure, a new part of the institutional landscape – European in its content and spirit, and based in two countries – takes dedication and courage.

There were so many tasks to tackle: preparing the general assemblies, sectoral meetings and budget; setting up the accounting system, administrative documents and communication channels; making payments, putting together a team and developing projects. We also had to issue calls for projects, establish the structure of the institution and put it into operation, demonstrate its added value, and make it part of the local institutional landscape.

In short, we had to build the institution from the ground up, and we had to do it together.

Our focus was on working together to ensure that the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean would:

- *have the capability to act on its own behalf;*
- *have the capability to develop and carry out projects;*
- *be able to effectively defend the interests of a territory with a population of 14 million;*
- *be recognised by actors and citizens in its four constituent regions and autonomous communities;*
- *be recognised by European institutions as an integrated entity, strengthening cooperation.*

There is still a lot of work to do, and we need to continue building every day, but after four years we can now make an initial assessment.

The Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC has carried out numerous projects, including calls related to sustainable development, higher education and

culture; and two European projects that bring together actors from within the Euroregion territory have been carried out thanks to the EGTC, making it possible to leverage EU funds to benefit the economic fabric. Thanks to one of these projects, the EGTC received the first European award for the best EGTC, given by the institutions of the European Union and presented by the Committee of the Regions.

We have created a significant number of communication tools, and our EGTC is one of the most visible and active of the 30 that currently exist.

At a time of economic and financial crisis, when globalisation is ongoing and European regional policies are changing, integrated cooperation at the regional level is of paramount importance. We need to continue building, to structure our territory, to find a common voice – on issues like transport networks and innovation, for example – in order to ensure that the Euroregion continues to develop and becomes one of the most attractive territories in south-western Europe.

**Philippe Mestre,
Director of the
Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC**

Midi-Pyrénées

● Toulouse

● Montpellier

**Languedoc-
Roussillon**

Catalonia

● Barcelona

● Palma

Balearic Islands



1

**A SINGLE, INTEGRATED
STRUCTURE FOR THE
EUROREGION
PYRENEES-
MEDITERRANEAN**

1.1. HISTORY

The Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean, established on 29 October 2004, is a political cooperation project between Aragon, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Languedoc-Roussillon and Midi-Pyrénées.

In May 2006, Aragon suspended its participation in the work of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean, but Aragonese structures continue to take part in Euroregional civil society networks.

The common goal was to create a pole of sustainable development in the northwest of the Mediterranean, based on innovation and on social and economic integration of the territory, and to contribute to building a united, solidarity-based Europe that is close to its citizens.

The aim is for the EGTC to assert itself as a territory for European projects, to act as an advocate for projects that are essential for balanced, sustainable development, speaking with a single voice, to improve our international competitiveness through people-focused actions, and to become a pole of innovation and growth thanks to existing links between our technology, science and cultural centres.

The Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean has adopted the legal form of a European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) to govern its functioning

2008

- Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai
- Ister Granum
- Galicia-Norte de Portugal
- Amphictyony / AMØIKTYONIA / Anfizionia

2009

- UTTS
- Karst Bodva
- Duero - Douro
- West-Vlaanderen / Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale
- Eurorégion Pyrénées-Méditerranée / Euroregión Pirineos Mediterráneo / Euroregió Pirineus Mediterrània

2010

- Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau / Eurodistrikts Strasbourg-Ortenau
- ZASNET
- Hôpital Transfrontaier de la Cerdagne / Hospital Transfrontarier de la Cerdanya
- INTERREG Programme Grande Région
- Eurodistrict Saarmoselle / Eurodistrict Saarmoselle
- Abaúj az Abaújban
- Pons Danubii

2011

- ArchiMed
- Bánát-Triplex Confinium
- Arrabona
- Linieland van Waas en Hulst
- Euroregion Tirol - Alto Adige - Trentino
- Gorizia - Nova Gorica - Sempeter - Vrtojba
- Espai Portalet
- Pirineus - Cerdanya
- Rába - Duna - Vág
- Eurorégion Aquitaine - Euskadi

1.2. 1.2. THE EUROPEAN GROUPING FOR TERRITORIAL COOPERATION (EGTC)



The European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) is a European instrument designed to facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. EGTCs were established to help implement projects co-financed by the European Union and actions initiated by regional or local authorities, with or without Community funding.

The Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean has adopted the legal form of a European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) to govern its functioning. The Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC, which was set up in August 2009 and began to operate in 2010, enables the Euroregion to achieve its objectives, particularly in terms of eco-

nomic, social and territorial cohesion. The EGTC is a European legal instrument that gives the Euroregion legal personality so that it can act on its own behalf.

Following its establishment, the Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC put together a technical team to staff its offices in Toulouse (headquarters), Barcelona (general secretariat) and Brussels. This permanent structure has enabled the EGTC to lead projects such as CreaMed (a network of business incubators) and launch calls aimed at civil society, which have made it possible to award grants to fund Euroregional projects in areas such as higher education, culture and sustainable development.

1.3. ORGANISATION

The Euroregion operates based on a rotating 18-month presidency. In consultation with its partners, the region that holds the presidency seeks to ensure the political momentum of the Euroregion.



Presidency handover in October 2012: Vice-president of Languedoc-Roussillon, Jean-Claude Gayssot, President of the Generalitat of Catalonia, Artur Mas, President of Midi-Pyrénées, Martin Malvy and the Balearic Islands President, José Ramón Bauzá.



General assembly in September 2011 in Barcelona.

1.3.1. General assembly

The General assembly sets general policy guidelines for the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean. Its role is to seek consensus among the partner regions, launch specific projects and provide the means to carry them out, and engage in lobbying. The members of the General Assembly are the presidents of each of the member regions, and the body is chaired by the EGTC's current president. Each president appoints a substitute. The secretary general and the director participate in the assembly in an advisory capacity.

The General assembly, the main body of the EGTC, meets an average of four times a year. Since 2010, meetings of the General Assembly have been convened to adopt resolutions related to the EGTC's day-to-day operation (approval of the budget, work plan, project implementation, recruitment, administrative acts, delegation of signature, calls, etc.).

Over the last four years, the assembly has adopted 105 resolutions, supplemented by 72 decrees.

Two advisory bodies operate in parallel with the General Assembly and support the functioning of the EGTC:

- the "G4", a purely political body composed of representatives of the presidents, responsible for preparing meetings of the presidents and the General assembly.
- and sectoral committees, which issue opinions on texts and projects submitted for consideration. Sectoral committees have met on 17 occasions since 2010.

4 YEARS

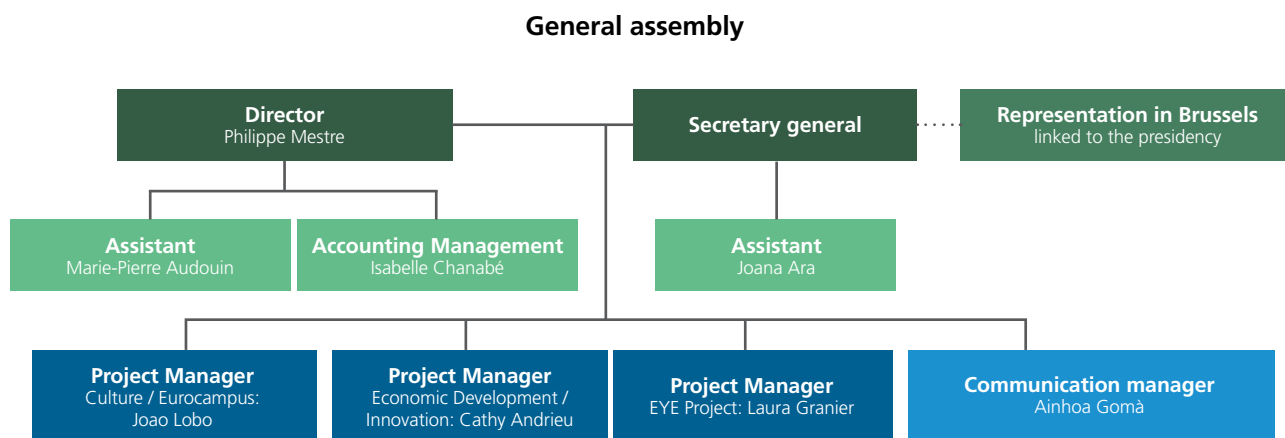
105
resolutions

72
decrees

SECTORAL COMMITTEES	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 (Until April 2014)	TOTAL
CULTURE	2	2	2	2		8
ENVIRONMENT			1	2		3
EURO CAMPUS	1		1	1	1	4
INNOVATION				1	1	2
TOTAL						17

1.3.2. Team

The Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC currently has a staff of 9 people (3 in Barcelona and 6 in Toulouse), as well as offices and IT resources.



Toulouse: technical and administrative headquarters

The main mission of the technical and administrative headquarters is to ensure the smooth operation of the EGTC in terms of administration, budgets, finance, accounting and human resources management.

A series of steps have been taken to set up an accounting system that meets the requirements of French public regulation.

This involved selecting an IT service provider specialising in public accounting in order to take the steps necessary to pay employee salaries, incur expenses, edit orders, and pay social security and employer's contributions. Numerous meetings had to be held with the Public Treasury in order to ensure that the legal structure (with locations in three different countries) could function in full compliance with financial legislation, budgetary rules, and the legal system for public procurement.

The EGTC has had to "register" about a hundred permanent or temporary third-party entities, including a travel agency, social agencies, a pension fund, employees and various service providers.

As for human resources management, it has been necessary to take a series of actions, such as joining the Centre de Gestion de la Fonction Publique Territoriale [Regional Civil Service Management Centre], in order to:

- manage the careers of civil servants;
- have access to preventive and occupational medicine services;
- have access to professional training.

Other instruments and forms have also been set up to deal with a range of matters, such as service orders, handling of travel expenses, reimbursement of expenses incurred, booking flights and hotel accommodation, etc.

The EGTC's headquarters is located on premises provided by the Midi-Pyrénées region.

Toulouse

Philippe Mestre

Director of the EGTC

João Lobo

Project manager for culture and the Eurocampus (Angélique Pinon, nov 2010 - nov. 2012)

Cathy Andrieu

Project manager for innovation

Marie-Pierre Audouin

Executive assistant

Isabelle Chanabé

Accounting assistant

A project manager for European projects

*Elisabet Roges
Nov. 2012 - March 2013) Laura Granier
(April 2013 – april 2014)*

Barcelona

The Euroregion's secretary general

*Antònia Sabartés,
(Sept. 2009 - April 2014)*

Ainhoa Gomà

Communication manager

Joana Ara

*Assistant to the
secretary general*

Barcelona: general secretariat, political representation and communication

The role of the secretary general is to provide support to the current president. By delegation of the president, the secretary general carries out tasks related to communication and lobbying of regional, national and Community institutions. He implements the decisions of the General Assembly and the Coordination Group and is also responsible for establishing and maintaining contacts with other EGTCs.

The secretary general is assisted in his functions by Ainhoa Gomà, the communication manager for the Euroregion and the EGTC.

The main responsibilities of the communication manager are the redesign of the Euroregion website, monitoring of the Eurocampus portal, and the conception and design of brochures on the Euroregion.

From the beginning, the EGTC has also had the help of interns: Pierre Hullin, Romain Pagnoux, Ismael Flores Angelique Krustek, Lucie Garcia, Maeva Mongaillard, Julia Chupot, Sarah Mendez Diatta, Elisa Duthil, Rachel Mekhalfi, Laurie Lavios, Guillermo Velasco and Núria Perez.

Brussels

Representative of the Euroregion in Brussels

*Mathieu Hinceval
(April 2010- April 2013)*

Brussels: representation to the European Union

The primary role of the Euroregion representative in Brussels is to act on behalf of the four member regions to ensure the visibility of the Euroregion and its EGTC in dealings with European institutions and actors involved in EU Cohesion Policy. Being in Brussels enables the Euroregion's representative to maintain close relations with these actors.

In short, the representative acts as an effective intermediary for the Euroregion and its constituent regions in the context of current EU institutional developments and in relation to matters of direct interest.

Since May 2013, the Euroregion's representation in Brussels has been handled by the office of the region that currently holds the presidency.



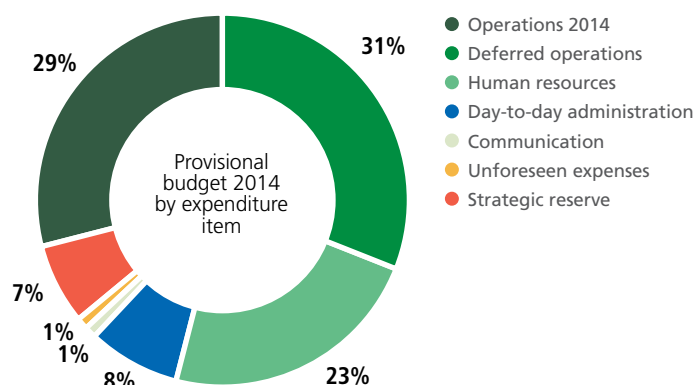
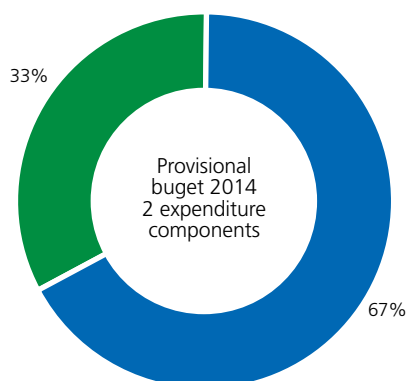
The Euroregion team in 2012 in Barcelona: João Lobo, Antònia Sabartés, Marie- Pierre Audouin, Philippe Mestre, Joana Ara, Mathieu Hinceval, Ainhoa Gomà, Angélique Pinon and Cathy Andrieu.

1.4. BUDGET

The EGTC's budget is funded by mandatory financial contributions from its member regions. The budget, which is voted on annually, is subject to French law and is supervised by the Regional Chamber of Accounts.

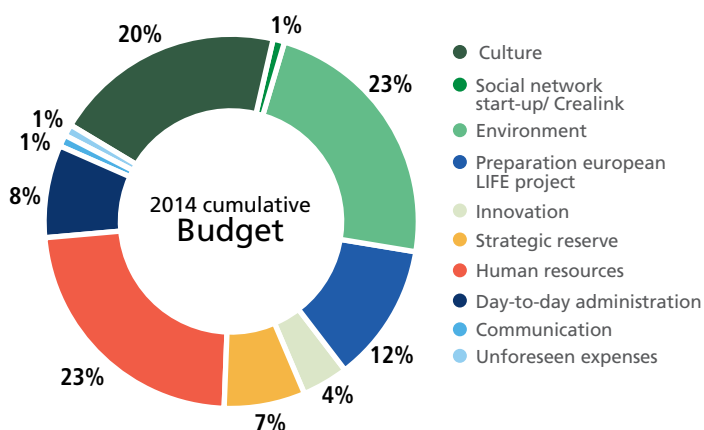
It has two main components:

- a component corresponding to the running of the EGTC (staff costs, expenditures for day-to-day administration, communication, etc.), and
- an "operations" component, which corresponds to costs associated with the design of projects and provision of grants in sectors such as higher education, research, sustainable development and culture.



2014 CUMULATIVE BUDGET, INCLUDING ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2012 & 2013 (de 598.025,39 €)

HUMAN RESOURCES	437.700,00
DAY-TO-DAY ADMINISTRATION	156.924,08
COMMUNICATION	25.000,00
UNFORESEEN EXPENSES	10.000,00
SUBTOTAL – RUNNING COSTS	629.624,08 €
CULTURE (incl. actions undertaken in N-1 & N-2)	381.500,00
SOCIAL NETWORK START-UP / CREALINK PROJECT	10.000,00
SUST. DEVELOPMENT/ ENVIRONMENT (incl. actions undertaken in N-1 & N-2)	386.525,39
PREP. EUROPEAN LIFE PROJECT	15.749,24
EUROPEAN LIFE PROJECT	43.000,00
HIGHER EDUCATION – EUROCAMPUS – RESEARCH (incl. actions undertaken in N-1 & N-2)	237.000,00
INNOVATION	78.600,00
STRATEGIC RESERVE	137.854,60
SUBTOTAL OPERATIONS (CURRENT YEAR & UNDER- TAKEN/CARRIED FORWARD)	1.290.229,23 €
TRANSITORY ITEMS	4.107,24
TOTAL	1.923.960,55 €



2014 BUDGET 2014 OPERATIONS

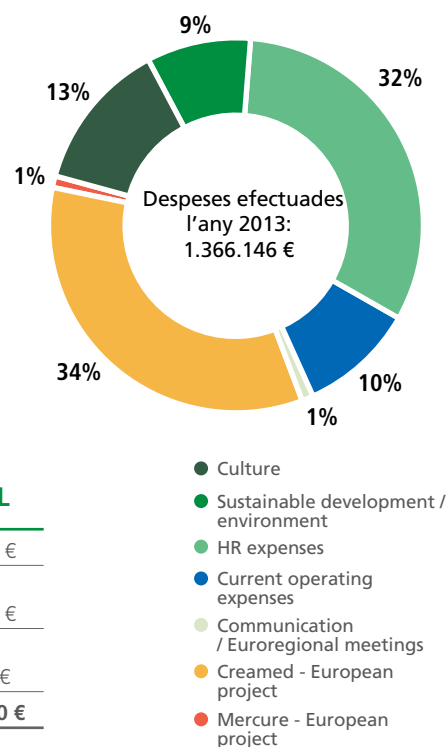
HUMAN RESOURCES	437.700,00
DAY-TO-DAY ADMINISTRATION	156.924,08
COMMUNICATION	25.000,00
UNFORESEEN EXPENSES	10.000,00
SUBTOTAL – RUNNING COSTS	629.624,08 €
CULTURE	100.000,00
STRATEGIC RESERVE	137.854,60
SUBTOTAL OPERATIVITAT	692.203,84 €
TRANSITORY ITEMS	4.107,24
TOTAL	1.325.935,16 €

TOTAL BUDGET 2014
1.923.960,55 €

Grants awarded to public and private bodies since 2010 by agreement of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC:

Euroregional conferences	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL
Youth and sport	5.000 €	5.000 €	5.000 €	15.000 €
Ict rdi and health	5.000 €	5.000 €	5.000 €	15.000 €
ehealth	5.000 €	5.000 €	5.000 €	15.000 €
TOTAL				45.000 €

Calls for projects	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
Culture	240.000 €	240.000 €	235.000 €	115.000 €	830.000 €
Sustainable development / environment		78.300 €	197.050 €		275.350 €
Eurocampus / higher education			50.000 €		50.000 €
TOTAL					1.155.350 €



1.5. COMMUNICATION



1.5.1. Online communication

The EGTC has a range of communication tools at its disposal to promote the image of the Euroregion among actors in the territory, the population of member regions, and European partners.

Website of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean: <http://www.euroregio.eu/>

www.euroregio.eu

After the EGTC was set up, there was a key communication tool that needed a major overhaul: the website of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean. In 2010–2011, the euroregio.eu site was completely redesigned. The new website focuses on facilitating rapid access to the various sections and services by means of an open-source content management system that is modern and easy-to-use.

The site is continually updated and monitored to detect any anomalies (broken links, page errors, bugs, etc.). Studies of overall quality are carried out, navigation is analysed, common web standards are respected, and the site is optimised for search engine placement.

The website seeks to provide rapid access to sections and services, presenting information in a structured, hierarchical way, and using distinct visual blocks for major features and points of entry to specific sections: training, news, online requests, etc. The site also encourages exchanges and shared use via social networks by providing Facebook and Twitter links. Integration of social media like Facebook and Twitter in the site reflects their role as the digital foundation of a community. Finally, the “activities” section provides access to a chronological record of EGTC events.

The site is made with Drupal, a free, open-source content management system (CMS) that is used to manage updating of content. It is a multilingual site in three languages: Catalan,

Spanish and French – and the language shown is determined based on the user's browser configuration.

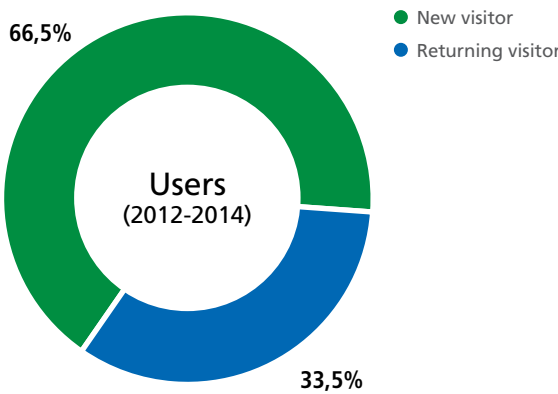
If necessary, the administration interface is accessible to members of the Euroregion, who also manage the rights of external users.

To optimise the positioning of each page, the site optimises the HTML code and has a structure (tree structure and ergonomic design) designed to boost its performance (meta description, headers, images and management of links, URLs and rewrite rules, etc.).

Statistics

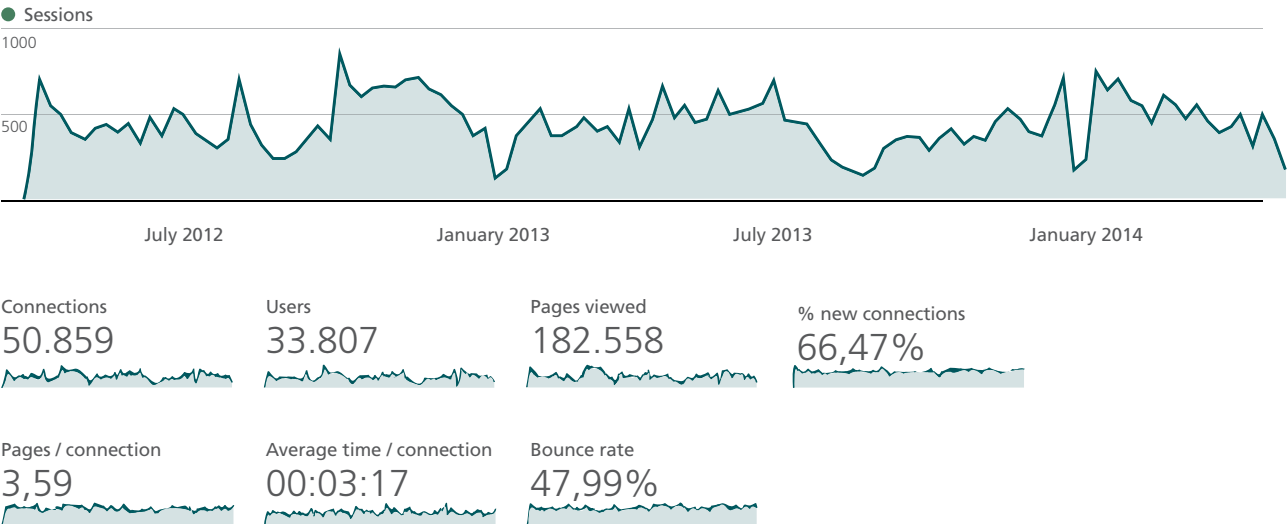
The statistical tool used is Google Analytics. Analytics is the best tool to track and monitor intensity of traffic. The platform offers many advantages, including a custom dashboard and analysis of traffic by visitor, traffic source, content, objectives and other factors.

Since the website was redesigned, it has been used by 50 859 people, each of whom visited more than 3.5 pages, for a total of over 180 000 page views. As expected, the main countries of origin of visitors were France and Spain, and the most frequently used languages are French, Catalan and Spanish. The most visited pages are the home page (in all languages) and the pages that provide information on calls, funding and grants.



Origin

Country	Sessions
France	24.679
Spain	20.244
Belgium	1.222
Germany	911
Italy	345
United States	311
United Kingdom	244
Romania	159
Portugal	134
Canada	126

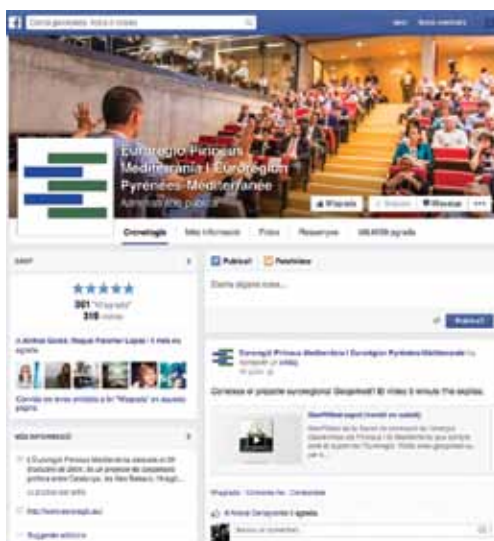


365

'likes' on
Facebook

484

followers on
Twitter



Social media

The Euroregion's Twitter account has 441 followers. Over 670 tweets have been sent to date (as of April 2014). The Euroregion's Facebook account has received 337 likes or subscribers (as of April 2014). The Euroregion also has an account on LinkedIn, the social network for professionals.

Newsletter

Since October 2012 the Euroregion has published a bimonthly digital newsletter (in Catalan and French) that is sent to a network of over a thousand individuals and entities linked to the Euroregion, including collaborators, MEPs and journalists. Over fifty new addresses are added to the distribution list each month.



Flickr, LinkedIn and Wikipedia

The Euroregion has also created an image bank on its Flickr account, appears on many Wikipedia pages in various languages, has a page on LinkedIn, and appears on Google Maps.

Networks

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/Euroregion/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/euroregion>

Flickr

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/euroregion/>

1.5.2. Institutional communication

The Euroregion's institutional communication is aimed at carrying out a series of actions to promote its image within the member regions, and among partners and the general population. In 2010 the Euroregion had only a logo and a simple web page. Since then, a number of innovative communication materials have been developed:

- A brochure, in Catalan, French, Spanish and English that serves as our calling card. The brochure was produced to offer an overview of the organisation and is designed to remain useful for a number of years. In 2013 the document was updated to include projects such as CreaMed.
- The Euroregion has produced roll-ups (easily transportable roll-up posters) in four languages to enhance its communication efforts, especially at trade fairs, exhibitions and other events. The Catalan and Spanish versions are kept at our offices in Barcelona, the four in French at the office in Toulouse, and the four English-language roll-ups in Brussels.
- The Euroregion has also produced other promotional items, including pens, pencils and a bag, as well as brochures and flyers on projects such as CreaMed and the Eurocampus.

1.5.3. Media

Communication with various media in the Euroregion is constant and particularly intense when there is a change of presidency, at which time the presidents of the member regions are on hand. The Euroregion's database contains over a thousand contacts, and press releases are published in Catalan and French, as well as Spanish and English in many cases. Since 2011 we have achieved over 350 press/journal impacts.

Els reculls de premsa de l'Euroregió estan disponibles a: <http://www.euroregio.eu/ca/premsa/reculls-de-premsa>

1.5.4. Image and internal communication

An organisation like the Euroregion that straddles two countries requires an effective system for coordinating and sending documents. We have used tools like WeTransfer and Dropbox, as well as employing a platform for quickly sharing documents without sending large files by email (by creating links on our web servers). In addition, to streamline communication employees of the Euroregion have Skype accounts, which are used for brief messages and sending small files.

420

press and
media impacts

1300

contacts
in database



Balearic Islands President, José Ramón Bauzá, answering questions from journalists.

1.6. LOBBYING AND INFLUENCE

1.6.1. Presence in European institutions

The Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC participated in a joint stand on the EGTC's achievements, which was organised by the Committee of the Regions to present Euroregional projects and strategies. The representative of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean ensured that the stand was staffed on Open Days. The event was marked by the official opening of the exhibition in the presence of Mr Johannes Hahn, EU Regional Policy Commissioner, Mr Janez Potočnik, EU Environment Commissioner, Ms Mercedes Bresso, president of the Committee of the Regions in Brussels, and Ms Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, MEP.

The Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC is a member of the EGTC platform, headed by the Committee of the Regions, and the EGTC Expert Group.

1.6.2. Joint declarations and contributions

In the four years it has been active, the Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC has issued many joint statements on a range of issues. For the Euroregion and its EGTC, the key goal in this context is to contribute to current debates on the definition of future EU Cohesion Policy.

Among other matters, the Euroregion contributed to the consultation on the European Commission's 5th Report on Economic, Social and Ter-



EGTC director, Philippe Mestre, at Committee of Regions in Brussels.

ritorial Cohesion (2010) and called for European institutions to make the Mediterranean Corridor a priority (2012). All joint statements are available on the Euroregion's website: <http://www.euroregion.eu/fr/documentations/declarations-communes>.

The Euroregion has also carried out many actions to position itself at the heart of the Mediterranean dialogue. The secretary general of the Euroregion worked with the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) to co-organise political meetings aimed at establishing links and launching a dialogue with the institutions responsible for relations with the Mediterranean region (October 2009). The secretary general has also taken part in various meetings, including the inaugu-



The Euroregion gathered in Brussels its Member of the European Parliament in October 2012.

ral meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM – January 2010), the concluding seminar of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA – March 2010), and the seminar on macro-regions organised by the region of Sicily and Archimed in Taormina (November 2010).

1.6.3. Participation in Open Days

Each year, the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy organise Open Days, an event held in Brussels that focuses on regions and cities. The event provides an opportunity for participants to exchange experiences and good practices in relation to implementation of EU Cohesion Policy.

It is important for the Euroregion to take part in this event and promote the role of EGTCs in Cohesion Policy. Moreover, as the first EGTC made up of regions, the participation of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean allows other EGTCs to benefit from its experience.

The Euroregion took part in the 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 editions of the Open Days, along with the member regions of the Alps-Mediterranean Euroregion and the regions of Malopolska, Poland (2009) and South Transdanubia, Hungary (2010). Many political leaders from the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean, as well as the secretary general of the Euroregion and the director of the EGTC, took part in these two editions of the event.



The Euroregion took part in the 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 editions of the Open Days, along with the member regions of the Alps-Mediterranean Euroregion and the regions of Malopolska, Poland (2009) and South Transdanubia, Hungary (2010).



1.6.4. EGTC award for Europe's best territorial cooperation structure of the year

On 18 February 2014, at the annual conference of the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions, the EGTC was presented with the first European "Building Europe across Borders" award, in recognition of the results and achievements of the CreaMed project. The award recognises the Euroregion as the best structure for European territorial cooperation of the year.

The Committee of the Regions and others, including members of the European Parliament and the European Commission, recognised, in particular, the added value of the Euroregional project known as CreaMed, which has created a network linking young entrepreneurs in Languedoc-Roussillon, Midi-Pyrénées, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands.

The EGTC was presented with the first European "Building Europe across Borders" award

On 18 February 2014, the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions, the EGTC was presented with the first European "Building Europe across Borders" award: Secretary General, Antònia Sabartés, and EGTC director receive the award in Brussels.



2

LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PROJECTS

2.1. CREAMED: A EUROREGIONAL NETWORK OF BUSINESS INCUBATORS

CreaMed, an INTERREG IVB SUDOE project that ran from November 2010 to June 2013, was launched with the aim of structuring the Euroregion territory by organising existing regional support systems for enterprise creation and development in a coherent, coordinated way.

The survival rate of companies that receive professional support is significantly higher than average. Contributing to the development and dynamism of our economic fabric is a priority for the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean.

The CreaMed project was aimed at creating a network of business incubators to stimulate innovation and encourage exchanges between young companies and complementarities in the approach to supporting business incubation and development, particularly on an international scale.

2.1.1. Partnership

CreaMed benefited from a complementary Euro-regional partnership in which the four constituent regions and autonomous communities were represented.

- **Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC**, the project leader.
- **Government of Catalonia**, Directorate-General for the Economy and Business Creation, Ministry for Business and Labour.
- **REZOPEP**, the Midi-Pyrénées Business Incubator Network, which includes 20 incubators and is accountable to the Regional Council of Midi-Pyrénées.
- **SYNERSUD**, an association accountable to the Regional Council of Languedoc-Roussillon, made up of 19 support structures for the creation and development of innovative businesses in Languedoc-Roussillon.
- **ParcBIT**, the technological innovation park of the Balearic Islands, which is accountable to the Government of the Balearic Islands and aims to create a favourable environment for business incubation and creation.
- **Midi-Pyrénées Expansion**, the economic development agency of the Midi-Pyrénées region, which joined the partnership in October 2011.

2.1.2. The specific, coordinating role of the EGTC

CreaMed is the first project carried out by the EGTC, within the framework of a European programme, in which the organisation acted as project leader. As a result of the project, the Euroregion became the first EGTC made up exclusively of regions to receive co-financing from the European Union (ERDF funds).

The EGTC actively participated in the design, drafting and submission of the CreaMed project within the framework of the SUDOE Territorial Cooperation Programme. This involved holding a number of preparatory meetings with the selected partners to define the work plan. The EGTC also covered the cost of engaging an adviser (Bruno Pacheco, Territoire et Conseils), who facilitated the preparation of the application dossier in time to meet a very tight deadline.

The design of the project required several meetings of the partners involved:

- September 2009, Palma de Mallorca: get-acquainted meeting
- January 2010, Barcelona: first working meeting to define the project
- February, March and April 2010, Perpignan: working meetings related to project actions, the budget, planning, and final preparation of the application dossier
- December 2010, Barcelona: working meeting to incorporate changes based on input from the managing authority of the SUDOE programme.



1.477.249 €

Total approved budget for the project

1.107.937 €

Total amount of ERDF aid provided



Euroregió Pirineus Mediterrània
Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée
Euroregión Pirineos Mediterráneo



2.1.3. Key dates



2.1.4. CreaMed project actions carried out – aimed at incubators, project managers and companies

Structuring the CREAMED network to improve efficiency:

Objectives

- Create a directory of contacts for the territories
- Encourage exchanges between members

Actions

- Develop a territorial assessment of the Euro-region: figures and key sectors
- Create online tools: CreaMed social network
- Take part in international business fairs
- Distinguish the incubators in the CreaMed network with a brand identity
- Language courses for network members

Facilitate development of young companies:

Objectives

- Develop tools to improve the competitiveness of businesses
- Make companies more aware of the cross-border market
- Organise, develop and promote cooperation between companies

Actions

- Develop a Business Passport: "Euroregion: Your First Step towards Internationalisation"
- Develop an interregional programme for the integration of student interns
- Organise "Bizeuroregio", the Euroregional business convention



Improve performance of network members:

Objectives

- Develop an exchange network to link support structures
- Create common business support services

Actions

- Training for incubator directors and business managers
- Exchange forums for directors and business managers
- Professional immersion stays
- Create a good practices guide for incubators



2.1.5. Objectives achieved

Over an implementation phase spanning two and a half years, and based on a very ambitious programme, the CreaMed project made it possible to achieve 12 of the 14 planned actions, with the following results:

STRUCTURING THE NETWORK

1 territorial assessment of the Euroregion; 800 copies produced (in Catalan, French and Spanish)
1 professional social network ("Crealink") for incubators and incubated companies
1 directory of incubators that belong to the network (on the CreaMed website)
12 participating companies at the Pollutec international exhibition in November 2012, with a dedicated stand for CreaMed
Participation of the CreaMed network in 2 business creation fairs (12th business creation forum, Biz Barcelona 2011)
43 participants in language training (Catalan, French and Spanish)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORK MEMBERS

65 participants in 5 face-to-face courses (1 in LR, 1 in MP, 1 in the BI, and 2 in CAT)
185 participants in 11 online training sessions using the Moodle CreaMed platform
148 participants in 3 forums for directors and business managers (Barcelona, June 2011; Montpellier, November 2011; and Palma, June 2013)
20 professional immersion stays completed
20 exemplary incubator initiatives highlighted in a good practices manual

BUSINESS SUPPORT

2000 CD-ROM "Business Passports" in three languages + facilitator's guide
2 stays at incubated companies belonging to the network
1 business convention

Meeting of the
Creamed Project.



Only two actions could not be carried out:

- Integration of researchers in companies. This action required extensive preparation, and there was not enough time to carry it out. If properly implemented, the action could be the focus of a standalone project.
- Giving impetus to Crealink as a tool for monitoring and seeking out new business opportunities. Crealink was completed very late (spring 2013), and we did not have time to fully implement its functions. Further steps will need to be taken in the coming months to develop these functions in view of the strong interest among stakeholders in this potentially very useful tool.

Bizeuroregio: the high point of CreaMed

The first business convention organised by the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean was held on 16–17 April 2013 at the Pierre Baudis Congress Centre in Toulouse. The convention had one simple aim: to stimulate and assist young companies in the CreaMed network to launch internationally by taking their first steps within the "secured" territory of the Euroregion.

BIZEUROREGIO IN FIGURES:

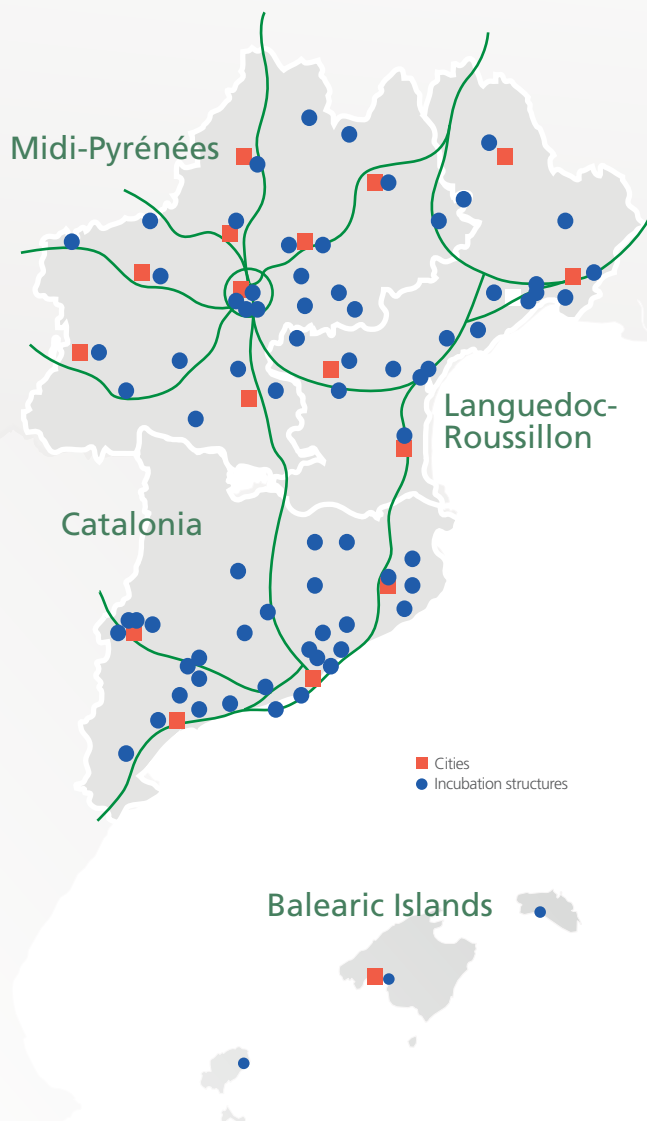
172 participants from 58 incubated companies
24 exhibitors
4 workshops on international expansion
36 scheduled B2B meetings and 34 impromptu meetings
Presentation of 29 companies (elevator pitches)
Presentation of 4 CreaMed trophies
46 press reports



Politicians at the Biz Euroregio Meeting



Winners of the CreaMed awards: Akinao (Languedoc-Roussillon), Bismart Business intelligence specialist services (Catalonia), MG tech (Balearic Islands) and Wimha (Midi-Pyrénées).



A dynamic network of incubators that currently encompasses 89 support structures

89 support and business incubation structures (100 locations):

- 19 structures in **Languedoc-Roussillon**
- 20 structures in **Midi-Pyrénées** (27 locations)
- 49 structures in **Catalonia**
- 1 structure in the **Balearic Islands** (5 locations)

Support provided for over 1 400 innovation-oriented firms in a range of sectors:

biotechnology/health, ICT, space and onboard systems, renewable energies, agro-industries, tourism, trade, electronics, mechanics...



The first business convention organised by the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean was held on 16–17 april 2013 at the Pierre Baudis Congress Centre in Toulouse.

An effective approach to communication-promotion

We have used various forms of communication to publicise the CreaMed network among users and the broader public.

- Development of a map graphic
- Production of promotional tools
- Website
- Presentation of CreaMed to European bodies
- Publication and dissemination of information brochures
- Numerous press articles on CreaMed actions
- Specific Bizeuroregion communication: website and flyer

The EGTC: a versatile conductor

In addition to performing the tasks inherent to its role as the leader of a European project – giving impetus to the project, monitoring, and administrative, technical and financial coordination (organisation of the monitoring committee, meetings, launch and closing seminars, information links with partners, changes to the project, certification of expenses, payment requests, and feeding the website) – the EGTC, in close collaboration with its partners, has been actively involved in carrying out operational actions, particularly in relation to the activities for which it has assumed financial responsibility (development of the website, online training programme, organisation of the business convention, and the launch of the programme to provide grants for integration of student interns in companies in the network).

The EGTC will continue to carry forward the work initiated, particularly with respect to promotion of the tools created and further development of the website and Crealink, and the EGTC partners will also ensure the dissemination of CreaMed tools among their beneficiaries and continue the work undertaken in relation to the incubator network and internationalisation of companies.

It should also be noted that the project has made it possible to hire two project managers (Cathy Andrieu, CreaMed project manager, and Laura Granier, CreaMed project manager during the period when Cathy Andrieu was on maternity leave, from October 2012 to March 2013).

Financial analysis

Overall budget implementation for the project:

The project has achieved a budget implementation rate of 82.30%. This is clearly a satisfactory rate that is in line with the average implementation rate for European Interreg IVB SUDOE projects. The average implementation rate for the project was 76.57%. Implementation rates ranged from 95% for the EGTC to 46% in the case of REZOPEP, which had to deal with liquidity problems (Synersu: 79%; MPE: 90%; GENCAT: 81%; ParcBit: 66%).

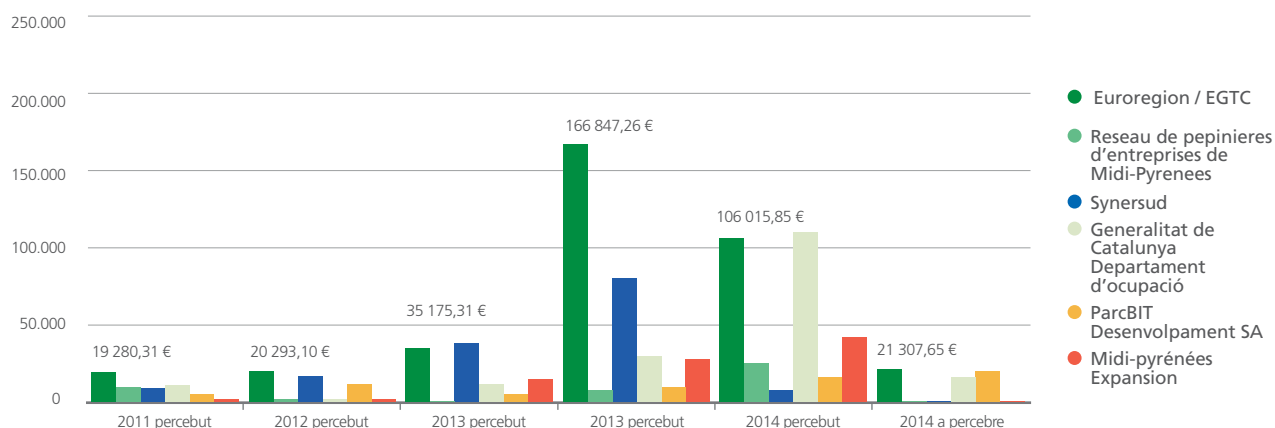
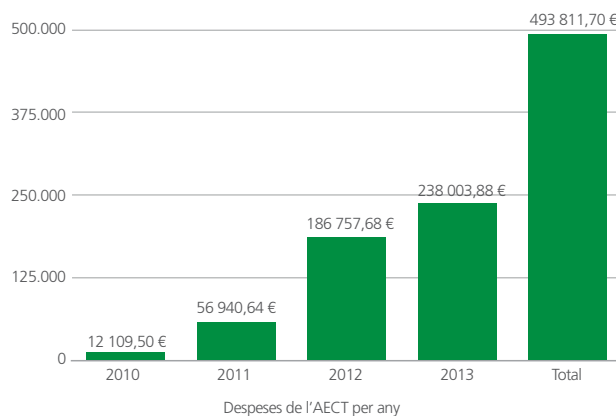
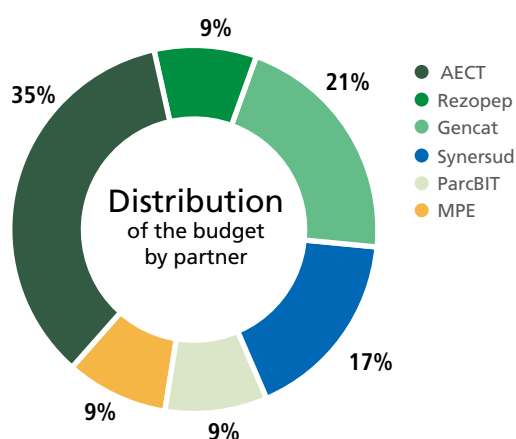
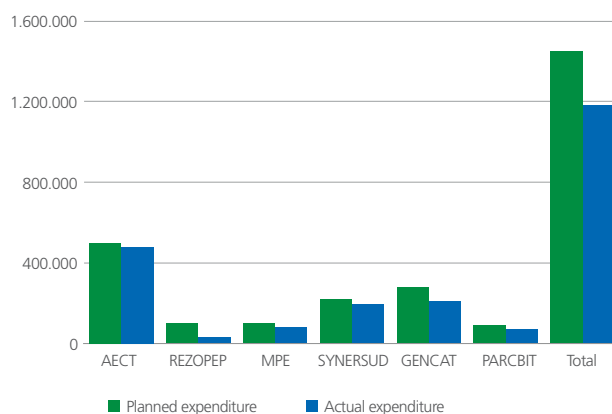
Budget implementation for the project by year:

The Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC was allocated 35% of the total budget for the project (€514 141.64). Reported cumulative expenditure totalled €491 166.84, corresponding to an implementation rate of 95.53%. The EGTC will therefore receive ERDF aid totalling €368 941.36 for carrying out project activities (95.68% of the grant awarded).

Specifically, the ERDF will have provided €101 714 to cover staff costs, that is, 14% of total HR expenditure (including all costs) for the project period (January 2011 – June 2013).

ERDF aid received for distribution among partners:

In addition to the funds already provided, the EGTC will receive a further €21 307 from the ERDF for operations carried out under the project. This outstanding amount is due to long delays in reimbursement and the fact that the EGTC's significant expenditures were incurred at the end of 2012 and in 2013.



A project that has achieved its objectives

The EGTC has conducted an assessment of the project with the assistance of a consultancy firm (BPC Europe). The assessment was aimed at measuring the results of the project and assessing its impact on strategic targets (incubators and incubated companies), as well as laying the groundwork for any follow-up on the actions carried out.

Conclusions of the assessment:

- The EGTC has demonstrated its expertise in the management and coordination of European projects and has full legitimacy to coordinate new actions and carry out new projects.
- The partners involved are very satisfied with the project results, particularly bearing in mind the ambitious action plan, and all of them wish to pursue further cooperation.
- A major challenge is to promote and give impetus to Crealink as a cooperative tool for exchange, analysis, and seeking out new business opportunities, so that it becomes an effective support tool that harnesses the full potential of the network created.
- We have observed a shared desire to maintain the network actions for incubators (forums and training).
- In any future actions it would be advisable to clearly define the type of companies in advance. For young companies in the Euroregion territory, the priority issues to tackle are development at the international level, cooperation between companies, financing solutions and market access.
- We see a real opportunity to leverage CreaMed activities among actors who share the same problems in Europe (thus increasing the impact of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean on economic development).

In terms of economic development, in the coming months, the EGTC will endeavour to define ideas for related projects that may be undertaken in the future – studying their feasibility, identifying relevant operators, and meeting with CreaMed project partners – with the aim of being able to co-finance such initiatives in the 2014–2020 European programming period.

First European “Building Europe across Borders” award



On 18 February 2014, at the annual conference of the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions, the EGTC was presented with the first European “Building Europe across Borders” award in recognition of the results and achievements of the CreaMed project. The award is intended to raise the profile of EGTC actions aimed at delivering growth and jobs.

2.2. MERCURE

2.2.1. Mercure: supporting entrepreneurship through sharing of experiences

The Mercure project is part of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE) programme developed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry.

The main objective of the Mercure project was to promote entrepreneurship by enabling the mobility of young entrepreneurs, the exchange of knowledge between experienced and young entrepreneurs, and the development of international professional networks.

More specifically, the project was designed to stimulate innovation, position the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean – an existing and economically attractive space for cooperation – in a broader European economic context, and strengthen economic partnerships between the Euroregion and other regions and countries of Europe.

2.2.2. A partnership of experts on support for business development

In its role as coordinator-leader of the Mercure project, the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean has built a strong consortium of relevant partners to ensure effective implementation of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme in its territory.

The following Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean partners, all members of the Enterprise Europe Network, were involved in the project:

- Midi-Pyrénées Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Languedoc-Roussillon Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Barcelona Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Catalonia)
- Centre Balears Europa (Balearic Islands)

2.2.3. Objectius concrets i ambiciosos

The Mercure project was aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- Carry out 56 exchanges for the partnership as a whole (28 new entrepreneurs, who were to complete stays abroad, and 28 more experienced entrepreneurs to host the young entrepreneurs in their companies);

The Mercure project promotes entrepreneurship by enabling the mobility of young entrepreneurs

- Deliver results and good practices that can be leveraged and are transferable in EU territory;
- Carry out structuring actions that favour Euroregional entrepreneurship and enhance the attractiveness of the territory;
- Facilitate the international development of SOHOs and SMEs based in the Euroregion.

2.2.4. The coordinating role of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC

The EGTC was responsible for ensuring proper implementation of the project in the Euroregion territory and acted as a coordinator within the partnership. In addition to managing promotional actions, the EGTC implemented and monitored exchanges of entrepreneurs, coordinated the partners' involvement in the project, ensured that actions were properly carried out by each party, and represented the consortium as a single interlocutor in dealings with the European Commission.

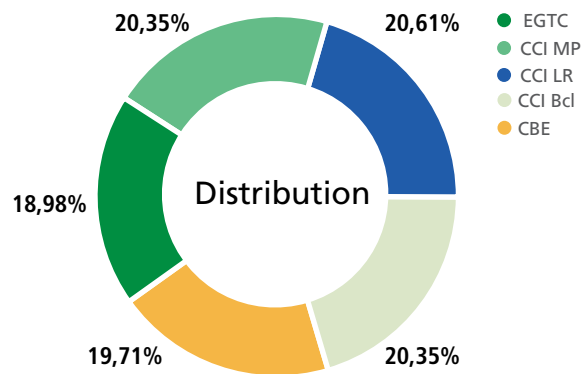
More specifically, as the point of contact between the consortium and the European Commission, the EGTC assisted the partners in the process of implementing the EYE programme in their respective territories, provided advice, validated exchanges, set the guidelines to be followed, assumed responsibility for reporting actions, and took part in network meetings organised by the European Commission.



2.2.5. Distribution of the budget

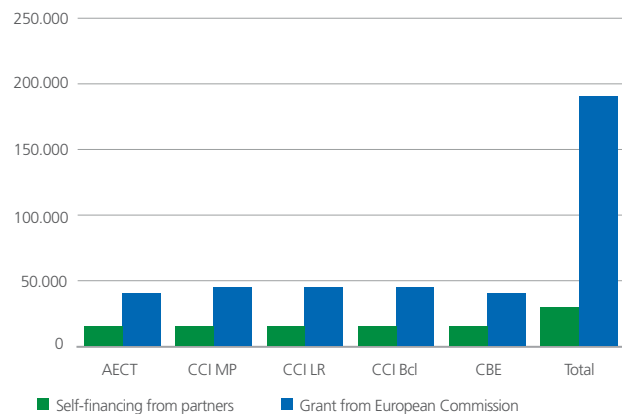
The total eligible budget of the Mercure project was €200 669.47, and the maximum amount of the grant provided by the European Commission is €169 080.80, that is, 84.26% of the eligible budget.

NB: financial aid from the European Commission cannot exceed 90% of total eligible costs for an individual project: 100% of financial aid to young entrepreneurs (grants) and 75% of project management costs.



200.669 €

of the total budget



2.2.6. Actions that deliver results

The operational implementation phase of the Mercure project ran from 1 May 2012 to 31 January 2014.

The administrative closure phase (preparation of reports on activities and final financial reports) was completed on 30 April 2014.

In short, the Mercure project mobilised our partnership over a period of 24 months.

A range of actions were carried out within the framework of the Mercure project, including, by way of example, the following:

- Promotion of the programme/project
 - Information days, participation in fairs, various presentations.
 - Communication via the website, press, newsletters.
 - Mailings, dissemination of information through partners' networks, etc.
- Identification of entrepreneurs (young entrepreneurs and host entrepreneurs)
 - Numerous applications from entrepreneurs were handled by the partnership.
- Processing of applications (analysis, validation)
 - A hundred applications from motivated entrepreneurs were validated by the partnership.
- Establishment of relationships, management of collaboration agreements, preparation and monitoring of exchanges, management, control and assessment system
 - Many contacts between entrepreneurs were established.
 - 43 exchanges took place under the project.
 - 17 new entrepreneurs and 26 host entrepreneurs in the Euroregion participated in the programme.
- Networking and reporting
 - In addition to the final report, two interim reports on implementation were sent to the European Commission.
 - The partnership participated in four network meetings in Brussels.

43
exchanges

17
new
entrepreneurs

26
host
entrepreneurs

3

**A STRUCTURE AT THE
SERVICE OF ACTORS
IN THE EUROREGION
TERRITORY**

3.1. CULTURE



3.1.1. Objectives

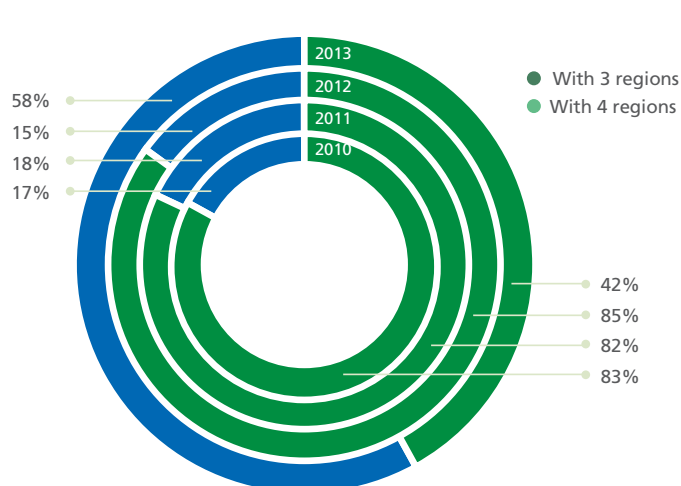
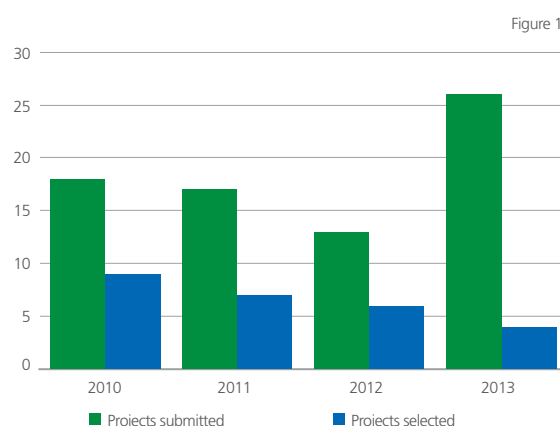
After four years of issuing separate calls for Catalonia, Languedoc-Roussillon, Midi-Pyrénées and the Balearic Islands (from 2006 to 2009), in 2010 the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean decided to take a step forward by issuing a common annual call. This call, managed entirely by the EGTC, is aimed at strengthening and expanding existing cooperation, launching new projects with the potential to have an impact in the territory, and contributing to structuring the territory. The call supports both artistic creation (live performance, contemporary art, audiovisual work, Euroregion languages, music, literature, etc.) and the development of tangible and intangible heritage. It is aimed at professional cultural organisations governed by private law, professional artists, and public-sector organisations (museums, libraries, archives, universities, orchestras, etc.) established in the Euroregion territory.

3.1.2. Interest from the sector

In four years, 74 project applications were received for Euroregional culture grants; 26 proposals were selected (i.e. slightly over a third of the projects). From 2010 to 2012, there was a slight decrease in the number of applications, but a shift occurred in 2013, when we received twice as many proposals as in the previous year (26 projects in 2013, compared to 13 in 2012; see Figure 1).

One of the requirements of the call is that projects must involve the participation of at least three of the four regions. In 2013, the guidelines for the call also stated for the first time that in choosing between applications of equal quality, priority

would be given to proposals involving organisations from the Euroregion's four member territories. This stipulation had an immediate effect: in 2012 only 15% of applications (2 of 13) involved organisations from all four regions, whereas in 2013, 58% of proposals met this criterion (15 of 26; see Figure 2).



From 2010 to 2012, the region that submitted the most proposals as project leader was Midi-Pyrénées. In 2013, for the first time, Catalonia took the lead in this regard: 12 of a total of 26 proposals were submitted by Catalan organisations (see Figure 3).

From 2010 to 2012, the amount allocated for the call ranged between €230 000 and €240 000. However, in 2013, as a result of budget constraints resulting from the economic crisis, the budget was cut by half to €115 000. At the same time, the amount of financial aid requested increased by 37%, from €746 000 to €1 million (see Figure 4).

Among the 74 projects submitted in response to the four annual calls, the most frequent thematic areas were music (17 projects), heritage (14 projects), dance (7 projects), and circus and street arts (6 projects) (see Figure 5).

Figure 3

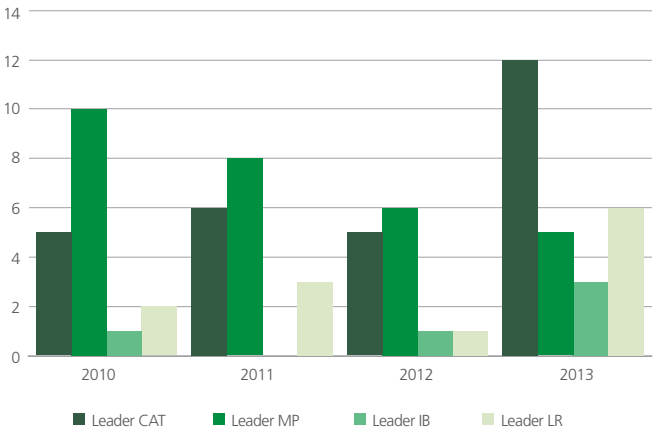


Figure 4

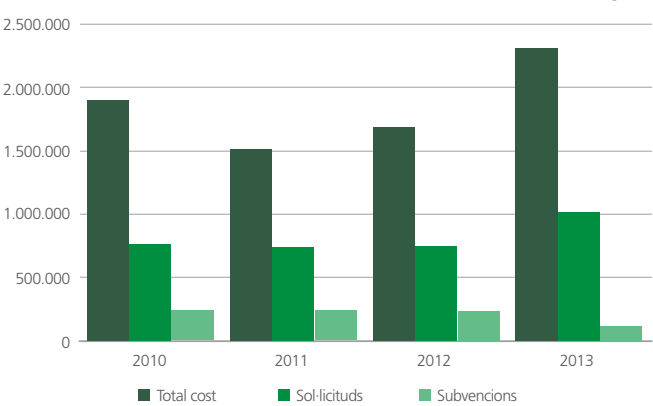


Figure 5

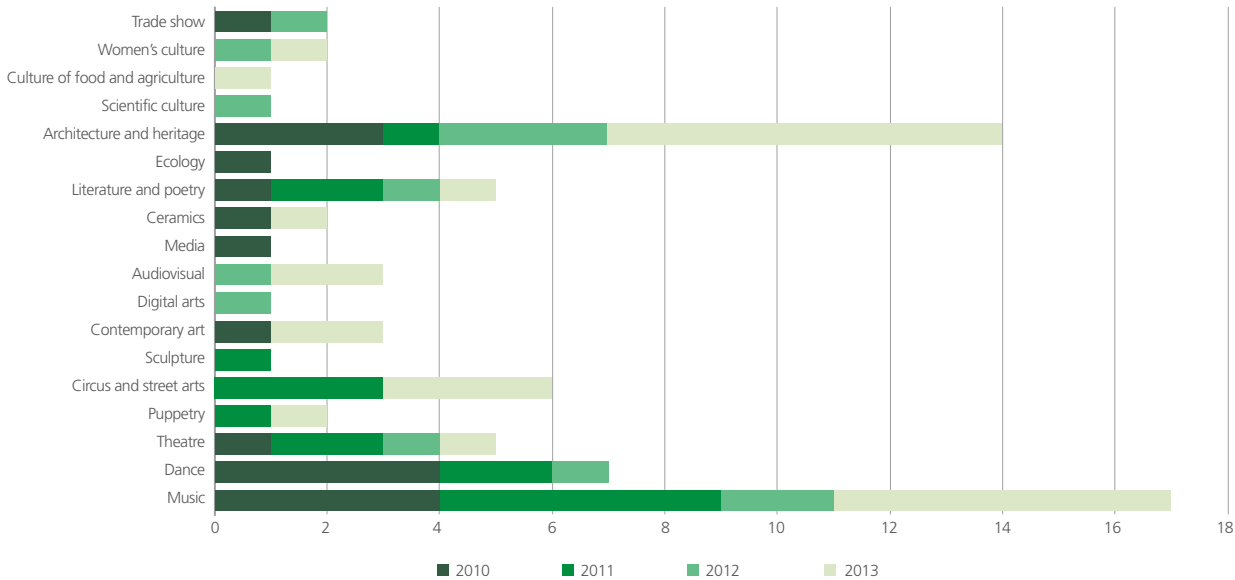


Figure 6

3.1.3 Projects selected by the Euroregion

In the four editions of the call held from 2010 to 2013, out of a total of 26 projects selected, 12 were led by organisations based in the Midi-Pyrénées region, three by organisations in the Balearic Islands, and one by an organisation located in Languedoc-Roussillon (see Figure 6).

Over the four-year period, the average total cost (budget) for selected projects fell from €141 000 in 2010 to €88 000 in 2013. In light of the economic crisis, the tendency is for applicants to reduce the scale of their projects. The average grant amount awarded ranged from a minimum of €27 000 in 2010 to a maximum of €38 000 in 2012, while the average amount of funding requested ranged from a minimum of €39 000 in 2013 to a maximum of €58 000 in 2012 (see Figure 7).

Among the 26 projects selected in the four annual calls, the most frequent thematic areas were music (5 projects), heritage (3 projects), dance (3 projects), and circus and street arts (3 projects) (see Figure 8).

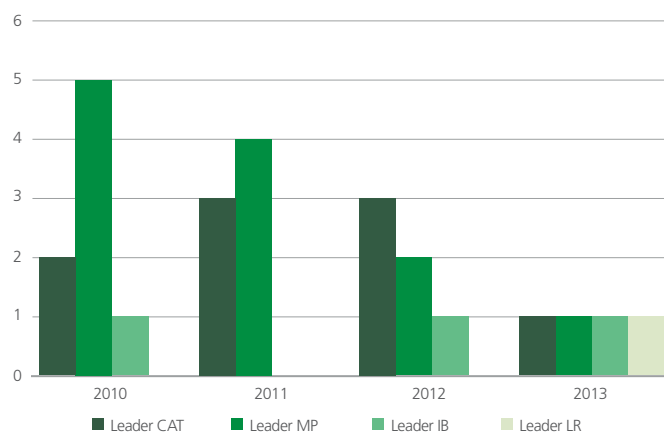


Figure 7

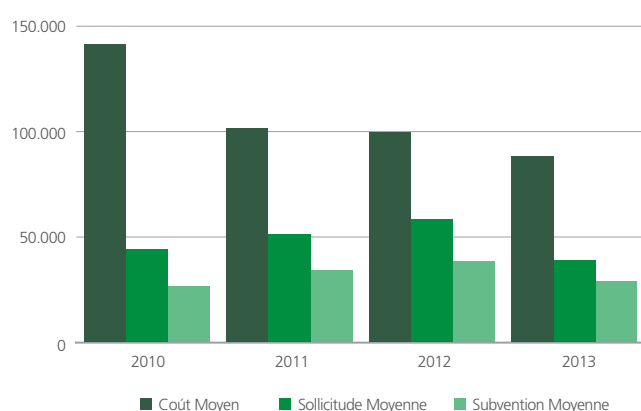
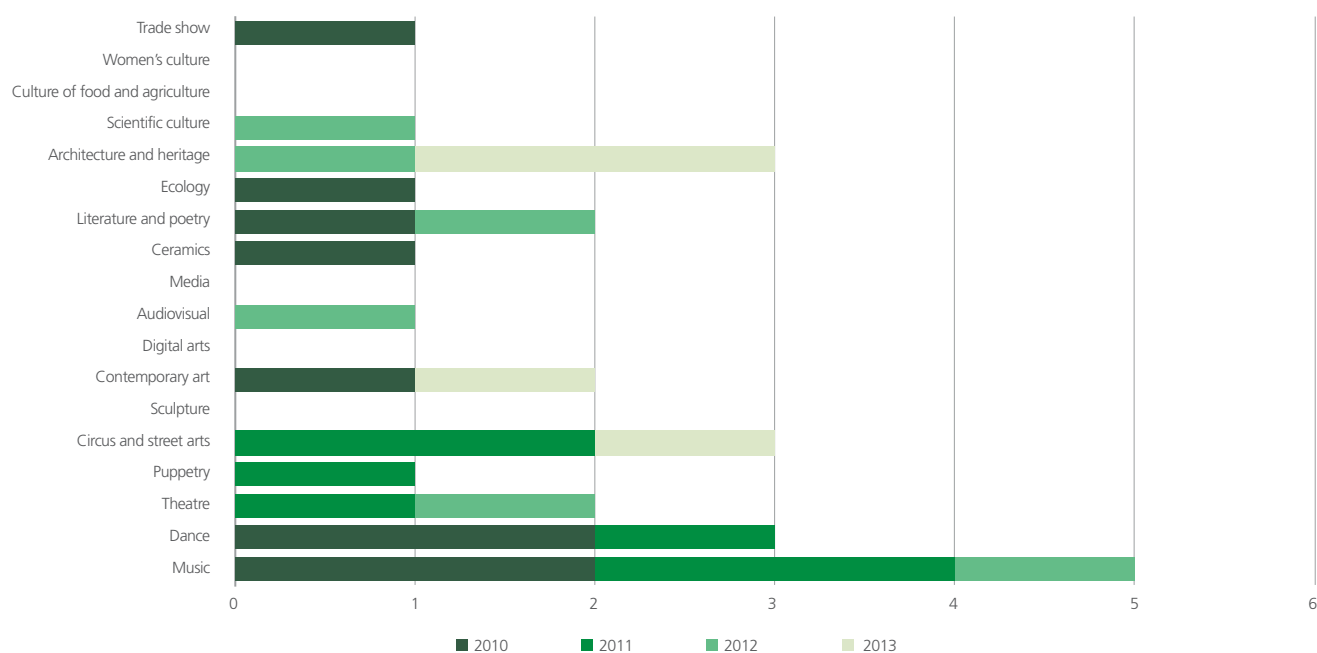


Figure 8



2010 call (nine projects)

- *AA++ Accompagnement Artistique*
[AA++ Artistic Support].

A contemporary music project submitted by three associations: Avant-Mardi (Midi-Pyrénées), the project leader; Cases de la Música (Catalonia), and La Méridionale (Languedoc-Roussillon). The aim of the project was to put in place a series of artistic support tools for musicians seeking to professionalise their activity, and to contribute to increasing artistic and economic exchanges within the Euroregion. The project contributed to the emergence of new artists, established a network of music sector operators, and played a role in democratising contemporary music. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €30 000.

- *Poesia sense Fronteres*
[Poetry without Borders].

A poetry and music project submitted by four partner organisations: BarnaSants (Catalonia), the project leader; Sèm e serem (Midi-Pyrénées), COMDT (Midi-Pyrénées), and CIMP (Languedoc-Roussillon). The aim of the project was to publish a book-DVD entitled Recull Poètic Occitano-Català [Catalan-Occitan Poetry Collection] that would offer a musical journey through centuries of shared poetic history and raise awareness of the Occitan-Catalan literary tradition, thus helping to build a sense of belonging to a common cultural, social and linguistic community. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €11 900.

- *Pyrénées – Art et Écologie au XXI^{ème} siècle*
[Pyrenees – Art and Ecology in the 21st Century].

A project focusing on contemporary art and ecology that brought together three organisations: Caza d'Oro (Midi-Pyrénées), the project leader; Casa d'Art i Natura (Catalonia), and Els Isards (Balearic Islands). The aim of the project was to use artistic language to disseminate scientific knowledge on the threats posed by climate change. The project also facilitated an exchange of views on the meaning and function of art, and how it contributes to our knowledge of nature and society in the 21st century. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €40 000.

- *Corpus Media # 4*

A project submitted by three associations and a foundation: K Danse (Midi-Pyrénées), the project leader; the Yann Lheureux / Etre en scène dance company (Languedoc-Roussillon), the Erre que Erre dance company (Catalonia), and Museu Es Baluard (Balearic Islands). The aim of the project was to create a Euroregional platform for artistic circulation and audience mediation, and to propose multiple artistic projects involving choreographic language, visual and musical creation, performances and creative workshops. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €20 000.

- *Labo Investigation*

A contemporary dance project developed by three organisations: La Zampa (Midi-Pyrénées), the project leader; N'Naranja (Catalonia), and Moebius (Languedoc-Roussillon). The aim was to create a platform linking Montpellier, Toulouse and Barcelona for exchange and shared experiences, aimed at artists with a desire to be part of a transmission process involving young and aspiring artists. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €24 600.

- *Lo Festenal*

A multidisciplinary cultural trade fair conceived by four organisations: Convivència, known at the time as Le Chèvrefeuille (Midi-Pyrénées), the project leader; Fusic (Catalonia), Conseil Général 66 (Languedoc-Roussillon), and Tres Serveis Culturals (Balearic Islands). The aim was to create the first Euroregion performing arts market in the Pyrenees-Mediterranean territory, an event that will be held in the member regions on a rotating basis. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €50 000.

- *Mediterra*

A project focusing on performance and contemporary ceramics. The participants in this project were the Museu del Càntir (Catalonia), the project leader; the Martres-Tolosane Tourism Office (Midi-Pyrénées), the Saint-Quentin-la-Poterie Cultural Office (Languedoc-Roussillon), the Department of Culture of the Marratxí City Council (Balearic Islands), and the Department of Culture of the Muel City Council (Aragon). The aim was to create a network for the development of culture and contemporary art in cities in the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean with a ceramic tradition. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €35 000.

2010

9 projects

2011

7 projects

2012

6 projects

2013

4 projects

- *Art Contemporani a l'Hospital*
[Contemporary Art in Hospitals].

A project carried out by three participating organisations: Es Baluard Museu d'Art Modern i Contemporani (Balearic Islands), the project leader; BBB Centre régional d'initiatives pour l'Art contemporain (Midi-Pyrénées), and Centre d'Art La Panera (Catalonia). The objective was to establish a research and working network linking cultural centres and hospitals with the aim of promoting access to contemporary art for hospital patients. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €16 000.

- *Journées de Rencontres autour de la Mélodie française*

A music project involving six organisations: the Association Toulouse Mélodie Française (Midi-Pyrénées), the project leader; the Conservatoire de Rayonnement régional de Toulouse (Midi-Pyrénées), the Festival Déodat de Séverac (Midi-Pyrénées), the Conservatori Municipal de Música de Barcelona (Catalonia), the Conservatoire de Rayonnement régional de Perpignan (Languedoc-Roussillon), and Aspec La Grande Deltheillerie (Languedoc-Roussillon). The aim of the project was to have four composers create a collection of compositions consisting of four song cycles based on verse or prose texts by Joseph Deleuil. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €12 500.

2011 call (seven projects)

- *Habitació*

A dance project involving the Samuel Mathieu dance company (Midi-Pyrénées), the project leader; the Mar Gómez dance company (Catalonia), and Galerie Chorégraphique (Languedoc-Roussillon). The aim of the project was to facilitate the coming-together of two companies involved in contemporary choreography and an artistic production office. A laboratory for artistic research and creation and an observatory of creative processes were set up. The project also involved the creation of dance performances that were later disseminated at the Euroregion level. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €23 500.



- *Bach+*

A project combining live music and dance performances. The participating organisations were the Ensemble Baroque de Toulouse (Midi-Pyrénées), the project leader; ADDMD 11 (Languedoc-Roussillon), and Fusic (Catalonia). The aim was to take a different approach to raising public awareness of classical music, particularly through heritage, multilingualism, cultural tourism and synergies with young amateur talent. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €15 000.

K.danse company,
Scena Centro.

- *Regio Marionnette*

A project revolving around contemporary puppets. The participating organisations were Marionnettissimo (Midi-Pyrénées), the project leader; Arema (Languedoc-Roussillon), Centre de Titelles de Lleida (Catalonia), and Til Teatre Elastic Nou (Balearic Islands). The aim of the project was to encourage puppetry-related encounters and cross-border circulation of works, artists and audiences, adding a cross-border dimension to the projects carried out by participating organisations, and to bring audiences into contact with all stages of the process through an international school for spectators. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €45 000.

- *Scena Centro*

A performing arts project aimed at young audiences. The participating organisations were Phonomatic (Midi-Pyrénées), the project leader; BAO (Languedoc-Roussillon), Sa Xerxa (Balearic Islands), and Xarxa (Catalonia). The aim of the project was to create an artistic circulation platform for the creation and dissemination of performing arts works for young audiences. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €50 000.

- *Process(us) Pyrénées de Cirque*

A project that involved four organisations: La Central del Circ (Catalan association of circus professionals), the project leader; La Grainerie (Midi-Pyrénées), the Perpignan Tourism Office (Languedoc-Roussillon), and the cultural association Animahu (Aragon). The project was aimed at presenting the creation and dissemination of the circus arts in the Euroregion through the circulation of artists and works. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €40 000.

- *VIA*

A performing and visual arts project. The participants were the Festival Escena Poblenou (Catalonia), the project leader; the Label Rue Festival (Languedoc-Roussillon), the Capdepera street arts festival (Balearic Islands), and the association La Petite Pierre (Midi-Pyrénées). The project was aimed at facilitating the circulation of companies within the Euroregion territory. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €48 500.

- *Recursos Musicals en Llengua Catalana [Catalan-Language Music Resources]*

A music project promoted by Grup Enderrock Edicions S.L. (Catalonia), the project leader; the association Músics per la Llengua (Balearic Islands), and Col·lectiu Joan Pau Giné. The project was aimed at creating a database of 21st-century Catalan music and music products for export based on Catalan culture. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €18 000.

2012 call (six projects)

- *AA++*

A project aimed at launching a support system for artists and strengthening the circuit set up in 2010, which had facilitated the creation of a stable network that enabled artists from three regions to arrange concerts and obtain support. The goal was to create a permanent Euroregional music circuit and an artistic support system for emerging groups, and to raise the profile of regional scenes beyond their borders. The partnership included the Xarxa de Cases de la Música Popular de Catalunya (Catalonia), the project leader; Avant-Mardi (Midi-Pyrénées), and La Méridionale des Spectacles (Languedoc-Roussillon). The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €30 000.

- *Maremostra*

A project aimed at developing an online digital platform for artistic co-creation – a virtual meeting place to facilitate the formation of

multidisciplinary teams that would create short films to submit for competition at Palma de Mallorca's maritime-themed Maremostra film festival. The initial partnership consisted of the Audiovisual Cluster of the Balearic Islands (CLAB), the project leader; Fundació i2Cat (Catalonia), and Kawenga (Languedoc-Roussillon). The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €30 000.

- *PATRIM*

A Pyrenean network of heritage interpretation centres whose goal was to grow the partnership and broaden its scope of action, in particular by organising Euroregional Pyrenean Heritage Meetings. The members of the partnership were the Ecomuseu de les Valls d'Àneu (Catalonia), the project leader; the Maison Pyrénéenne du Pastoralisme d'Azet (Midi-Pyrénées), the Maison des Sources de Mauléon-Barousse (Midi-Pyrénées), the Musée Larrey de Beaudéan (Midi-Pyrénées), the Communauté de Communes du Canton d'Oust (Midi-Pyrénées), and the Musée de la Chapellerie (Languedoc-Roussillon). The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €30 000.

- *Scena Centro*

A platform for creating performing arts works and disseminating them to young audiences. The aim was to forge links between artistic teams, professional networks, cultural centres and major events catering to young audiences, and to foster the creation of works for this age group in any art form (theatre, music, dance, puppetry, digital and visual arts). The members of the partnership were Phonomatic (Midi-Pyrénées), the project leader; Le BAO (Languedoc-Roussillon), Sa Xerxa (Balearic Islands), and the Xarxa d'Espectacle Infantil i Juvenil de Catalunya. The Euroregion provided a grant of €70 000 for the project, which had also received a Euroregion grant of €50 000 in 2011.

**Movie Festival
Maremostra, in Mallorca**



- *Sci-Fi*

A project aimed at promoting the dissemination of scientific, technical and industrial culture through the development of serious games that encourage young people to take an interest in certain major industrial sectors. The project leader was CUFR Jean-François Champollion (Midi-Pyrénées), and the other partners involved were Aerospace Valley, the company KTM Advance (based in Albi), la Ligue de l'Enseignement 31, Montpellier 2 University, the Centre Européen de Recherches Préhistoriques de Tautavel (Languedoc-Roussillon), and the Museu de la Ciència i de la Tècnica de Catalunya. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €40 000.

- *Literary visits*

A project designed to facilitate discovery of Catalonia's literary heritage by means of an app for smartphones and tablets that uses geolocation to connect literature with the landscape. The partnership consisted of Espais Escrits, the Catalan literary heritage network, which acted as the project leader, Casa Museu Llorenç Villalonga (Balearic Islands), the Ille-sur-Têt Town Council (Languedoc-Roussillon), and the Mequinensa Town Council (Aragon). The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €10 000.

2013 calls (four projects)

- *CARRER – Euroregional Street Arts Circuit*

A street arts project led by Le Cratère – Scène Nationale d'Alès (Languedoc-Roussillon). The partnership involved other organisations in Languedoc-Roussillon (L'Atelline, Communauté de Communes du Lodévois et Larzac, Les Elvis Platinés, Rudeboy Crew, Festival d'Olt, and Eurek'art Labelrue), Midi-Pyrénées (La Cellule), Catalonia (FiraTàrraga), and the Balearic Islands (Companyia AuMents). The project was aimed at creating a street arts network, with co-productions, support for dissemination, training periods and residences. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €40 000.

- *ETAC – Cross-Border Contemporary Art Space*

A network of contemporary art centres, with the Bòlit Centre d'Art Contemporani in Girona acting as the project leader. The other partners were the Museu de l'Empordà in Figueres, the LAIT – Laboratoire artistique international du Tarn (Albi), La Panacée – Centre de culture contemporaine (Mairie de Montpellier), and Addaya – Centre d'Art Contemporani d'Alaró, Majorca. The project was aimed at creating a cross-border contemporary art space that would facili-

tate ongoing cooperation between the centres involved and provide grants for three-month artistic residences. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €20 000.

- *Mémoire filmique Pyrénées-Méditerranée*

A film heritage project led by the Cinematheque of Toulouse, in partnership with the Institut Jean Vigo (Languedoc-Roussillon), the Cinematheque of Catalonia, and the Sound and Image Archives of Majorca. The aim of the project was to digitise archive films and thus make it possible to highlight the culture of the various territories and their shared identity. The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €28 000.

- *Windmills: Another Look*

A windmill route project led by the Island Council of Majorca, Balearic Islands. The aim was to create a route that would enable visitors to discover the Euroregion's most emblematic windmills, with the potential to become an attractive tourism and cultural product. It was also hoped that the project would serve as a starting point to build a network of collaboration linking organisations involved in recovering heritage of this kind. The other partners involved were the Fundació El Solà (Catalonia), and the regional parks of Narbonnaise en Méditerranée (Languedoc-Roussillon) and Grands Causses (Midi-Pyrénées). The Euroregion's contribution to funding the project was €18 000.

3.1.4. Euroregional Cultural Meetings

The Euroregional Cultural Meetings were organised with the support of the EGTC to forge links between professionals working in the sector and lay the groundwork for cooperation projects. The first meeting, which took place on 17–18 June 2010 in Olot (Girona), focused on the theme of "new cultural tourism". The second, held on 3–4 November 2011 in Toulouse, addressed the question: "Are young people still interested in culture?"

Fira de Tàrraga.





3.2. L'EURO CAMPUS

3.2.1. Objective and organisation

The Eurocampus initiative reflects the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean's commitment to making grey matter a source of jobs and innovation, with the focus on increasing competitiveness and the attractiveness of the territory for the benefit of companies and citizens. Launched in Palma in June 2009, the Eurocampus is the first truly European campus, with 510 000 students. Its main aim is to strengthen and drive real co-operation between Catalonia, Midi-Pyrénées, Languedoc-Roussillon and the Balearic Islands in higher education, research and innovation. The main lines of academic and scientific collaboration, as defined in the Palma Joint Declaration, are as follows:

- coordination of actors and actions in higher education
- mobility and compatibility of degrees
- mobility of students and researchers
- coordination of research and teaching.

The four member regions are working with higher education institutions to define this ambitious project through the Eurocampus Joint Committee, the main governing body for the campus, whose operational parameters were established at the first conference of heads of higher education institutions, held on 21 October 2009 in Montpellier and attended by the regional presidents and 47 presidents and directors of higher education institutions. The aim of the Joint Committee is to make concrete proposals in the interests of students in the Euroregion.

The work done at the first meeting of the Joint Committee, held on 27 November 2009, made it

possible for the 26 members to travel to the four regional capitals, where they were able to meet many project leaders in person and learn about the work being done in each territory. As a result of this process, 11 student-oriented proposals were identified and later validated by the executives of the four regions. The proposals focus on promoting the mobility of students and lecturers, making excellence a key priority, and positioning the Eurocampus internationally. Four of the proposals were identified as priorities:

- develop an attractive, dynamic web portal with up-to-date content;
- open up the Eurocampus mobility cheque to all students;
- offer language instruction prior to the mobility period;
- harness the full potential of technology platforms and research centres.

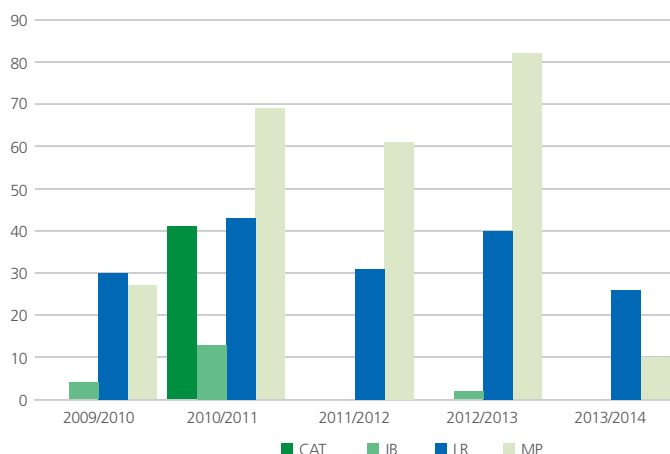
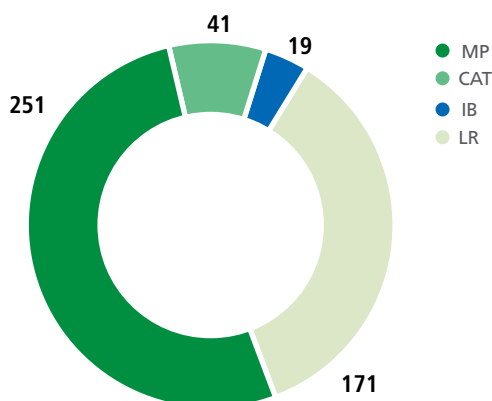
The Midi-Pyrénées presidency relaunched the Joint Committee, which met in Toulouse on 6 November 2013, and set the main working priorities for 2013. Key higher education issues, particularly the selection of projects in Eurocampus calls, were also discussed at technical and political meetings (held on 18 September and 2 October 2013).

The Eurocampus
is the first truly
European
campus, with
510 000
students

3.2.2. Eurocampus portal

In 2011 the Eurocampus internet portal was officially launched in Toulouse (9 May) and at the Representation of European institutions in Barcelona (1 June). The portal provides access to all the mobility information students need to successfully pursue studies within the Euroregion. From 5 May 2011 to 5 May 2014, the portal was visited by 76 814 users. Fifty-six per cent of connections originated in France and 23% in Spain.

In 2014 steps have been taken to simplify and update the portal with the aim of giving it a more general focus and making it more interactive. The updated portal also highlights the specific features of the Eurocampus and the main Euroregion actions (mobility cheques, calls, language training, events, flagship university cooperation projects, etc.).



3.2.3. Support for student mobility: Eurocampus cheque and language training

The first concrete measure to support student mobility, the Eurocampus Cheque programme, was launched at the start of the 2009–2010 academic year. Under the programme, “cheques” in the amount of €600 are provided to students enrolled in master’s degree courses. The programme is managed directly by the regions, rather than by the EGTC. From its launch to the start of the 2013–2014 study period (i.e. over five academic years), 482 cheques were issued, 87% of which were given by the two French regions.

Language training

Language diversity is a barrier between Eurocampus scholars. In 2011, before the start of the academic year, a pilot language programme was launched to ensure that language was not an obstacle to student mobility. Students in the four regions were offered the opportunity to participate in sessions aimed at facilitating mutual understanding of the Euroregion’s four languages (Spanish, Catalan, French and Occitan). After a short time, the Euroregion’s Higher Education Committee decided to discontinue the courses and focus instead on existing online tools for language learning.

3.2.4. Call for applications to support the creation of Euroregional double degrees

On 27 January 2011, at the Palais de Justice in Toulouse, Toulouse 1 University Capitole (UT1) and the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) signed an agreement to offer students a double degree in Law, with the collaboration of the Euroregion. The agreement was signed by the chancellor of UT1, Bruno Sire, and the UAB's vice-rector for institutional relations and communication, Maria Josep Recoder.

The Euroregion is currently seeking to increase the number of double degrees offered at the master's level. In 2012 a call was issued to provide financial support to cover mobility costs associated with launching joint courses for double-degree programmes. This first "double degree" call reflected a desire to promote and support cooperation between the Euroregion's higher education institutions, give impetus to innovative dynamics, and offer students an internationally recognised high-quality education. The Euroregion's Higher Education Committee decided to provide grants of €10 000 to support two double-degree projects:

- a master's degree in Innovation and Computer Research – Computer Engineering and Health Innovation Systems, involving the Barcelona School of Informatics of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC) and the ISIS Engineering School (in Albi) of Jean-Francois Champollion University Centre,
- a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Design, Culture and Territory, involving the Department of Visual Arts of University of Toulouse II – Le Mirail and the School of Art and Design (EINA) of the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

In 2014 a new "double degree" call was announced. The call is open to all areas of knowledge but gives particular attention to applications related to eHealth, sustainable management of water resources, food and agriculture, and tourism. Individual grants of €10 000 will be awarded, and the total amount allocated for the call is €50 000.

On 27 January 2011, Toulouse 1 university Capitole (UT1) and the Autonomous university of Barcelona (UAB) signed an agreement to offer students a double degree in Law, with the collaboration of the Euroregion.



Maria clara de Moraes Prata Gaspar, won the first call for applications for mobility assistance for jointly supervised theses



3.2.5. Call for applications for mobility assistance for jointly supervised theses

In parallel with the “double degree” call, a call to provide financial aid for jointly supervised doctoral theses was announced in 2012. The programme was aimed at promoting the Euroregional dimension of doctoral schools, giving students a competitive edge in the labour market, and furthering scientific cooperation between research teams within the framework of the Eurocampus. Thanks to the support provided by the Euroregion, a doctoral student can prepare his or her thesis at two higher education institutions, one French and the other Spanish, under the responsibility of two thesis supervisors, and obtain both French and Spanish PhD qualifications following a single thesis defence. Financial aid is intended to cover costs related to the mobility that joint supervision requires (travel and accommodation). It was decided that the total amount allocated for the programme (€15 000) would go to support two joint supervision proposals:

- “Medical standards and aesthetic standards” (Sociology of Food); jointly supervised by the CERTOP laboratory of the University of Toulouse II – Le Mirail and the ODELA laboratory of the University of Barcelona. Doctoral student: Maria Clara de Moraes Prata Gaspar.

- “Cross-border cooperation between France and Spain: actors, policies, projects and territories” (Social and Political Geography); jointly supervised by the INTERMED Doctoral School of the University of Perpignan and the Environment Institute of the University of Girona (UdG). Doctoral student: Adenane Djigo.

The call to support jointly supervised theses, which was repeated in 2014, is open to other areas of knowledge, and special attention is given to applications related to eHealth, sustainable management of water resources, food and agriculture, and tourism. The amount of each grant ranges from €8 000 to €13 000, depending on the distance between the cities involved and a company allowance that is provided in the case of research projects involving the participation of a company. The amount allocated for this call is €55 000.

The call to support jointly supervised theses was launched in 2012

3.3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CALL

3.3.1. Objectives

The members of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean want to make the Euroregion an exemplary space in terms of sustainable development and preservation of natural heritage, with a particular focus on the diversity of its territories.

The creation of a joint call for projects, led by the Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC since 2011, also reflects another important goal of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean: to promote cooperation and structure its territory in order to strengthen territorial cohesion.

This action comes under the “Resource-efficient Europe” flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy, aimed at generating smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Reducing energy dependence, expanding use of renewable energies, and shifting towards a low-carbon society are clearly effective ways to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the European economy.

3.3.2. Selected projects

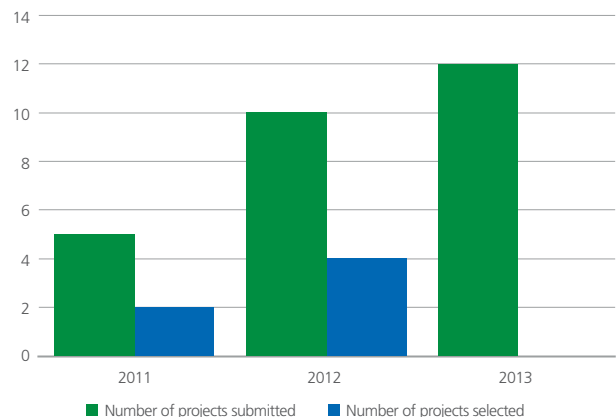
2011 call

For the 2011 call for proposals on the theme “Climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean 2011:

tourism actions”, the Sustainable Development Committee, meeting in Barcelona on 25 January 2012, decided to provide a total of €78 300 in funding for two projects:

- Fundació Empresa i Clima [Business and Climate Foundation]. A project aimed at proposing a set of indicators to measure the effects of climate change in the Euroregion and help the tourism sector to improve its competitiveness and efficiency (partnership involving the four regions). Funding provided: €38 300.
- Leader Ripollès GES Bisaura Association. Energy efficiency and renewable energies in tourism establishments (partnership involving the four regions). Funding provided: € 40 000.

The General Secretary of the Euroregion assisted to a masterclass for the Geopimed project.

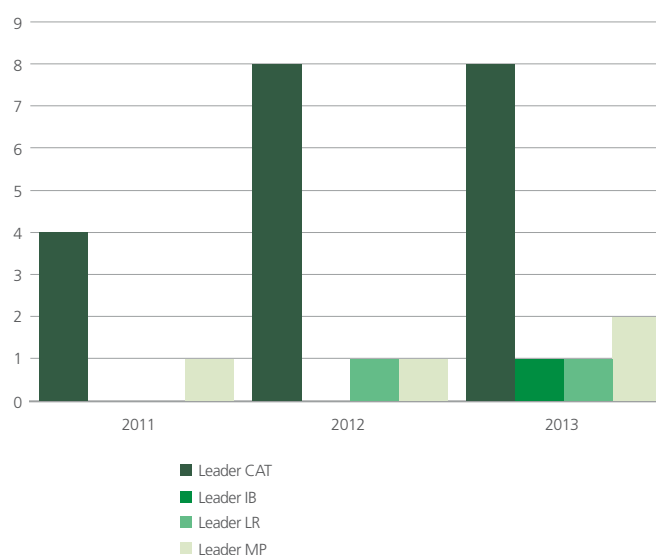
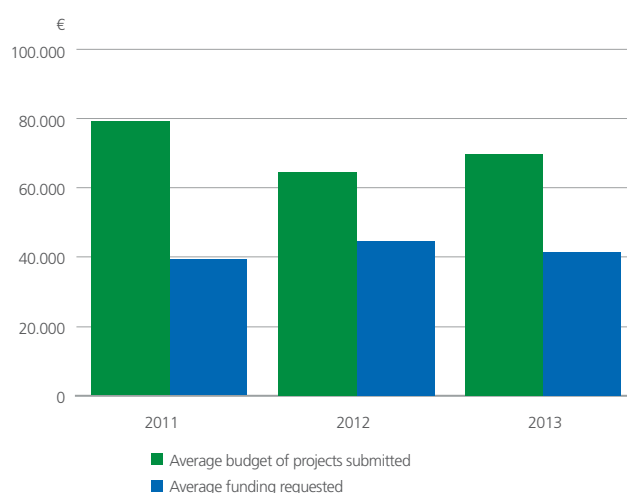


2012 call

For the 2012 call for proposals on the theme “Efficiency in resource use, energy efficiency, or efficient management of water resources”, the Sustainable Development Committee, meeting in Toulouse on 3 April 2013, decided to provide a total of €197 050.75 in funding for four projects:

- GEOPIMED. A project aimed at creating a Euro-regional network for efficient energy use, particularly low-temperature geothermal energy (partnership involving the four regions). Funding provided: €58 479.60.
- VINECO. An application for analysing of the life cycle of eco-innovation in wine production (partnership involving the four regions). Funding provided: €46 554.40.
- GOTA. A multisectoral project on organisational management of water in the Euroregion territory (partnership involving the four regions). Funding provided: €57 081.75.
- Euroregional community on nearly zero energy buildings and industrialisation. An energy-efficiency project (partnership involving the four regions). Funding provided: €34 935.

The theme of the 2013 call for projects, which has a budget of €148 000, is “Efficiency and restraint in the use of resources (water or energy)”. The call was published from December 2013 to March 2014. The 13 proposal submitted are currently being reviewed by the EGTC.



3.3.3. Preparation of a LIFE project

The European LIFE programme is aimed at achieving better implementation of EU policy on climate and the environment.

Convinced of the value of this programme for the Euroregion territory, at a meeting held on 16 December 2013 the Sustainable Development Committee decided the EGTC should position itself in conjunction with relevant Euroregional actors.

In December 2013 a call for expressions of interest was published on the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean website to identify actors interested in taking part in a LIFE project. Twenty organisations responded to the call, which was also disseminated by the member regions.

This action is also part of the Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS), which identifies water as a priority issue with the potential to initiate and structure Euroregional cooperation. Responses to the call for expressions of interest and the recommendations formulated in the Regional Innovation Strategy both point to two sub-themes that are a perfect fit for the LIFE programme: management of water resources and sanitation.



Based on the input received, the EGTC is working to drive this process forward and meeting with the actors identified to define a cooperation project that addresses an issue of relevance in the Euroregion territory.

We anticipate that a project application will be submitted in October 2014.

3.4. . INNOVATION

3.4.1. Development of a Euroregional Innovation Strategy

In 2014 a Euroregional Innovation Strategy has been developed. This framework document sets out the guiding principles and goals of the Euroregion in this area. The strategy now needs to become a useful tool for actors in the territory. This means taking a pragmatic approach and focusing on consultation with actors on the ground to take better account of their expectations.

The aim is to deepen cooperation in the following identified areas of specialisation:

- Water sector:
 - Water resources / irrigation
 - Sanitation and sanitary hygiene
 - Oceanography / satellite observation

Euroregional politicians visited the medical company Sadir Assistance in May 2014.



- eHealth sector:
 - Hospitalisation at home / monitoring of dependent persons: medical equipment for dependency
 - Hospitalisation at home: training medical staff in new technologies
 - E-diagnosis / detection of dependent persons
- Agri-food sector
 - Winning back consumers: short distribution channels / local products
 - Packaging / preservation / communication

In this context, the Euroregional Innovation Strategy defines two operational objectives aimed at creating conditions that favour the development of a Euroregional innovation ecosystem:

1. Foster shared knowledge of Euroregional actors

Ongoing transregional cooperation requires reciprocal knowledge of the context, markets and actors in the other regions. Actors in the same sector in each region are aware of each other but often have only a partial or anecdotal knowledge of actors in the other regions. Three types of actions need to be carried out to overcome this knowledge gap:

- work on identifying the community: organisation of structuring meetings of actors in the target areas of specialisation;
- work on dynamising the community:
 - networking of regional innovation agencies;
 - organisation of visits by company delegations between technology and research centres in the Euroregion to develop shared technological knowledge;
 - formation of Euroregional business delegations to participate in fairs and trade shows on the themes of water, eHealth and agri-food.
- research and business intelligence (identification of funding opportunities at the European level; regional, public and private opportunities; identification of specific competences, etc.): organisation of specific conferences and seminars on opportunities and threats in identified areas of specialisation.

2. Launch pilot projects

Concrete actions should be implemented:

- focus on priority areas of specialisation in the water, eHealth and agri-food sectors;
- harness and enhance existing collaboration between actors;
- ensure that actions are linked to funding opportunities (Euroregional funds, or mobilisation of other funds) to facilitate the emergence of cooperation projects that are ambitious enough to seek EU funding under programmes such as Horizon 2020, MED, etc.

The Euroregional Innovation Strategy defines two operational objectives aimed at creating conditions that favour the development: foster shared knowledge of euroregional actors and launch pilot projects

In 2013, the Euroregion gave Vitam the e-health award in Girona.





In November 2011, the Euroregion organised a seminar in Barcelona on "Innovation and research in the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean: challenges for economic growth".

3.4.2. eHealth: the Girona–Castres Mazamet tandem

- **The Girona ICT RDI and Health Conference**, organised by the Science and Technology Park of the University of Girona and the TicSalut Foundation, is aimed at research groups, businesses, and technology and medical centres. The event is an ideal meeting place for technology supply and demand in the health field.

The Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean's 2013 eHealth prize was awarded to ViTAM, a pioneering telecare project. The 2014 edition of the prize went to Sadir Assistance for a project on monitoring sleep apnoea.

- **The Castres eHealth Summer School**, organised by Castres-Mazamet Technopôle in partnership with the Centre e-santé of Toulouse, was held on 3–5 July 2013. This European-scale event brings together actors and decision-makers in the social and health sectors to promote sharing of practices, technologies and research on ICT use in the area of health and autonomy.

These activities received financial support from the Euroregion.

3.4.3. Pedralbes Seminar

In November 2011, the Euroregion – in collaboration with the Government of Catalonia's Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, Biocat, TicSalut and ACC1Ó – organised a seminar in Barcelona on "Innovation and research in the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean: challenges for economic growth".

The Euroregion supports the Girona ICT RDI and Health Conference and the Castres eHealth Summer School

3.5. TRANSPORT

The need to link up transport networks on either side of the Pyrenees, as well as the Euroregion's main ports, is a key challenge for economic development, spatial planning, and the assertion of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean within the framework of the European Union.

Since its inception, the Euroregion has paid particular attention to improving transport infrastructure to facilitate exchanges and the mobility of its citizens within the Euroregion territory and Europe as a whole. In this regard, the entry into service in December 2013 of a high-speed rail line that links Barcelona and Perpignan, reducing the journey time between Barcelona and Toulouse to three hours, represents a significant step forward for the Euroregion.

However, it remains essential to lobby for the completion the high-speed “rail Y” between Barcelona, Toulouse and Montpellier in order to fully integrate the Euroregion territory in the European high-speed network.

In line with this objective, in 2012 a joint declaration on “Transport and Infrastructure in

the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean” was signed. The declaration calls on European and national institutions to draw up a schedule to proceed with work on high-speed rail lines between Barcelona, Toulouse and Montpellier in a timely manner.

3.6. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS

3.6.1. Pyrenees-Mediterranean Youth Meetings

The Pyrenees-Mediterranean Youth Meetings are organised under a Euroregional co-operation agreement between Midi-Pyrénées, Languedoc-Roussillon and Catalonia.

The project is run by the Organising Committee for Pyrenees-Mediterranean Cultural and Sports Meetings, a non-profit association set up by the Midi-Pyrénées USEP Regional Committee, the Languedoc-Roussillon USEP Regional Committee, and the Union of Sports Councils of Catalonia (UCEC).

The Pyrenees-Mediterranean Youth Meetings are a Euroregional event that brings together hundreds of children in the Euroregion each year. The Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean provided financial support for the fourth, fifth and sixth editions of the event.

Around 500 children come together each year in Port Leucate (LR), El Vendrell (Cat), Mondonville (MP) or Hospitalet de l'Infant (Cat). The event is aimed at:

- educating participants for citizenship through sport;
- promoting cultural openness and understanding of other peoples;
- generating a sense of Euroregional belonging.

The children involved (aged 9 to 11) are voluntary participants from classes in the member regions.



3.6.2. Cross-border cooperation seminars with the European Commission

**European Commission
Seminar in Barcelona in
February 2013.**

European Commission Seminar, Barcelona, 18–19 February 2013

The European Commission Representation in Barcelona, together with the EGTC, organised a cross-border seminar of local European information actors within the framework of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean. The seminar, held on 18–19 February 2013, was entitled “Euroregion: a way to experience European citizenship”. The event, attended by over 100 participants, was aimed at raising awareness of cross-border actions carried out in the territory and highlighting existing good practices.



European Commission Seminar in Figueres in April 2014.

European Commission Seminar, Figueres, 7– 9 April 2014

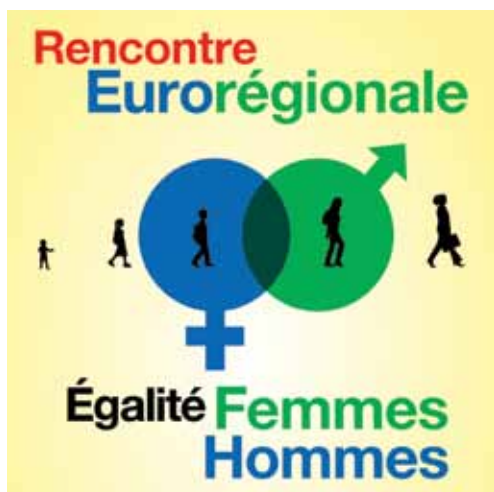
Following on from the event held in Barcelona in February 2013, the European Commission Representations in Barcelona and Marseille, together with the EGTC, organised a seminar on “Cross-border cooperation in the fields of higher education, training and employment in the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean”. The seminar, held on 7–9 April 2014 in Figueres, brought together some hundred experts on higher education, vocational training and employment from Midi-Pyrénées, the Balearic

Islands, Languedoc-Roussillon and Catalonia. The meeting served as an opportunity for networking between actors and experts in the territory, facilitating the emergence of new cooperation initiatives, particularly within the framework of new European programmes for 2014–2020, including both sectoral (Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, COSME) and territorial cooperation programmes (SUDOE, MED, POCTEFA).

European Commission Seminar in Figueres in April 2014:

Elie Brugarolas,
Midi-Pyrénées;
Ferran Tarradellas,
European Commission
in Barcelona;
Marta Felip,
Mayor of Figueres;
Cyril Robin de
Champigneul, European
Commission in Marseille;
Claudi Alsina, General
Secretary of the
Consell Interuniversitari
de Catalunya





3.6.3. Gender equality

Euroregional Meeting on Equality (26 November 2012)

Following initial Euroregional meetings on gender equality held in 2007 and 2010, during its presidency of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean the Midi-Pyrénées region hosted a Euroregional Meeting on Equality on 26 November 2012.

The event, structured around the stages in a woman's social and professional life, drew on firsthand testimony from women entrepreneurs in Midi-Pyrénées, Languedoc-Roussillon and the

Balearic Islands who were hosted in business incubators and involved in identifying gender stereotypes. Their accounts were given within the framework of the CreaMed project, aimed at establishing a coordinated network of business incubators based in the member regions of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean (a project led by the Pyrenees-Mediterranean EGTC).

The meeting benefited from promotion at the European level as part of European SME Week, a campaign organised by the European Commission.

Meeting of regional political representatives responsible for gender equality (27 March 2014)

From the start of 2013, in an effort to move forward in tackling this issue, the Midi-Pyrénées region conducted a benchmarking study on gender equality actions carried out in the Euroregion territory in relation to both professional equality and youth.

A Euroregional meeting of representatives of the regions responsible for gender equality was held on 27 March 2014 to present the findings of this study and launch a discussion on the establishment of Euroregional cooperation in matters relating to gender equality.

**Euroregional
Meeting on Equality
(26 November 2012):**

Nadia Pellefigue,
Vicepresident
Midi-Pyrénées;
Montserrat Gatell,
President of the Institut
Català de les Dones;
Isabel Llinàs Warthmann,
Director of the Institut
Balear de la Dona





3.6.4. Wikiartmap

WikiArtMap is an online platform, a mash-up of open content which, thanks to Wiki and Google mapping tools, makes it possible to find and view information about art, creation, and historical and cultural heritage located in public places (i.e. outside). Users can also find information on facilities, events and documentary archives linked to these activities.

WikiArtMap is funded by the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean, the French Ministry of Culture, the Girona Provincial Council, the Girona–Costa Brava Tourist Board, the Figueres Town Council and Bonart, among others. The project also receives support and encouragement from agencies working in various sectors, such as innovation, culture, technology and communication. All of these organisations and people have contributed to making the project possible.

3.6.5. The Euroregion's Wiki Loves Monuments Award

In February 2012, the Euroregion, in conjunction with Wikipedia, organised the Wiki Loves Monuments awards ceremony, which was held at the Palau Moja in Barcelona. One of the awards given was for the best image of a monument in the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean.

3.6.6. Participation in the Youth on the Move campaign

Youth on the Move is a comprehensive package of policy initiatives on education and employment for young people in Europe. Launched in 2010, it is part of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. On 26–28 March 2013 in Palma de Mallorca, and in April 2014 in Toulouse, the Euroregion participated in the activities, workshops, conferences and debates organised by the European Commission.

3.6.7. First meeting of the Euroregion rural actors

The rural network of Languedoc-Roussillon organized the first meeting of rural actors of the Euroregion on Thursday 6 and Friday October 7, 2011, at the Illa de Tet (Pyrénées-Orientales) and gathered more than 130 participants.

The goal of was to meet, share practices on rural development and foster cooperation.

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