

# Geography

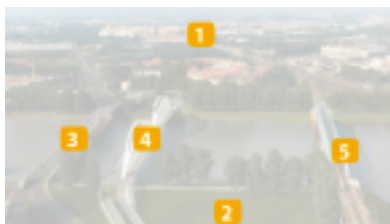
## Part Three: France and the European Union

### Chapter 6: The European Union

#### Key ideas

The EU or European Union has 506 million inhabitants and consists of 28 member states. Although thirty six percent of the EU budget goes towards regional aid there are still huge differences between the different states. For example, the GNP per inhabitant of Luxembourg is seven times the figure for Romania.

#### Three Bridges (between Strasbourg and Kehl)



#### Legend

- 1. Strasbourg
- 2. Kehl (Germany)
- 3. Europe Bridge
- 4. New footbridge and tramway (computer simulation)
- 5. Railway bridge

For centuries the Rhine was a disputed border between France and Germany. Currently linked by two bridges, there will soon be a third bridge for crossing on foot, bike or by tram.

#### D.N.L. Vocabulary

**European Megapole:** area of highest population density and wealth in the EU, stretches from London through to Milan.

**Erasmus:** a programme which enables students to study in another European country.

**Euro Zone:** 19 EU countries which use the single currency

**Schengen Space:** area of free circulation of people and goods, proposed in 1985, which eliminates border controls between 22 EU member states and 6 non-member EU states.

## Case Study of a Cross-border Territory: Catalan Eurodistrict

1) An eurodistrict is an administrative entity which traverses a national border and groups together rural and urban zones in the aim of promoting cooperation. This particular eurodistrict covers the French Pyrénées-Orientales department and the Spanish province of Gérone. In this very diversified territory (Mediterranean coast and mountains) the links between the populations are particularly strong.

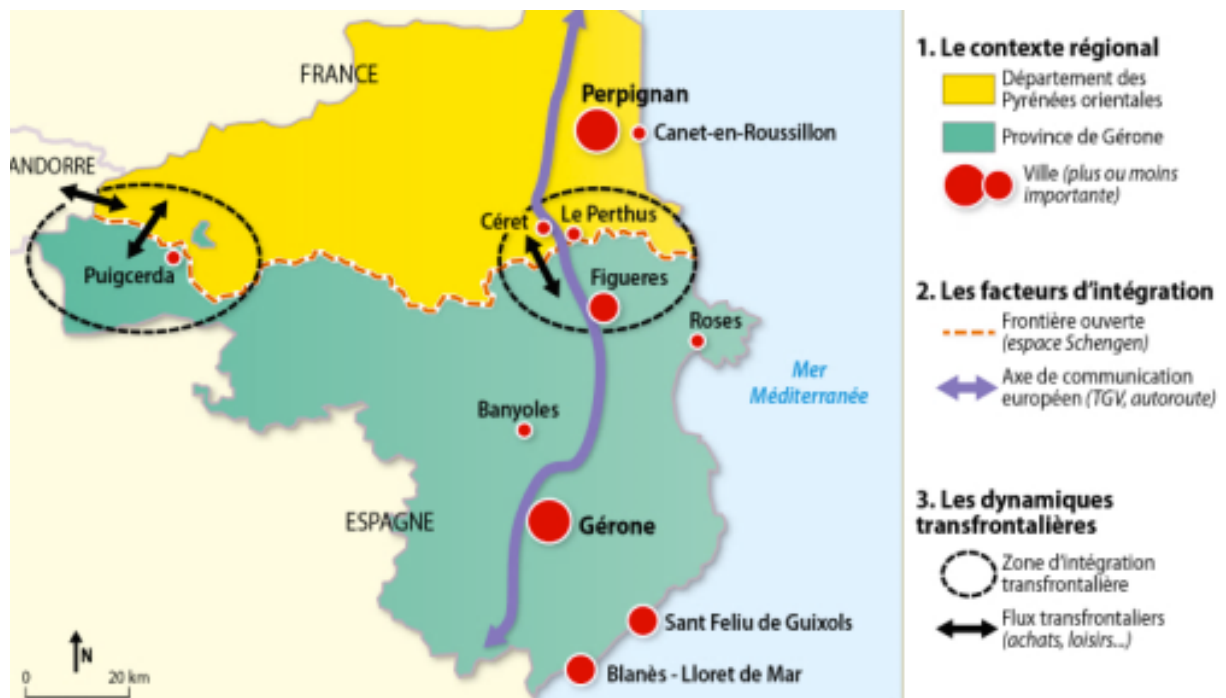


### 2. Perthus, a cross-border commercial zone



This area attracts shoppers every day because of the more attractive prices on the Spanish side. The left side of this street is in France and the right side is in Spain.

### 3. A Cross-border Region



#### Translations

##### 1. Regional Context

(yellow) Pyrénées orientales department

(green) Province of Gérone

(Red dots) Town (of greater or less importance)

##### 2. Integration Factors

(dotted red line) Open border (Schengen Space)

(mauve arrow) Communication axis (TGV, motorway)

##### 3. Cross-border dynamics

Cross-border integration zone

Cross-border flows (purchases, leisure...)

#### 4. Puigcerdà: the first European cross-border hospital



Sixty percent of this hospital's running costs are financed by the E.U. It opened in 2014 not far from the French border and staff speak three languages (French, Spanish and Catalan). It has reduced the previous drive of two hours to the nearest hospital for the 30 000 inhabitants of La Cerdagne, a valley found at 1 200 metres of altitude.

## Case Study: Gotthard tunnel: World's longest and deepest rail tunnel opens in Switzerland

The world's longest and deepest rail tunnel has officially opened in Switzerland, after almost two decades of construction work.

The 57km (35-mile) twin-bore Gotthard base tunnel will provide a high-speed rail link under the Swiss Alps between northern and southern Europe. Switzerland says it will revolutionise European freight transport. Goods currently carried on the route by a million lorries a year will go by train instead.

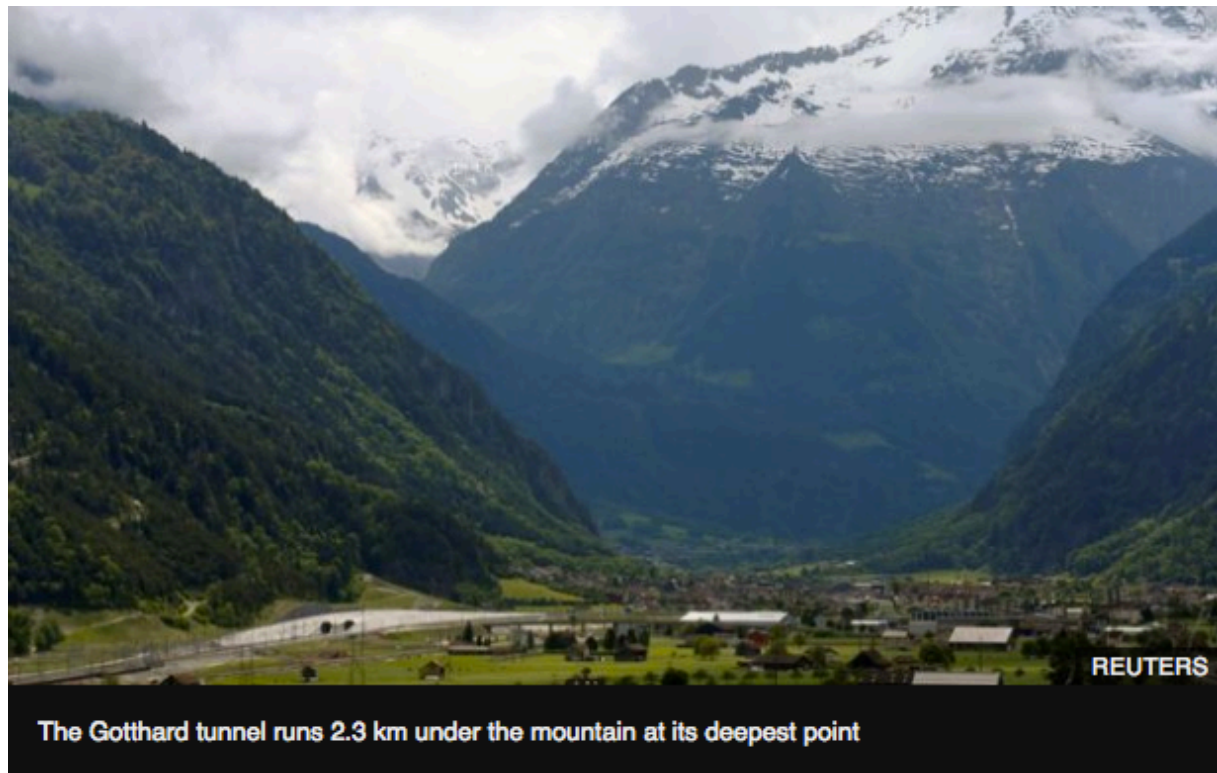
Europe's goods, whether Italian wine for the Netherlands or German cars for Greece, have to cross the Alps. Now they will be able to do so more quickly, more safely, and more cheaply



The project, which cost more than \$12bn (£8.3bn) to build, was endorsed by Swiss voters in a referendum in 1992. Voters then backed a proposal from environmental groups to move all freight travelling through Switzerland from road to rail two years later.



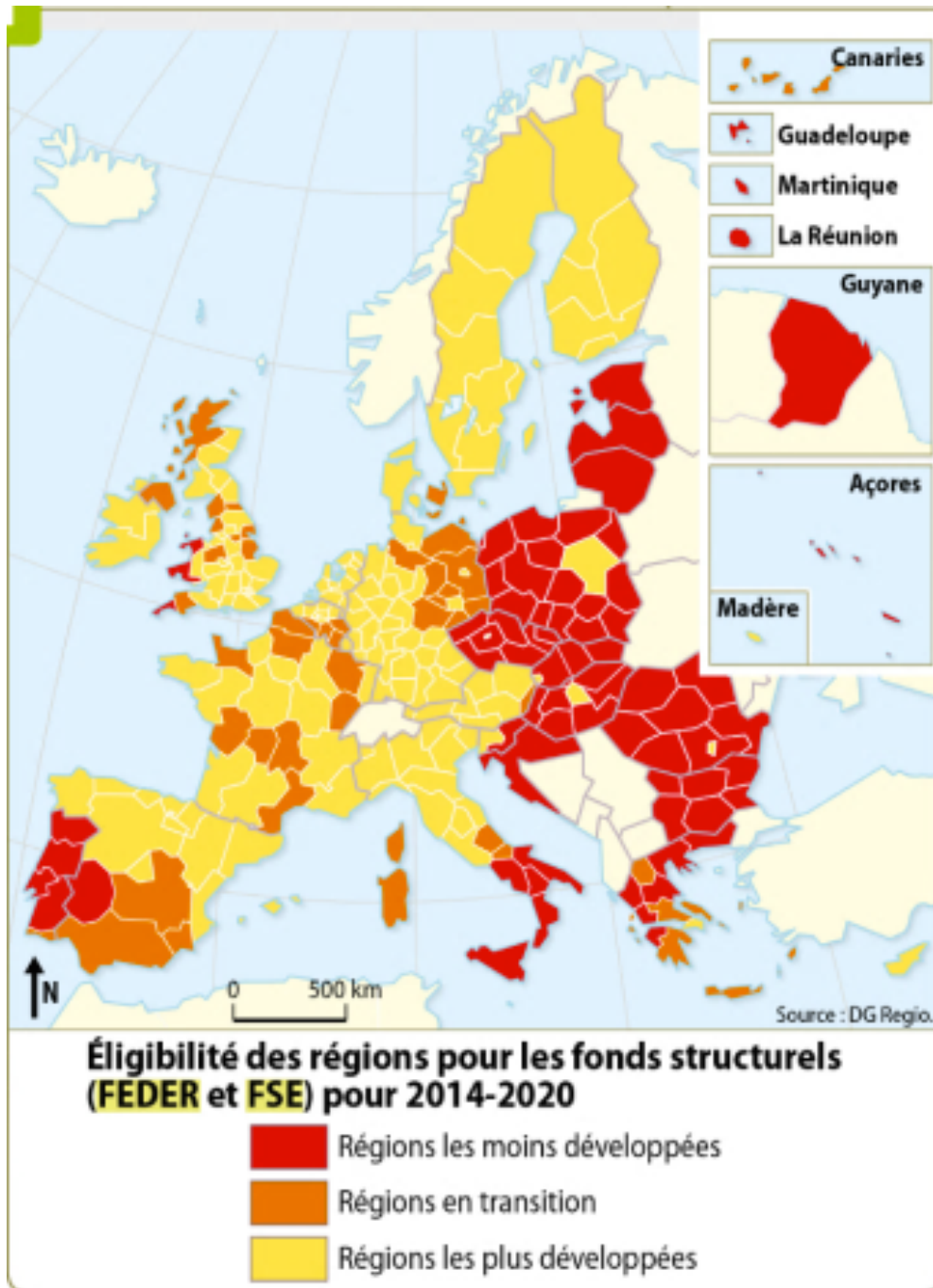
The completed tunnel travels up to 2.3 km below the surface of the mountains above and through rock that reaches temperatures of 46C.



Now the completed tunnel, delivered on time and within budget, will create a mainline rail connection between Rotterdam in the Netherlands and Genoa in Italy. When full services begin in December, the journey time for travellers between Zurich and Milan will be reduced by an hour to two hours and 40 minutes.

The tunnel's course is flat and straight instead of winding up through the mountains like the old rail tunnel and a road tunnel opened in 1980. Approximately 260 freight trains and 65 passenger trains will pass through the tunnel each day in a journey taking as little as 17 minutes. The tunnel is being financed by value-added and fuel taxes, road charges on heavy vehicles and state loans that are due to be repaid within a decade. Swiss bank Credit Suisse has said its economic benefits will include the easier movement of goods and increased tourism.

## Map to show regions of the EU and their eligibility for Structural Funds

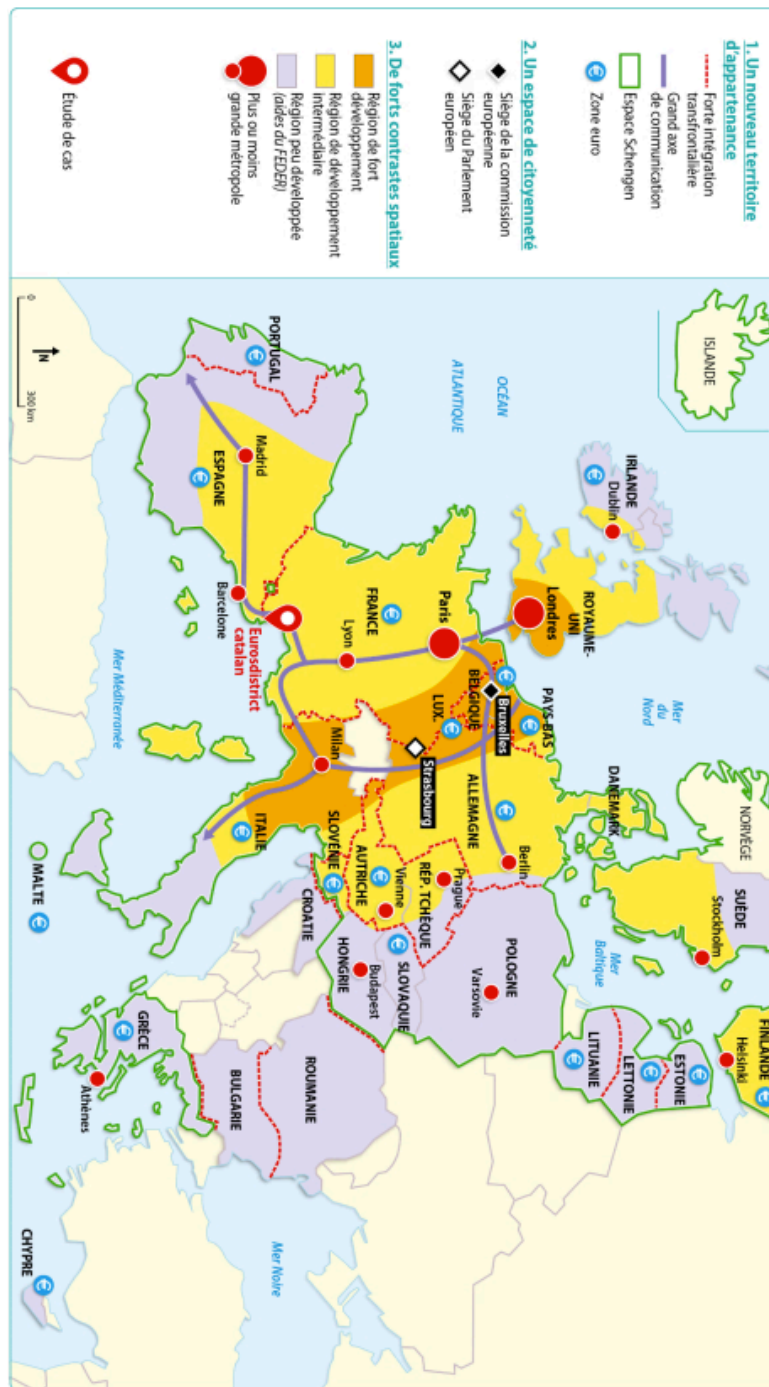


### Translations

Eligibility for structural funds (FEDER and FSE)  
 (red) Less developed regions  
 (orange) Regions in transition  
 (yellow) More developed regions

FEDER: EU development funds which consist of financial aid to promote development  
 FSE: EU Social funds to help improve the employability of EU citizens

# EU SPACE



## Translations

**New territorial groupings:** Strong Cross-border Integration      Main Communication Axis  
Schengen Space      Euro Zone

**Citizenship Space:** Headquarters of the European Commission  
Headquarters of the European Parliament

**Strong Spatial Contrasts:** Very Developed Region      Region of Intermediate development  
Less Developed Region (helped by FEDER)

Major city