

**INTERREGIONAL MAPPING ACROSS THE BORDERS.
THE CASE OF SAAR-LOR-LUX THEMATIC CARTOGRAPHY**

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The regional planning authorities of Saarland and Rheinland-Pfalz (German Länder), the Lorraine region (France) and the Great Duchy of Luxemburg have worked together on a border crossing planning scheme for their 37.000 km² large area of cooperation. Based on the map of Europe - scale 1:500.000 - they first defined the geographic frame of the new map: It had to cover important parts of the middle of Europe from Belgium to Switzerland and from French Champagne to the Upper Rhine Valley and Black Forest. For this area they designed a "Topographic Survey (Aperçu topographique)", which was then printed and was partly used as background to several thematic maps such as "Guiding Scheme for Regional Planning (Schéma directeur d'aménagement)", "Planning Regions (Zones de planification)", "Zones and points of gravitation for governmental aid (Zones et poles bénéficiant d'aides des programmes nationaux)" and "Production and distribution of energies (Production et distribution de l'énergie)". This series of thematic maps is thought to be continued, not only by the regional planners, but also by geographers from the universities of Saarbrücken and Trier (Germany) and Metz and Nancy (France).

After solving the problem of completion and actualising the traffic network and the pattern of towns and other places including the spelling of place-names, the collaboration in the different fields of sectoral politics took place and gave discussion for many years. The writing of explanatory notes proved to be very difficult, as well as the finding of correct denominations in the two languages, French and German. It was a great success finally to complete the publication with four of the maps mentioned above and a brochure about the "Organisation and Instruments of governmental Regional Planning (Organisation et instruments de l'aménagement du territoire)".

The thematic maps have been printed in 4 to 6 colours. The format of the maps is 74 cm (b) and 67 cm (h). The legend is placed at the right hand side. The maps have been distributed in the brochure to the interested public.

The maps are the first ones which cover the Saar-Lor-Lux border region. It can be said that they had an ice breaking function. They have helped to create a more intense feeling of multiregional consciousness. It is the aim of the involved governmental administrations to give broader and better information about this area of cooperation to the more than 5 million people living in the Saar-Lor-Lux euroregion.