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# The European Cohesion Policy in Three French Regions

## Limousin, Lorraine, Rhône-Alpes

- synthesis note -

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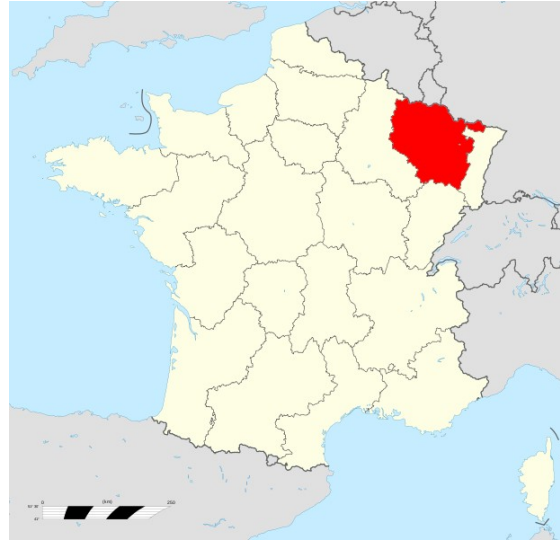
March 2011/2012

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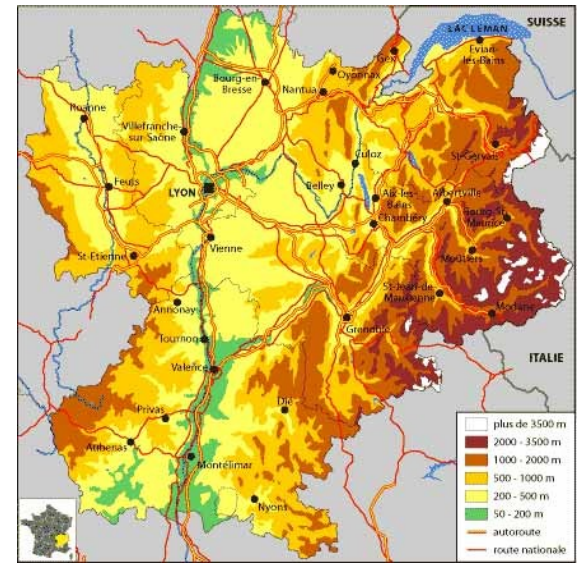
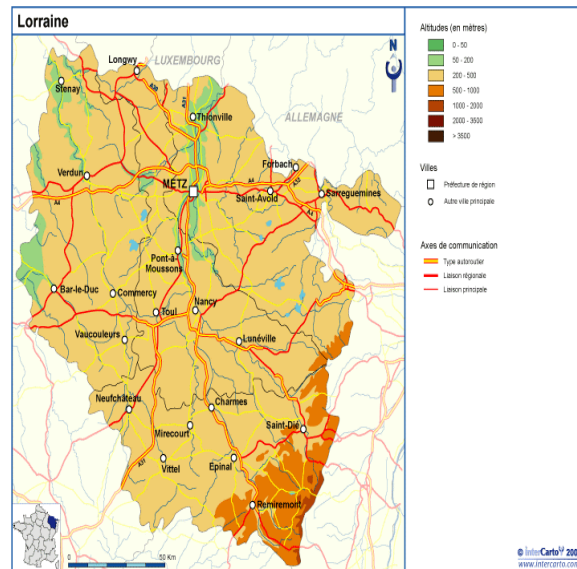
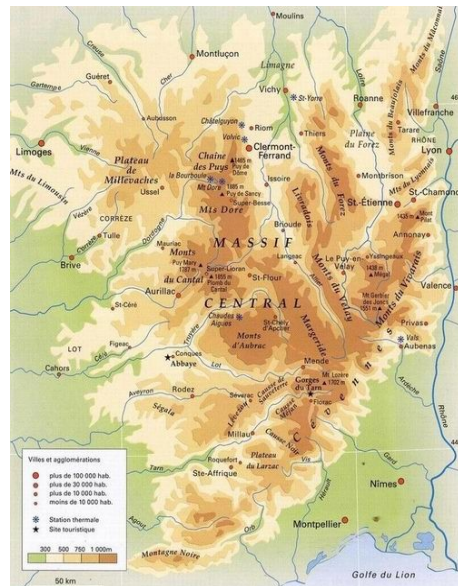
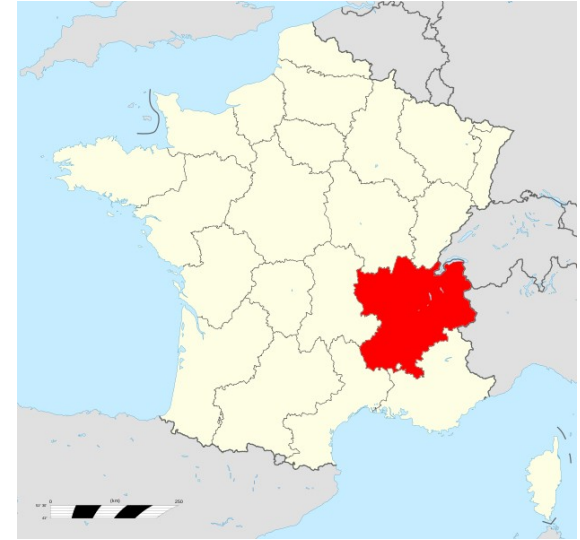
# Limousin Alpes



# Lorraine



# Rhône-Alpes



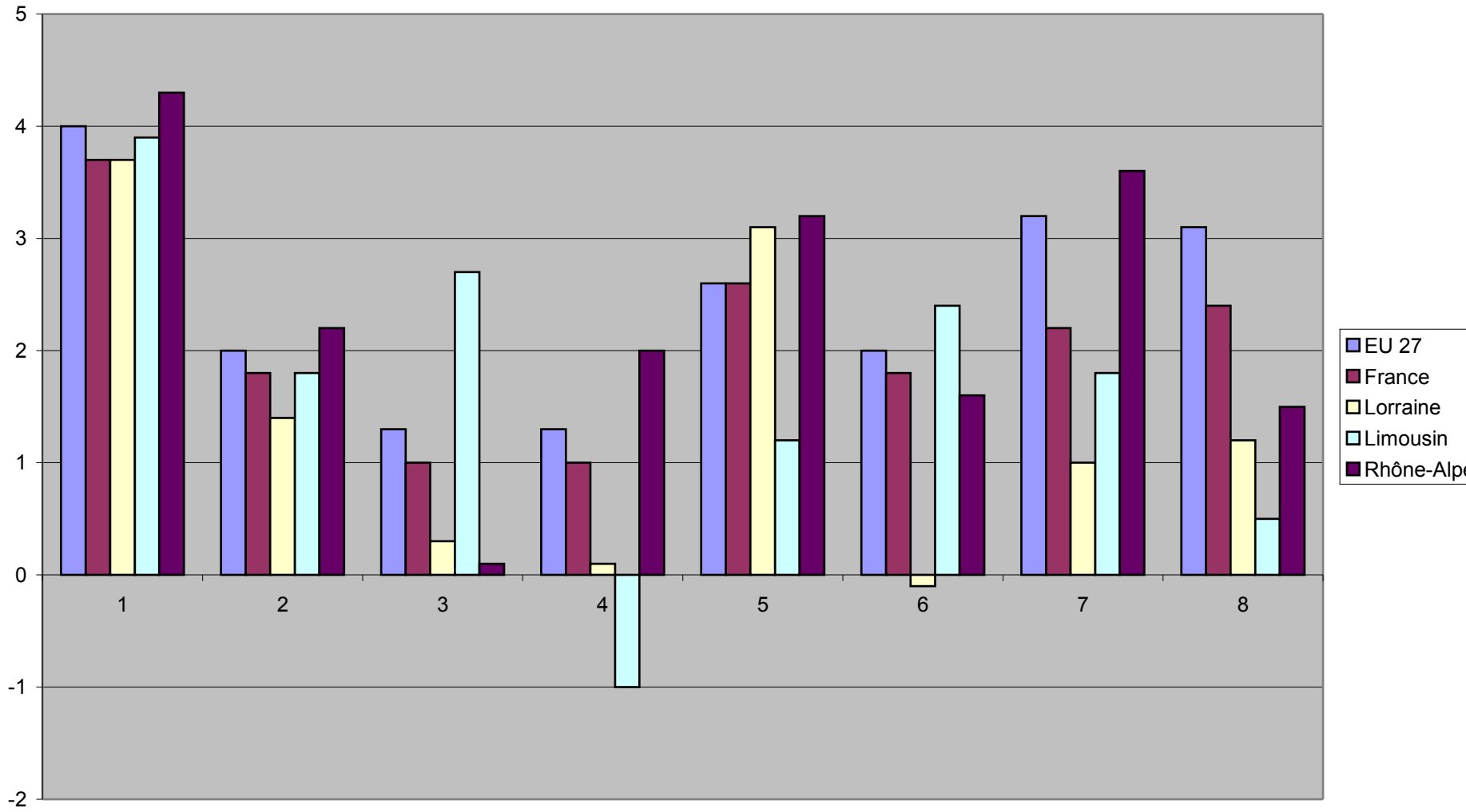
# Common Methodology

- The characteristics of the physical, human, economic, administrative and political geography
- The effects of the European cohesion policy
- Interviews with key actors of each region to clarify the main challenges and the perspectives of the European CP
- **Four Approaches**
  - Crisis
  - Governance
  - Territorial cooperation
  - Services of general interest

# The choice of the three regions - contrasted specificities -

Limousin	Lorraine	Rhône-Alpes
2% 16.942 km <sup>2</sup> (small)	4% 23 547 km <sup>2</sup> (average)	8% (1% EU) 43 698 km <sup>2</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> FR region)
731.000 inh. the lowest density of pop. FR (43/113)	2.340.000 inh. (3,75% FR)	6.074.000 inh. (10% FR) Higher density then FR average 138/113
Growth population High dependency of old population	Week growth of population (negative perspectives)	Demographic growth
Peripheral position despite a central position in FR	Frontiers with BE – LU – DE but more for passage than for exchange	Frontiers with SW – IT but natural barriers (mountains)
Urban polarisation Rural character Desequilibrium East-West	« mosaic territory » North-South dynamic urbain/rural/industrial areas in difficulty Metz – Nancy	Urbanisation Industrialisation Infra-regional disparities
Left political orientation (no political change in the last century in Haute-Vienne and Limoges)		Right political orientation Impotent left influence in rural areas and some cities

# GDP Growth 2000-2007



# European Cohesion Funds

Limousin	Lorraine	Rhônes-Alpes
First structural funds obtained in 1981	1962, 1968 (BEI)	Until 2007-2013 for the less favoured territories
<b>GDP – EU average 24 900€ SPA/inh. (2007)</b>		
21 800 € SPA/inh. 90% EU average	22 000 € SPA/inh. 90% EU average	27 200 € SPA/inh. (2 <sup>nd</sup> richest FR region) ?100% EU average
<b>Structural Funds 2007-2013 average France 187,06 €/inh.</b>		
365,15 €/inh. (incl.FEADER) 1st position FR metr.	270,95 €/inh. (incl.FEADER) above FR metr. average	101 €/inh.
179 €/inh. ERDF 1st position FR metr.	140,74 €/inh.	
71,75 €/inh. ESF 8th position FR metr.	54,4 €/inh.	

# Principle of additionality

	EU Funds	National funds	Private funds
ERDF Limousin	127 259 135 €	216 649 265 €	222 994 423 €
ESF Limousin	51 012 951 €	38 247 405 €	14 039 935 €
Pluriregional OP « Massif Central »	40 571 457 €	40 600 000 €	20 000 000 €
ERDF Lorraine	329 406 415 €	400 112 102 €	358 308 408 €
EF en Lorraine	127 406 686 €	94 553 456 €	33 823 869 €
INTERREG IV A (la Grande Région)	105 996 517 €	69 484 840 €	36 511 677 €
ERDF Rhône-Alpes	334 049 595€	324 007 955€	39 598 889€
ESF Rhône-Alpes	359 699 752€	279 566 748€	76 605 755€
Pluriregional OP « Rhône »	33 809 546€	33 809 546€	

# The governance of EU Funds

- Management by the State, partially in co-management with the regions
  - National OP – ESF
  - Regional OPs – ERDF
- Regional inter-funds committee – programming, monitoring (ERDF, ESF, EARDF)
- **Challenges (~divergent aspects):**
- Different experiences and capacities to manage funds
- Different conditions of governance
  - partnerships favoured in a small region (Limousin)
  - governance structured around 2 main cities and at the frontier (Lorraine)
  - the complex dialogue in a big region (Rhône-Alpes)



# The governance of EU Funds

- **Challenges (~convergent aspects):**
  - **Partnership:** rather favouring close administrative relations than a real governance and evaluation shared by all interested actors (including elected officials) - however, the compulsory partnership is largely appreciated (progress as compared to national traditions)
  - **Dialogue:** mainly focused on technical aspects and less on policies
  - Still lack of **visibility** of the EU cohesion policy and important administrative burdens
  - The presence or the participation of different local actors to the meetings of the regional committees more for the local/particular **interests** than for the regional partnership

# Crisis

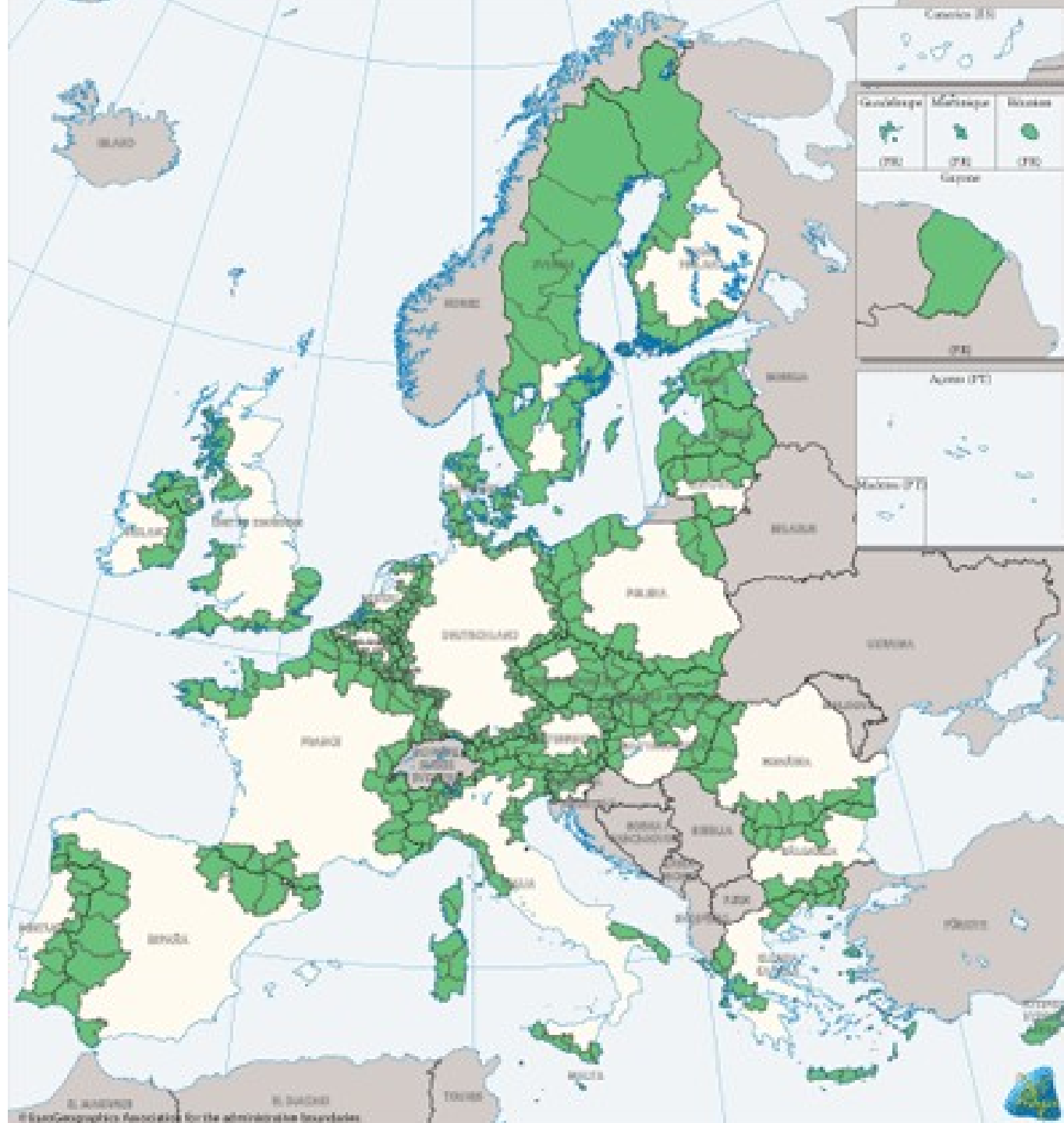
- **Challenges (~convergent aspects):**
  - all regions affected (unemployment, less qualified persons, vulnerable and temporal or partial jobs)
  - mainly national and regional actions to address the crisis
  - budgetary problems
  - difficult to evaluate all the effects of the crisis
- **Challenges (~divergent aspects):**
  - Different impact according to sectors and territories
    - Limousin: diversified economy, at the beginning less touched by the crisis
    - Rhône-Alpes: « first in, first out »
    - Lorraine: employment at the frontier (10% of the active pop.)

# Services of general interest

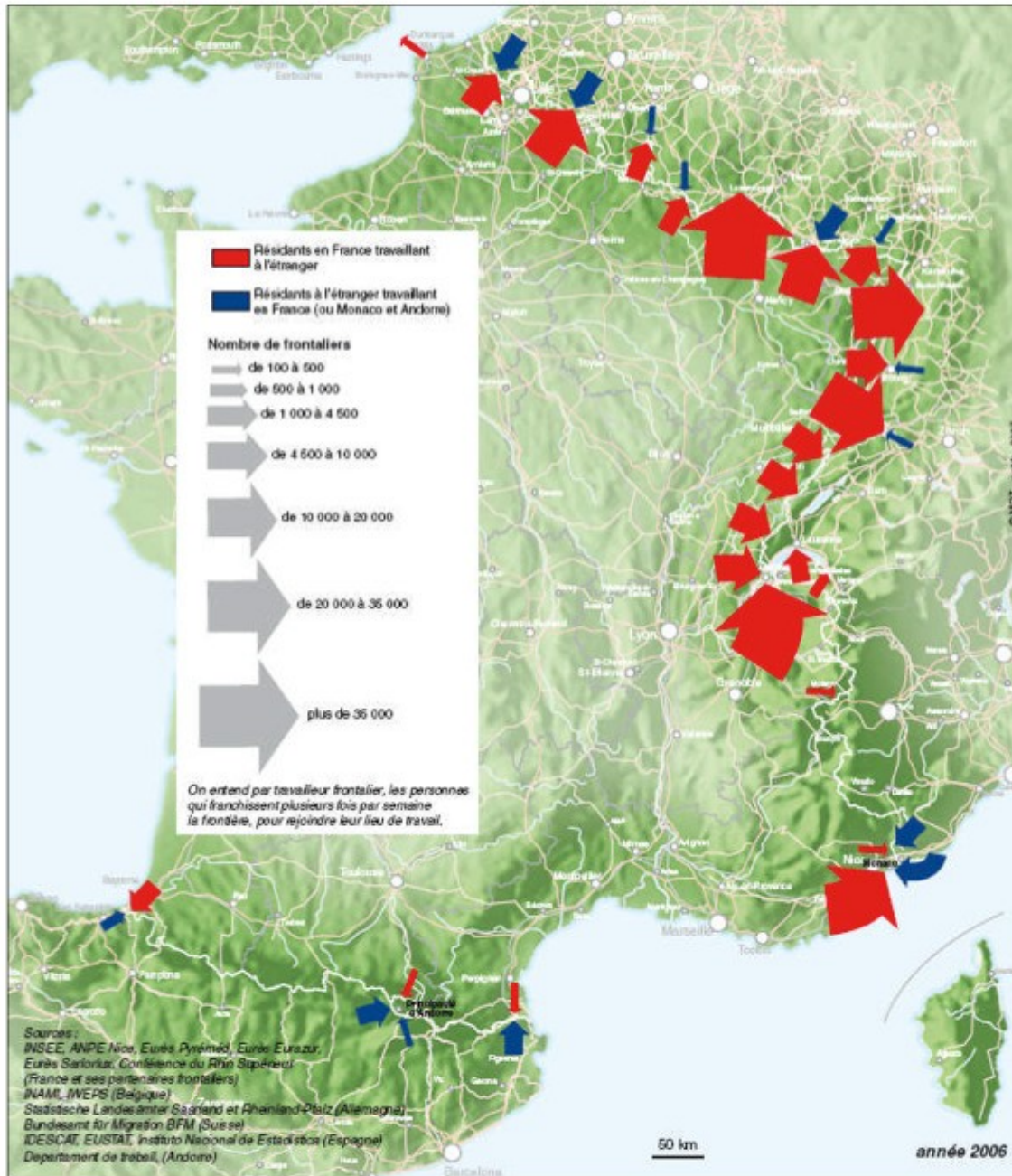
- OPs concerns less SGIs than the national policies of « cohesion »
- Territorial cooperation OPs cc. SGIs but difficulties (competences, capacities, priorities)
- National policies and territorial disparities
  - rural/urban
  - centre/periphery
  - social disparities/personnalisation

# Territorial cooperation

- All regions concerned
- Limousin
  - cooperations with French regions (around common projects – e.g. TGV)
  - cooperations with foreign regions (mainly particular circumstances) – some innovated projects
- Lorraine 250 km at the frontier (150km DE, 50 LU, 50 BE)
  - La « Grande Région » (1970)
- Rhône-Alpes
  - Swiss cooperation
  - « Quatre Moteurs pour l'Europe » (Bade-Wurtemberg, Catalogne, Lombardie, Rhône-Alpes)
- Linguistic barriers



## Migrations alternantes des travailleurs frontaliers



Source : Atlas de la Coopération transfrontalière, MOT, 2007

# EU cohesion policy effects

- Difficult to distinguish the contribution of EU funds to cohesion but concrete positive results recognized
- All territories eligible, need to focus projects but still not appropriate articulation between different POs
- The future of territorial cooperation and of Euroregions (shared governance spaces, cooperation between different social spaces)