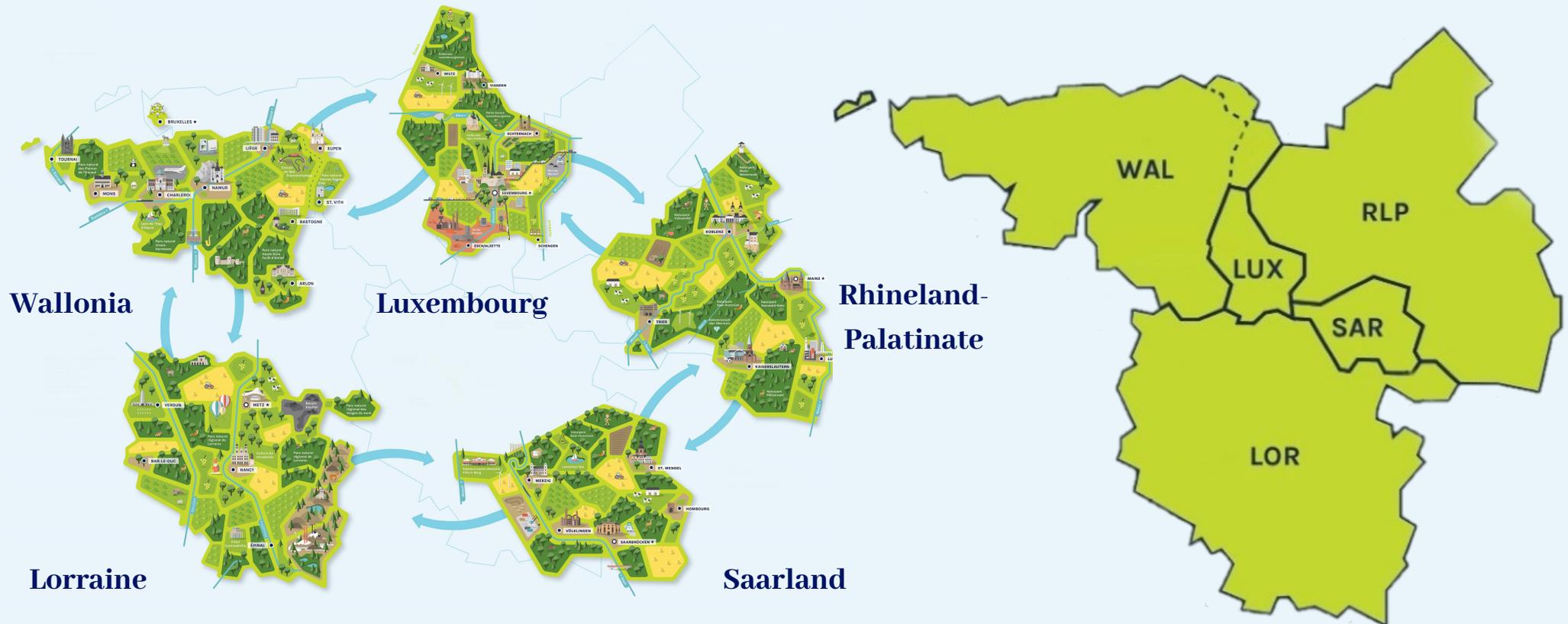


THE GREATER REGION

A Space for Cross-border Cooperation in the Heart of Europe



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EGTC Summit Secretariat of the Greater Region

House of the Greater Region

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A LABORATORY OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Only 600 km from London, Berlin, Prague and Milan, and just 300 km away from Paris, Brussels, Rotterdam and Frankfurt

65.401 km², 5 regions, 4 countries and 3 languages: the territories **Lorraine** in the French region Grand Est, **Wallonia**, the **Federation Wallonia-Brussels** and **Ostbelgien** in Belgium, **Saarland** and **Rhineland-Palatinate** in Germany as well as the **Grand Duchy of Luxembourg**

Attractive, multilingual working and living conditions for more than **11.6 million inhabitants**

Built on the idea of **transnational cooperation** and a plurality of nations living together in harmony

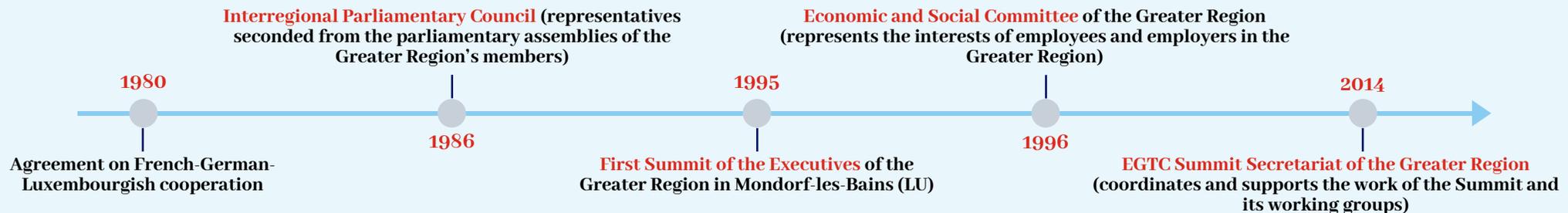
An **economic powerhouse** and a major **hub for European research and innovation**

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

The concept of the Greater Region has its origins in the intergovernmental commission set up by Germany and France in **1969**. **Two years later**, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg joined the commission, followed by the German federal states Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate,

the French region Lorraine as well as the Federation Wallonia-Brussels and the German-speaking Community of Belgium. Since then, the partners have cooperated to tackle common challenges in the areas of:

- ☛ Mobility and regional development
- ☛ Education and lifelong learning
- ☛ Tourism and culture
- ☛ Environment and sustainability
- ☛ Economy and competitiveness
- ☛ Society and security



TOOLS AND ACTIONS

- Spatial observation: the **Greater Region's Geographical Information System (GIS-GR)**, the **Interregional Labour Market Observatory**, and the **network of the Statistical Offices** of the Greater Region
- ☛ European pilot project **GeoConnectGR** of the Land Registry and Mapping Working Group, the GIS-GR and the EGTC Summit Secretariat of the Greater Region selected by the **EU Commission as a b-solutions project**
- The **Economic and Social Committee of the Greater Region** is the **only cross-border body in Europe** where representatives from trade associations, social, and professional organisations are working together on a variety of topics

WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL

HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL MOBILITY IN THE EU

The Greater Region has **more cross-border commuters than any other region in the European Union (240,000)**

- **50%** of them live in France
- about **75%** work in Luxembourg

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

- a wide range of cultural activities, cuisine, and sightseeing for tourists and locals alike
- a common **industrial** and **natural heritage**
- a great number of **UNESCO world heritage sites**

MULTICULTURAL HIGHER EDUCATION AND LEADING-EDGE RESEARCH

- The **University of the Greater Region (UniGR)**: **6** universities from **4** countries, more than **135,000** students, **7,000** Ph.D. students, and more than **10,000** lecturers
- UniGR-Center for **Border Studies** (UniGR-CBS)
- **Charte** Saar-Lor-Lux-Rheinland-Pfalz-Wallonie: a network of 11 higher education institutions
- The **Franco-German University** in Saarbrücken
- The **ISFATES** (French-German Institute for Technology, Economy, and Science): a pioneer for a large set of integrated French-German curricula