



Regio Basiliensis
Grenzen verbinden | Frontières unissent



Regio Basiliensis and the Swiss perspective on cross-border cooperation

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1. Role of the Regio Basiliensis and Swiss cross-border cooperation



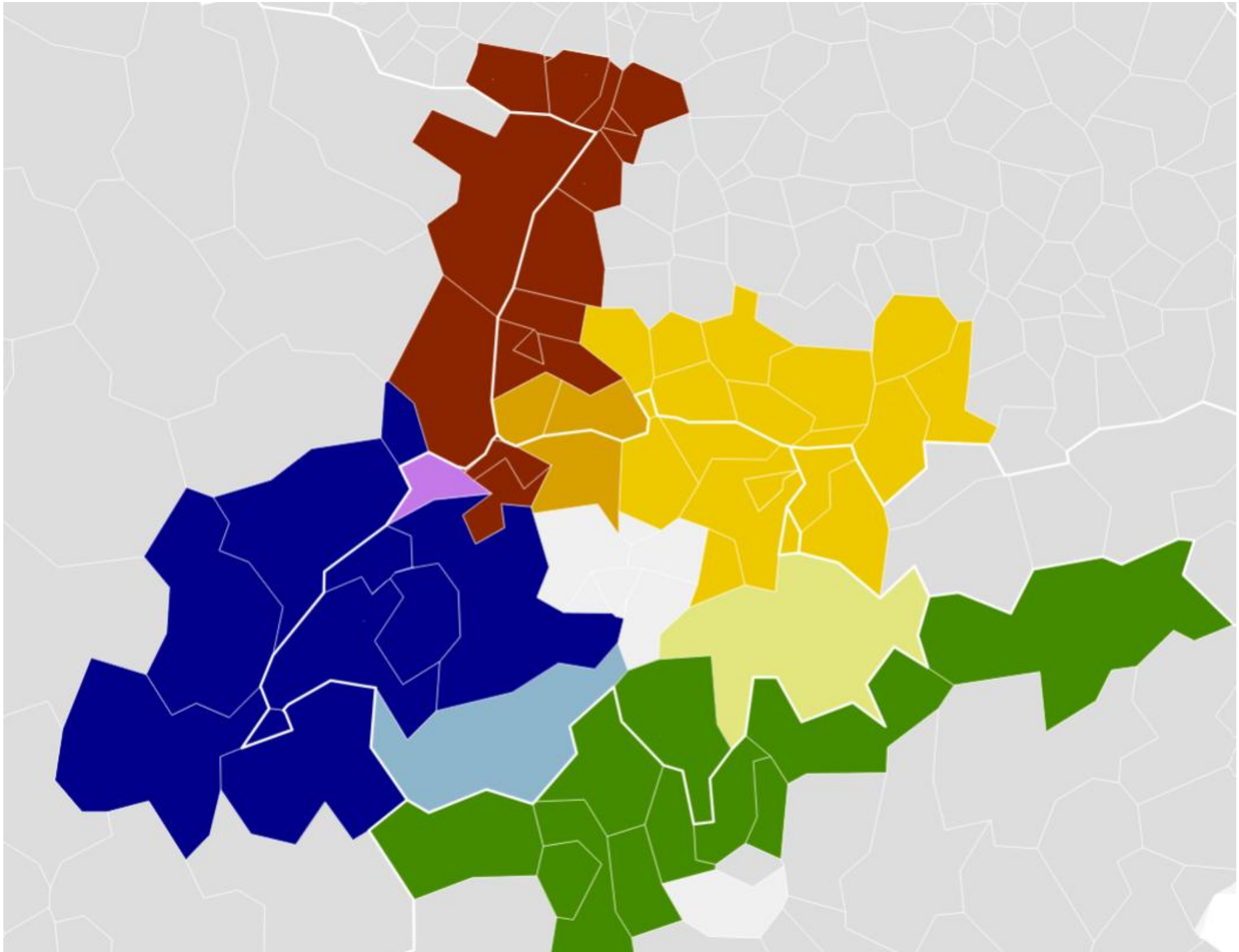
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The Upperrhine Region

A trilateral cross-border territory
(France / Germany / Switzerland)

with

- 6.3 mio inhabitants
- 165 billion Euros GDP
- 600 clusters and business networks
- 100.000 commuters
- more than 800 INTERREG-projects
- more 1000 actors actively involved in CBC



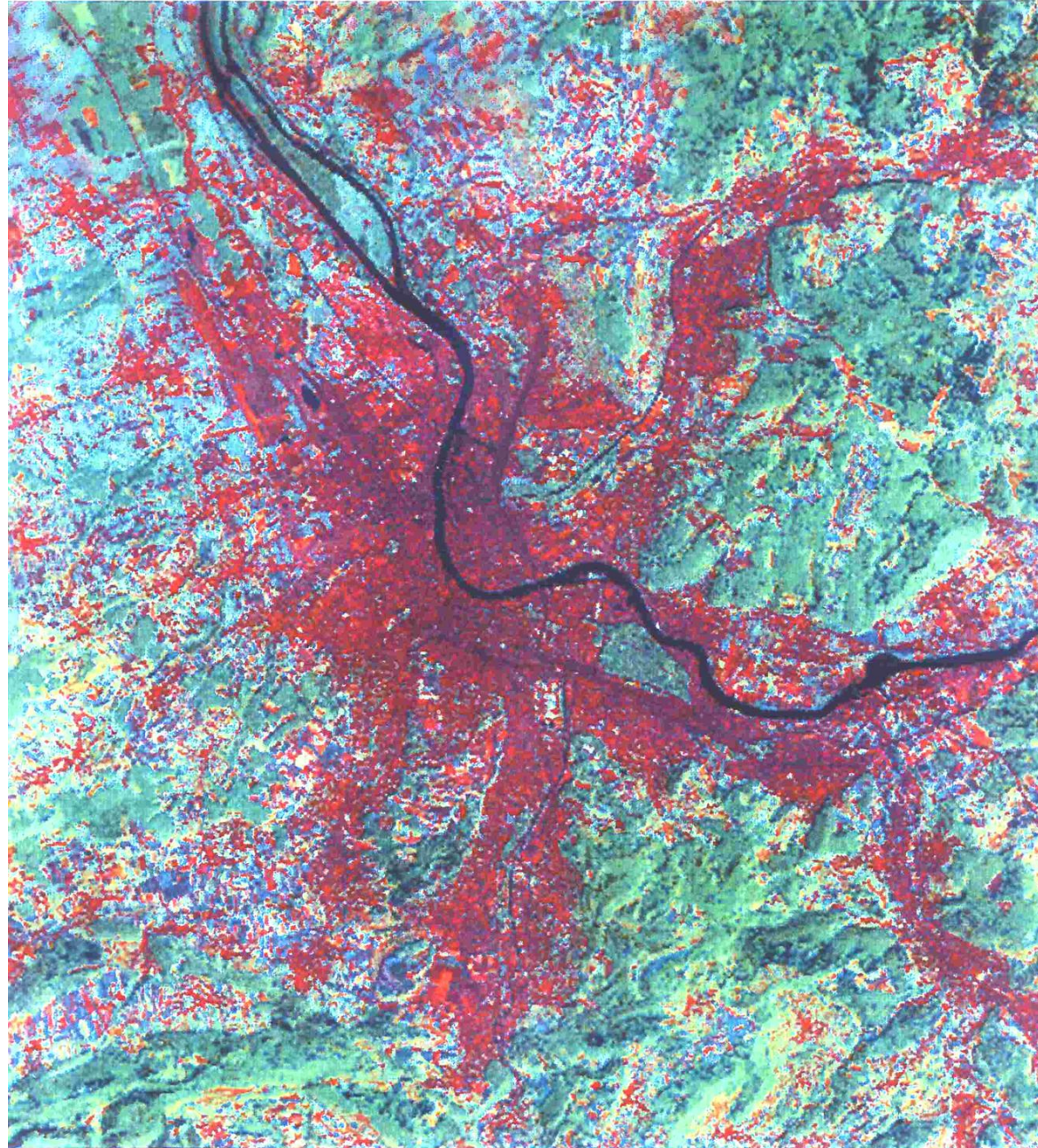
Georhena



Dépasser les frontières, projet après projet
Fonds Européen de développement Régional
(FEDER)

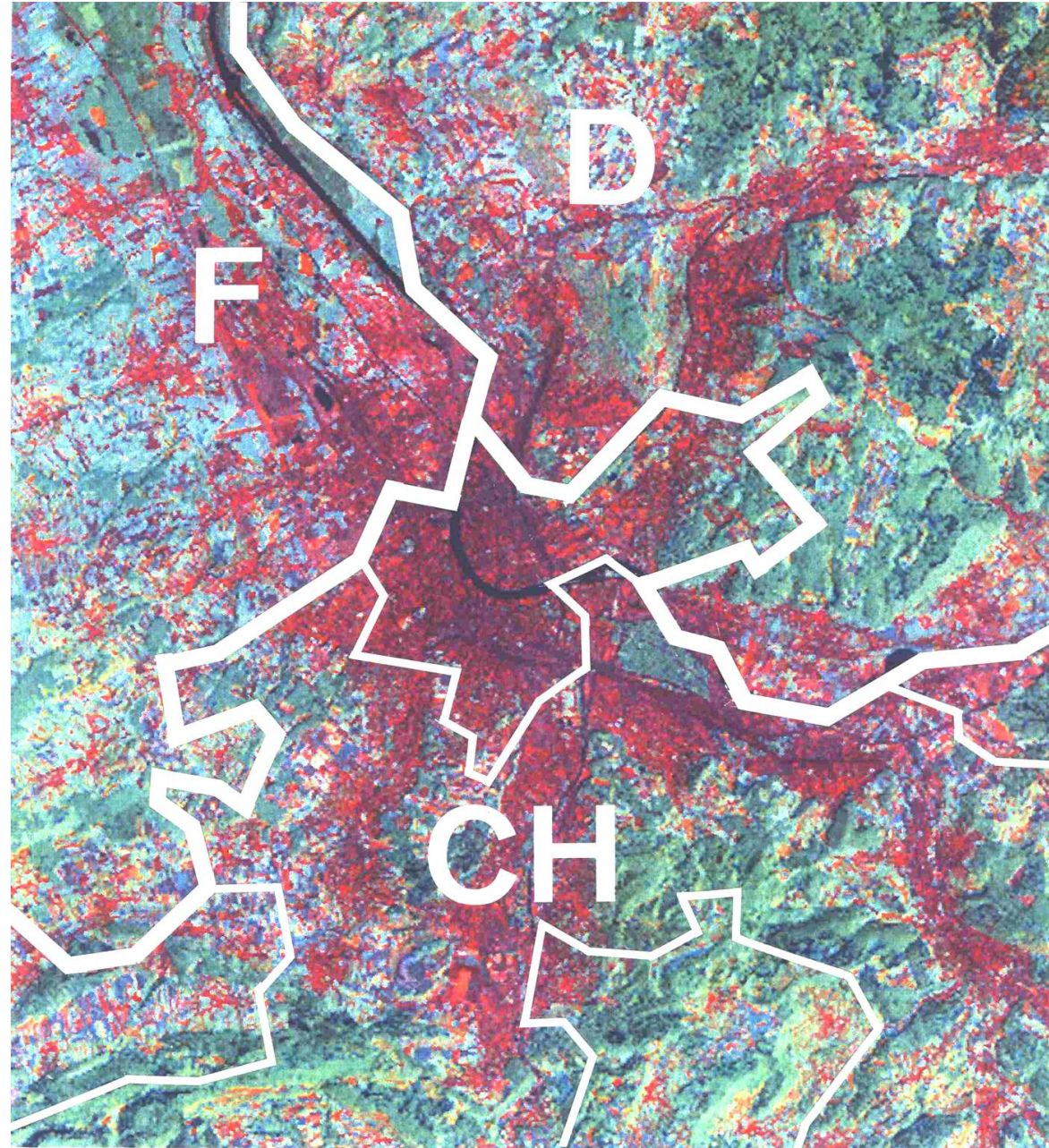


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Regio Basiliensis: facts and figures

- 1963 association founded
- Swiss partner for trinational Upper Rhine Co-operation
- Budget 1,2 Mio. CHF (1,2 Mio €)
- 6 posts (8 collaborators)
- Association with 350 members (economy, private persons, public bodies) – 1/5 of budget
- Intercantonal Co-ordination unit IKRB for five cantons BS, BL, AG, SO and JU and Swiss Confederation – 4/5 of budget
- Contact: www.regbas.ch



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Regio Basiliensis Trinational To-Do-List



TRINATIONALE
PENDENZENLISTE DER
REGIO BASILIENSIS

Juni 2023

1. Assure good economic and politic conditions for business
2. Develop cross-border transport and territorial cohesion
3. Strengthen the knowledge and innovation region
4. Sustainability, climate change and energy supply
5. Cross-border social cohesion



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Functions of Regio Basiliensis as inter-cantonal coordination office (IKRB)



In 1970, the two cantons of Basel established the inter-cantonal coordination unit at the Regio Basiliensis (IKRB).

This involves various tasks in connection with the Upper Rhine Conference and the INTERREG programme in the Upper Rhine.



Federal and cantonal competencies

- Art. 54 Federal Constitution : **Foreign Relations**
 - para. 1: Foreign relations are the responsibility of the Confederation.
 - para. 3: It shall respect the powers of the Cantons and protect their interests.
- Art. 55 Federal Constitution : **Participation of the Cantons in foreign policy decisions**
 - para. 1: The Cantons shall be consulted on foreign policy decisions that affect their powers or their essential interests.
 - [...].



Federal and cantonal competencies

Art. 56 Federal Constitution : **Relations between the Cantons and foreign states**

- para. 1: A Canton may conclude treaties with foreign states on matters that lie *within the scope of its powers*.
- para. 2: Such treaties must not conflict with *the law or the interests* of the Confederation, or with the law of any other Cantons. The Canton must *inform* the Confederation before concluding such a treaty.
- para. 3: A Canton may deal *directly* with lower ranking foreign authorities; in other cases, the *Confederation* shall conduct relations with foreign states on behalf of a Canton.

→ The form of organization of the other state thus influences on the role of the Confederation.



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2. Bilateral agreements Switzerland-EU



Switzerland has much in common with the EU and its member states

Besides economic aspects, we share values, languages, culture and geography.



In the international arena, we often advocate for the same goals and values such as peace, human rights and democracy.



The Federal Council therefore wants to **stabilise and further develop the bilateral path with the EU.**





Historical overview CH EU

Free Trade Agreement (trade)

1972

Bilaterals I (economy)

1999

Bilaterals II (politics)

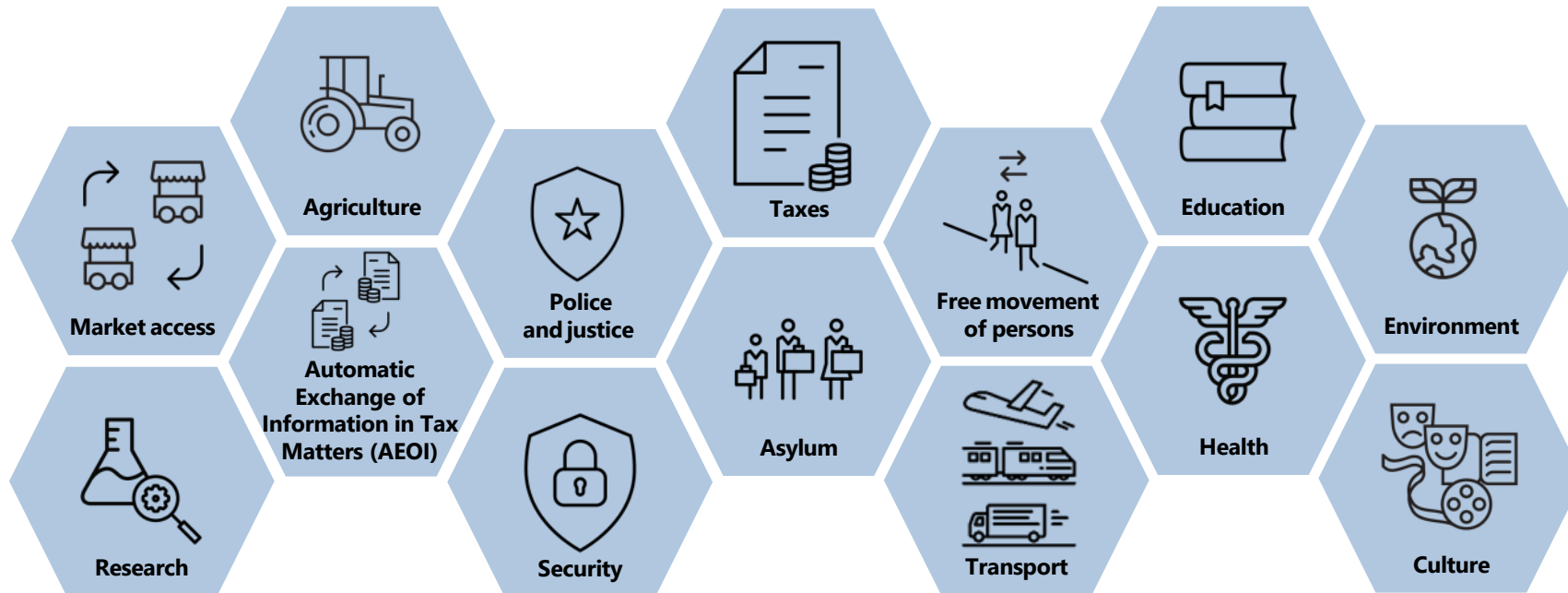
2004

Additional agreements

since 2004



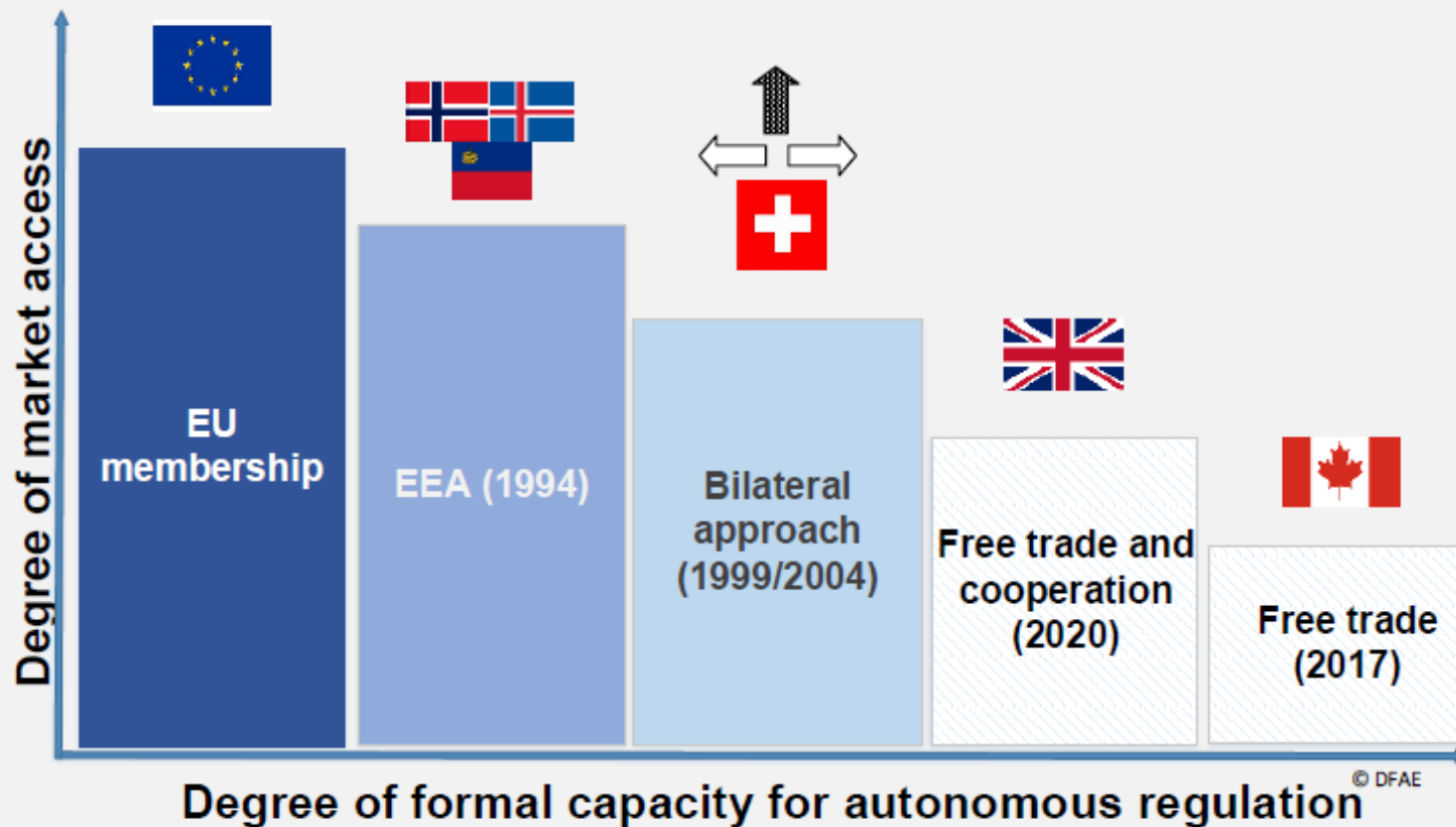
Cooperation with Europe





Advantages of the bilateral approach and alternatives

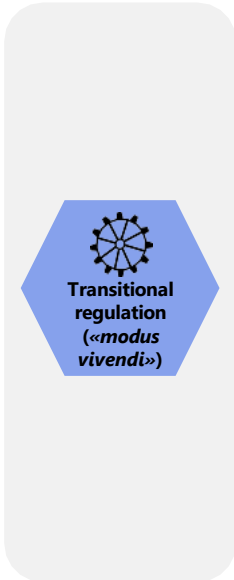
Different ways of being in a relationship with the EU EU membership, EEA, bilateral approach, FTAs



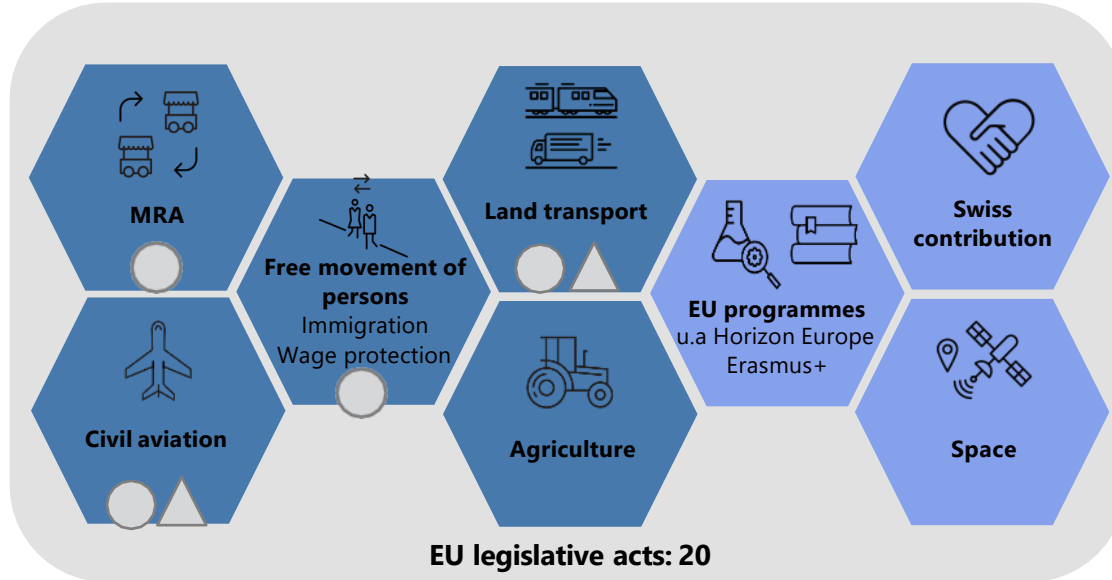


The Package Switzerland-EU

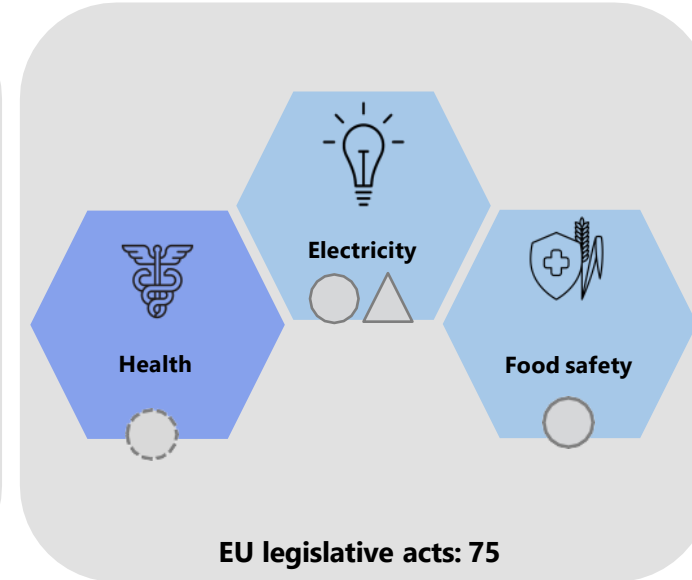
Transitional arrangement



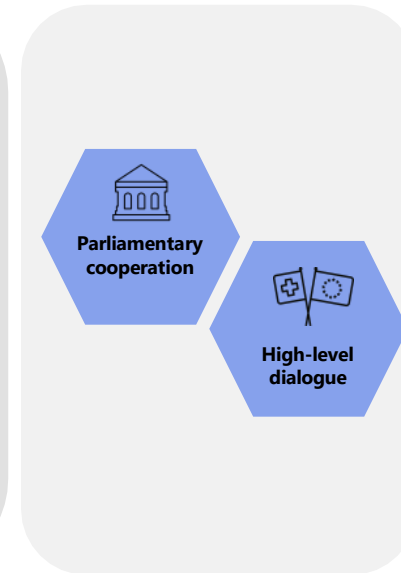
Stabilisation



Further development




Dialogue and cooperation



 Existing single market agreements

 Other agreements and areas of interest

 New single market agreements

 Institutional elements
Dynamic alignment,
dispute resolution

 State aid

Implementing legislation

- 3 new laws
- 12 significant legislative amendments
- 20 minor legislative amendments



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2 march 2026 – Swiss President Parmelin and President von der Leyen sign the package of EU-Switzerland agreements



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3. Summary



Important role of the cantons in CBC

- Swiss government supports the cantons in CBC
- Swiss government takes into account the cross-border developments in external relations with the neighbouring states.
- Cross-border cooperation is based on international, national and cantonal law.
- Swiss law requires the Confederation and the cantons to collaborate closely on cross-border matters.



Need for a systemic CBC capacity- building

- Knowledge generation
- Subsidiarity and multi-level-governance (vertical and horizontal differentiation)
- Shared cross-border services with joint administrative competencies
- Legal flexibility
- Professionalization of actors, facilitation and active promotion
- CBC-territories as testing-fields for future EU-Policy- initiatives



Seven tips for successful cross-border cooperation:

- FIRST Identify the fields of common interests.
- SECOND Bring people together
- THIRD Make institutions match.
- FOURTH Develop projects jointly.
- FIFTH Provide for financing and controlling.
- SIXTH Make sure citizen benefit from co-operation.
- SEVENTH Ensure transparency and information.

