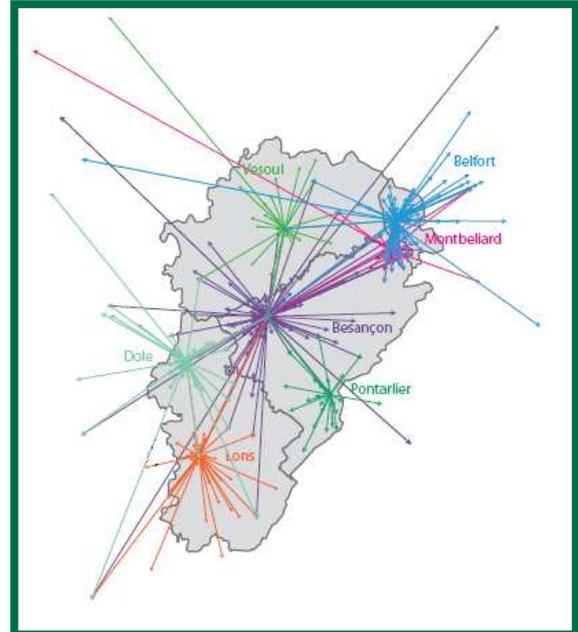


## The territorial organisation of Franche-Comté



**AlpCity Partner**  
**Work Package**  
**WP Coordinator**  
**Subjects involved**  
**and their role**

Franche-Comté Region (France)  
 Cooperation among towns (WP8)  
 Rhône-Alpes Region (France)  
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**Spatial area**  
**involved**  
**Project budget**  
**Project purpose**

The region located between the Rhine axis north and the Rhone axis south, between two mountain ridges (Vosges in the north-west and Jura in the south).

€ 54.000,00

This case study came out from the need of a dynamic overview of the territorial organisation, which takes the interconnections with its neighbours (Bourgogne, Alsace, Rhône-Alpes, Switzerland...) into account  
 The aim of this planned study was at identifying the structure of the territory of the region as a whole (mountain area and off-mountain area) on the basis of urban clusters, regardless of whether they are on the region's territory or connected to its neighbouring French regions and Swiss cantons.  
 This project enabled to check out the efficiency and limits of the “dominating flows”



<b>Project methodology</b>	<p>method for the spatial analysis and identification of urban systems, which are present in a regional space.</p> <p>The project objectives can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- to propose an identification of polarization systems (employment and services mainly) which structures the regional territory,</li><li>- to analyse the hierarchical organisation of existing poles and their links,</li><li>- to test the efficiency of some usual spatial divisions and in some cases to redefine them or to give other models, which are more suitable to regional characteristics.</li></ul> <p>The expected benefits aimed at improving the structural and dynamic knowledge of the regional space in view of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- identifying networks of main towns and their surrounding villages (existing of (in)formal network/connections between small towns),</li><li>- analysing regional policies and adapting them to local context and relationships.</li></ul> <p>The case study implementation consisted in buying, selecting and analysing the relevant territory statistical data followed by calculations and maps design. At the end a database of the territorial organisation of Franche-Comté Region has been set up.</p> <p>A study methodology focusing on developing good practices transferable to other studies/territories: analysis of usual definition criteria of territories and anticipation of potential adaptation to local specificities.</p>
<b>Project activities</b>	<p>Based on spatial analysis, the study was carried out in three steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Status of the art (analysis methods adapted to the study issues. The aim is at discussing the pros and cons of each method to choose the one to be developed in this project);</li><li>2. Analysis based on selected criteria, obtained results were presented, discussed and gave a model vision of the organisation of the regional territory;</li><li>3. Results analysis and a study report.</li></ol> <p>Work of spatial analysis with maps and analysis in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- population dynamics</li><li>- attraction and polarisation of urban areas</li><li>- spatial typology given population and socio-economic data</li><li>- hierarchization of towns and small cities</li></ul>
<b>Achieved results</b>	<p>The scheduled timetable was the following: November 24<sup>th</sup> 2005: first technical committee December 2005 and March 2006: intermediary reports May 2006: Study final report Dissemination of the results in scientific papers or at an international conference.</p> <p>Thanks to the first results, a better understanding of the organisation of “home-job” trips has been reached. Results gave an original approach to this field, something rather new at this geographic scale.</p> <p>As far as business functions are concerned, it brought also a new overview given the use of unusual statistic and literature sources.</p> <p>The study met its main objectives, however it is possible to outline three limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- some deeper thoughts are necessary to pursue the investigations about “home-job” trips and the duration of the project (7 months) is not sufficient for it,</li><li>- statistic data are complex to handle and demand a significant amount of work to select and calculate the indicators,</li><li>- fields of shops are difficult to study because there are few literature sources adapted to our geographical requirements</li></ul>
<b>Discrepancies between planned</b>	<p>This project has been an opportunity to get a real state of the art, which should be</p>



<b>results and results achieved</b>	completed by some modelling work, which couldn't be carried out because of the project's seven-month duration.
<b>Instruments proposed, revised and finalised</b>	A study report has been issued The release of results in a scientific magazine or an international conference has been proposed.
<b>Impact on the local environment, actors and stakeholders</b>	A study in close partnership with Franche-Comté Region: a research team and a local authority work closer for that spatial planning mission. The achieved results give useful elements for further discussion and modelling as far as spatial planning is concerned. Moreover relationships have strengthened between the laboratory, local authorities, urbanism agencies and the National Statistic Institute via the setting up of a technical steering committee.
<b>Critical aspects</b>	Seven months to carry out this kind of ambitious study revealed not to be really sufficient.
<b>Lessons learned</b>	This kind of projects should start by buying and selecting the necessary statistical data before analysing (in order to avoid wasting time in repeating calculations and maps). The setting up of the database represents a long and time-consuming process given data access times allowed by data providers.
<b>Transferability</b>	The case study is transferable to other areas if similar indicators can be used for the geographic scale (municipality). In this field, a cross-border look (France-Switzerland) was proposed thanks to the data put at disposal by the cross-border statistical Observatory of the Jura area.
<b>Case study follow-up</b>	Researchers of the ThéMA Laboratory are very interested in pursuing their investigations about this topic. Franche-Comté Region will use these results for its future regional policies planning for the period 2007-2013. Some first results are already integrated in the Regional framework for sustainable territorial planning, which is currently carried out.
<b>Common issues with other projects</b>	Although there is an obvious link with the action carried by Rhône-Alpes Region in Alpcity (urban polarisation of the regional territory), this case study is still at a preliminary and research step whereas Rhône-Alpes' one is already a project of network setting-up. This case study was introduced as substitute after the Territoire de Belfort's withdrawal and therefore began later than the other AlpCity pilot projects (November 2005). Last trans-national meeting (before the conclusion of the case studies scheduled by the end of May 2006) was held in December 2005 and so there was no opportunity to exchange information with other case studies. Since the first results have just emerged, they could be the ground of a future trans-national work.
<b>SSC Experts' comments and recommendations</b>	In spite of the brief duration, this research produced very useful results for future spatial policies planning (especially for the period 2007-2013). From this experience it is clear that the success of a research at a trans-regional and trans-national level requires to set up a network between the institutions and all the actors involved (universities, laboratories, statistical observatories, etc.) in order to exchange methodology and achieved results, but also statistical data. For this reason the formation of a steering committee reveals to be very useful to monitor the research and as place for fruitful exchanges and discussions during the monthly meetings. Of course this can be considered just the first step of a more lasting process of territorial organisation in the region.