



VIER MOTOREN FÜR EUROPA
QUATRE MOTORS PER A EUROPA
QUATTRO MOTORI PER L'EUROPA
QUATRE MOTEURS POUR L'EUROPE

**Work Programme
for the Baden-Württemberg
Presidency
2012/2013**



Baden-Württemberg

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I. Introduction

Since 1988 a well-developed partnership has connected Baden-Württemberg with Catalonia, Lombardy and Rhône-Alpes in the Four Motors for Europe network. This is supplemented by Flanders and Wales as associated members and another partnership based on the Four Motors for Europe: Four Motors for Mercosur – Paraná (Brazil), Córdoba (Argentina), Rivera (Uruguay) and Alto Paraná (Paraguay) – which is to be intensified over the coming years.

Since the founding of the European Communities, the significance of the European regions has constantly increased. One reason is no doubt the recognition that some tasks can be carried out better on a national, regional or municipal level. This is also the basis for the principle of subsidiarity, as established in the founding treaties of the European Community and the Union. It has also become clear to actors in European politics that in view of advancing integration on an institutional level, the citizens' level needs to be taken into greater account. Many regulations developed in Brussels need to be implemented on a regional or municipal level and their direct effect is felt in situ. For this reason, cooperation between Community, national, regional and municipal levels is a prerequisite for sound government in Europe that is in close contact with citizens. In other words, each of the four levels is indispensable and should be involved in the entire decision-making process. For this reason, the Committee of the Regions (COR) was called into being and its role in the European Union's law-making process decisively strengthened through the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009.

Rather than waiting for that development, the Four Motors regions pre-empted it by founding their network, putting into practice the prevalent vision at that time of a 'Europe of Regions'. As the European Union developed, the role of the Four Motors for Europe also changed. As well as collaboration in various fields, today the network concentrates on drawing greater attention to the concept of a 'Europe of Regions' both in Brussels and on the global playing field, the focus being not only on less developed regions. The Four Motors for Europe benefit from the fact that over the years, they have gained a good, solid reputation, and that they represent four large regions with strong economies which, together, draw greater attention. The current crisis regarding sovereign debt and the euro places the Four Motors regions in front of a dual challenge. On one hand they have to retain their competitiveness as dynamic areas of growth and innovation within their nation states, becoming more competitive by means of interregional cooperation ('strengthening their strengths'). On the other they are expected to help ensure

that the promotion of economic innovation is accompanied by improved social cohesion and the combating of social exclusion on a regional level.

Next year, it will have been a quarter of a century since the Four Motors for Europe were founded. Baden-Württemberg is taking this occasion as a reason to emphasise the significance of the network. During its presidency it plans to work together with its partner regions to create a 'Vision 2038' for the Four Motors for the next 25 years and will officially adopt this plan at the 2013 presidents' meeting organised by Baden-Württemberg. Some aspects of this vision could be, particularly, a forward look at Europe's future architecture and the role of the regions in Europe.

II. Key aspects of the Baden-Württemberg presidency

In summer 2012, according to schedule, Baden-Württemberg will be taking over the presidency of the Four Motors for Europe for one year. During this time, Baden-Württemberg will be focusing on the following key aspects, among others:

1. Civil society and civic participation

Baden-Württemberg's state government would like to show the public how democracy might develop in the future through new means of co-determination and participation in policy-making. Strong civic engagement is a mainstay for society. An active civic society means improving social cohesion and social trust and stimulating democracy. This involves opinion formation, information and participation on all kinds of different political levels and on all kinds of different plans, from helping shape individual fields of policy to decision-making and new forms of participation in the planning of large-scale projects. The next step is then to interlink this participation with the legislative process in an intelligent manner. Boosting civil society and extending civic participation are of great importance to the Baden-Württemberg state government, including when it comes to matters of European policy. One key element in this process is bringing in the partner regions' experience and learning from one another within the Four Motors for Europe. This can help gain a better understanding of the European view of citizenship.

2. Internationalisation: creating a cooperative venture between the network and the Danube region

In the era of globalisation, the international links and positioning of the Four Motors for Europe is coming increasingly to the fore. Consequently, for some years now the network has been pursuing a strategy of internationalisation which has been a great success, with annual joint political and economic missions and cooperation with the Four Motors for Mercosur. This strategy is to be continued taking into account the way the values relate to the Treaty of Lisbon.

Under the Baden-Württemberg presidency, internationalisation is to be further developed by linking the Four Motors to the Danube region. The Danube region is to be provided with best-practice examples from the Four Motors regions as required.

3. In the spotlight: young people and the Four Motors

Particular value is placed on all intercultural Four Motor measures which promote cultural and social exchanges between young people as well as helping them raise their professional and linguistic profile. Over the last few years, Four Motors youth work camps held jointly in the Four Motors regions have proven effective; under the Baden-Württemberg presidency they are to be continued. These measures, involving young people, are an important step on the part of the Four Motors towards developing a Europe that is in close contact with its citizens, especially as activities are linked together at each camp.

4. Vocational training and exchanges for trainees and teaching staff

In many European countries – including the other Four Motors regions – cutting youth unemployment is an important topic. During its presidency Baden-Württemberg would therefore like to introduce a process for exchanging best practice examples for tackling youth unemployment. In this context, improving the quality of vocational training and raising the number of exchanges for trainees and teaching staff are among the key topics for cooperation of coming years. Thanks to the principle of freedom of movement for workers, Baden-Württemberg's dual system of vocational training is gaining particular

significance for these countries, above all, as freedom of movement during the training period can help cut youth unemployment.

5. Increasing cooperation among institutes of higher education

Investment in education and research is one of the best ways to invest in the future of Europe. It is a matter of particular concern to the Baden-Württemberg state government that the region, along with its partners, should set an example for the European Idea. This is why Baden-Württemberg supports the increased participation of its citizens in European Union funding programmes in the fields of research and innovation, especially when it comes to renewable energies, and cooperation among institutes of higher education. As well as promoting citizens' personal fulfilment, this also makes European higher education institutes more competitive and boosts growth and employment.

6. Climate protection

Climate change does not stop at any borders, and national borders cannot stop the spread of greenhouse gas emissions, held responsible for global warming. As well as national climate policies, solidarity is also needed among the international community of states if their ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are really to be achieved. In this context Baden-Württemberg, as a high-technology region, assumes particular responsibility: it must continue to play a leading role in limiting climate change while simultaneously introducing promising approaches and best practice at an international level. Steps to mitigate climate change can simultaneously create jobs and produce local value cycles. This has been shown by developments in Baden-Württemberg over recent years.

III. Current projects and initiatives

1. Civil society and civic participation

Baden-Württemberg will be encouraging the Four Motors regions to exchange ideas on the topics of civic participation and opinion formation processes, especially as regards young people, women and people with a background of

migration. In this context any research priority programmes on this subject in the other Four Motors regions will be one point of interest.

In 2012 the state of Baden-Württemberg founded an 'Alliance for Civic Participation'. As part of this development, a competition will be held in spring 2013 with awards going to flagship examples of good civic participation. Representatives will be invited from Catalonia, Rhône-Alpes and Lombardy. The regions will be given a chance to present projects and plans related to strengthening civil society and increasing civic participation.

To ensure that these subjects are dealt with in great enough depth, for this presidency year there are suggestions of founding a working group on the topic of 'Civil society and civic participation'. The idea is for the working group to meet four times during 2012/13, always in a different region, to study local projects involving exemplary models of civic engagement. The content of these working group meetings will be flexible. At the end a joint statement is to be produced concentrating on the points of political fields of activity, administrative challenges and how civil society can be strengthened. The first meetings, in Baden-Württemberg, is scheduled for winter 2012.

2. Link to the Danube region

This year the Danube region has taken on an ambitious programme for development in the form of the Strategy for the Danube Region, the European Union's second macro-regional strategy. The Strategy for the Danube Region is dedicated to subsidiarity and close contact with citizens. It includes 14 countries which are home to over 115 million people and covers a fifth of the territory of the European Union. The need for modernisation in the Eastern European nations currently going through a process of reform means that for highly developed regions such as the Four Motors for Europe, the Danube Region provides a large playing field for involvement in environmental policy and economic issues. However, the region is also extremely important politically, for European integration and thus for the Four Motors regions, as it connects a wide spectrum of old and new EU member states, accession countries and non-EU members. The Four Motors regions can bring the experience and concrete lessons learned from their cooperation into a region which in many parts still remains characterised by nationalist separatism.

Thanks to the Danube Swabians, who emigrated to Eastern Europe 300 years ago, Baden-Württemberg enjoys a traditionally very close relationship to the Danube countries of Eastern Europe; it was a driving force behind the creation of the Strategy for the Danube Region and is strongly committed to its implementation. The European Commission has assigned Baden-Württemberg, along with Croatia, the task of coordinating the 'Competitiveness of businesses' element of the Strategy for the Danube Region.

Market internationalisation has raised the significance of international networks for these regions. With strong networks, they can gain more attention on the global playing field and make and nurture important contacts. In view of this, one aim behind linking the Four Motors for Europe with the countries from the Strategy for the Danube Region is to further strengthen links between the networks.

During the Baden-Württemberg presidency the following event is to take place, in particular, with regard to the Danube Region:

➤ **9/10 July 2012: Danube Health Conference**

On 9/10 July 2012 the first Danube Health Conference will be taking place in Ulm, focusing on public health and mental health. Baden-Württemberg will be inviting representatives from Catalonia, Rhône-Alpes and Lombardy to take part in this conference looking into potential forms of health policy collaboration between the Four Motors regions and the countries of the Danube Region.

In both public health and mental health there are already some positive initial cooperative ventures between the European regions. The conference is seen as the starting point for further cooperation in the field of health, and to create networks.

➤ **June 2013: joint mission to Novi Sad**

The tradition of international missions is to be continued. Baden-Württemberg is planning a joint mission by the Four Motors regions to Novi Sad, in the autonomous province of Vojvodina, Serbia (expected for the end of June 2013). The plan is for top-ranking politicians to attend at a

meeting with political representatives for the Danube Region, a company networking event in a sector yet to be selected, an expert seminar in the mission's focal technological/economical field, an encounter with important spokespeople from civil society and a cultural supporting programme. The goal is to link in the Four Motors network with the European Union's Danube strategy and with the politically and economically significant Danube Region.

3. Intercultural measures for young people from the Four Motors

Cultural and sports-based exchanges have a particularly lasting effect on young people. They make friends and stay in touch. Joint youth events and sports activities, educational events and social projects help them get to know each other and their different cultures better. Under the Baden-Württemberg presidency, direct intercultural measures for young people from the Four Motors regions are to be continued, as are sports meetings, with young people's sports competitions and joint training activities.

From 19 August to 1 September 2012, a Four Motors youth work camp will be held in Vaihingen an der Enz (Baden-Württemberg). Shortly before (4 to 18 July 2012) a Four Motors youth work camp will also be held in Calafell (Catalonia). These measures are aimed at bringing together young people from the Four Motors partner regions. Their work together is expected to encourage them to get to know each others' cultural backgrounds and gain insights into everyday life and people's outlook on life in the other regions. At the Four Motors youth work camp in Baden-Württemberg, joint work in cooperation with appropriate specialised institutions will offer young people the opportunity to deal with the topic of 'inclusion' and issues of educational networking. There will also be joint leisure activities and excursions to the state capital of Stuttgart and to Ludwigsburg.

4. Vocational training and trainee exchanges

Since 2011 an international symposium on vocational training has provided an opportunity for regular exchanges of ideas among Four Motors regions and associated regions.

Some first concrete enquiries have also started to come in regarding staff exchanges. No additional costs would be incurred as the sending country would continue to pay the teaching staff.

In contrast with the mobility of university students, it is still an exception for those in vocational training to spend time abroad (currently only just over 3% take part in international exchanges).

As part of the successor programme to the EU Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-13), mobility for apprentices is to be increased considerably. Funding is being raised accordingly for this purpose. To achieve an effective increase in mobility, more placement agencies need to be set up in the other Four Motors regions. In Baden-Württemberg the foundations have been laid for this by the Ministry for Financial and Economic Affairs, which has set up the 'Go For Europe' placement agency. Since June 2001 'Go For Europe' has focused on extending links to the Four Motors regions. As well as apprentices being sent to the other Four Motors regions, the programme now also includes 'incoming placements' for foreign apprentices in Baden-Württemberg.

Since the 2011/12 school year, 'LEONARDO moderators' have been introduced to work with schools. Successful steps have been taken to set up a functioning network to find placements in Baden-Württemberg and within Europe. Continuing to develop links in this field, especially among the Four Motors regions, is a central concern for the years to come.

For this reason, Baden-Württemberg will be encouraging increased mobility for apprentices in the Four Motors regions (plus Wales) and an exchange of ideas about vocational training systems (e.g. about the German dual VET system) in the regions. In view of the expected shortage of skilled workers in Germany and the relatively high level of youth unemployment in the other Four Motors regions, increased mobility among young people may well offer an opportunity to view the European labour market from a more wide-reaching perspective. The European Commission plans and offers programmes for young people to help overcome the high youth unemployment in many European countries. Together with the partner regions, we will check how these programmes (e.g. the new initiative 'Your First EURES Job') can be put to greater use for the Four Motors.

The plan is to cooperate with local Goethe institutes as a means of improving the target group's language skills, among other things.

Other networking is also desirable, for example with institutions in the other Four Motors regions and possibly the Danube Region. To this end, joint international symposia are to be held during the Baden-Württemberg presidency.

5. Increasing cooperation among institutes of higher education

Linking in with the working group for science and research, Baden-Württemberg is planning another meeting with the Four Motors partners during which strategies for future joint activities in the field of science are to be discussed.

Baden-Württemberg would like to increase collaboration on the Staff Training for Teachers and other staff (STT) subprogramme, part of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) under the European Union's Erasmus Mobility Programme. As part of the Erasmus staff mobility programme, the European Union funds increased internationalisation at institutes of higher education. These training and continuing education measures could also fall into this category.

A further aim is to increase cooperation among institutes of higher education in the Four Motors regions to raise their joint chances of (individual) success in applying for European funding, e.g. as part of the EU Flagship Initiatives in Future and Emerging Technologies (FET), part of the 7th Framework Programme for Research. The European Union is using this initiative to promote large, ambitious research projects with visionary aims in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) During the Baden-Württemberg presidency another aim is to look into potential future cooperative ventures which would fit into the HORIZON 2020 funding priorities.

Closer cooperation among Universities of Excellence is being sought in order to improve international competitiveness in various scientific fields, especially in view of the fact that there are excellence programmes with some similar motives both in France ('Operation Campus') and in Spain ('Campus de Excelencia Internacional / CEI').

Language programmes set up in the past are also to be resumed.

These steps are to be linked in with existing cooperative ventures between institutes of higher education in the Four Motors regions. For example, exchange programmes (for STT) and language courses could be planned at higher education institutes already working in other fields with partners from the Four Motors regions. The advantage of this method would be that existing networks could be used, and the people involved are already extremely interested in collaborating with partner institutions.

6. Climate protection

The Baden-Württemberg state government would like to build upon and extend the state's role as a leading region in the field of energy and climate protection. The state plays an active role in this field, especially in the context of existing cross-border partnerships such as the Four Motors for Europe, and would like to set things rolling accordingly during its presidency, not least in view of the economic potential of measures for climate protection.

➤ **25 to 26 October 2012: international conference on climate action**

Climate change is a key challenge calling for joint action extending beyond steps taken by individual nations. This international conference on climate action is aimed at finding possible tools to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions in certain areas of life and pointing towards promising approaches for successful climate policy. The event follows on from the conference on climate action held in Lyon in 2011. It is to take place as part of the Baden-Württemberg presidency of the Four Motors for Europe and in cooperation with 'The Climate Group'.

There are concrete plans for a one-day conference event, plus a gathering the evening before aimed particularly at guests from abroad.

7. Other working areas, projects and events

a) Cluster dialogue to continue

As key European economic regions, the Four Motors for Europe and associated partners, plus the Greater Zurich Area (which played an occa-

sional part in this dialogue), have always striven to explore the opportunities and limits of joint activities related to cluster policy. To this end, it is indispensable for there to be an exchange of experience between these international European partners, both regarding practical cluster policy and methodology.

To achieve this aim, five workshops have now been carried out to create a mutual understanding of each partner's cluster-related activities: on 27.11.2007 in Stuttgart, on 13-14.10.2008 in Lyon, on 11-12.6.2009 in Barcelona, on 6-7.9.2010 in Cardiff and on 15-16.5.2012 in Milan. The additional cooperative projects agreed at the final cluster workshop in Milan are to be put into action in accordance with the division of tasks agreed there during the Baden-Württemberg presidency. One particular aim is to find out which regions are particularly advanced when it comes to certain fields of technology and can take on a role as lead regions in that field, to make better use of shared potential.

b) October 2012: workshop on electromobility

The Four Motors regions are important locations for the automotive sector and have already gone to considerable lengths to promote the development of new drive concepts in vehicle construction and push forward the accompanying steps required to develop a corresponding infrastructure and technological basis. Best practice examples are to be exchanged in order to discover the potential for concrete cooperative projects. In the context of cluster-related activities, Baden-Württemberg will be taking on a coordinating role as the lead region for the field of electromobility and light-weight construction. The partners in the Four Motors regions are invited to take part in the 'e-mobil BW TECHNOLOGIETAG' technology day, the renowned 'f-cell' specialist forum on fuel cells, and the new international trade fair 'Battery+Storage', including a conference, from 8–10 October 2012 in Stuttgart. For November 2012 there are plans for a joint presentation of the Four Motors' activities at the regional office in Brussels as well as a workshop with European Union experts and corresponding European trade associations.

c) Joint initiative on EU structural policy from 2014

Building upon the Four Motors' joint statement on the future of the European Structural Funds in the first half of 2012, Baden-Württemberg and its partners intend to devote their energies to keeping EU structural policy from 2014 strictly in line with the aims of the Europe 2020 strategy. The Four Motors' aim is to ensure that even Europe's more highly developed regions can make greater use of structural funding, in the pan-European interest of innovation and competitiveness.

Thus, the Four Motors regions, as model European regions for innovation and competitiveness, will be campaigning vigorously vis-à-vis their European partners for a heavier weighting on funding for innovation and R&D when it comes to negotiations on the criteria set for the distribution of EU funding.

d) Migration and integration

In view of the growing shortage of skilled workers, among other aspects, there is a need for joint Four Motors strategies regarding migration and integration. During its presidency Baden-Württemberg proposes a comparison of existing strategies, or the development of joint strategies.

e) Start-ups and spin-offs

Despite all their differences, start-ups and spin-offs from the various regions also have a lot in common, meaning that they can learn from one another and benefit from one another through cooperation. Baden-Württemberg proposes encouraging the exchange of ideas among young companies in the four regions.

f) Environmental technologies and the efficient use of resources

Innovative environmental technologies and ecological innovation are kind on the environment and save natural resources. At the same time, considering the growing global market, they offer huge opportunities for the Baden-Württemberg economy. The McKinsey/IAW study 'Technologien, Tüftler und Talente – Wirtschaftliche und technologische Perspektive der

Landespolitik bis 2020' (Technologies, Inventors and Talents – Economic and Technological perspectives of Baden-Württemberg's State policy until 2020) estimated the potential for increased growth in the state by 2020 at 50 to 80 billion euros, with 35 to 40 billion euros forecast just for the core growth area of environmental technology and the efficient use of resources.

Innovative environmental technologies and ecological innovation are thus also becoming increasingly significant in the European regions. The subject of environmental technologies and the efficient use of resources should thus become more firmly established in the context of the Four Motors.

One example of possible future activities might be the European Clusters and Regions of Eco-Innovations Network (ECREIN), a European Union-funded network in which three of the Four Motors – Rhône-Alpes, Lombardy and Baden-Württemberg – are already involved. Rhône-Alpes has taken on overall responsibility for the project while Lombardy and Baden-Württemberg are each responsible for one of the three work packages. The project is aimed at an inter-regional exchange of information and experience, and will have received 2 million euros in funding between 2010 and the end of 2012 as part of INTERREG IVc.

Projects of this type could conceivably also be carried out in future by the Four Motors.

g) Collaboration with unions in the Four Motors for Europe

The unions in the Four Motors regions are politically active in different ways.

The Confederation of German Trade Unions (DGB) already organises an annual conference with the unions in the other Four Motors regions in the field of youth organisations. For this reason, during its presidency Baden-Württemberg will be promoting an in-depth exchange between the unions in the four regions. To this end, Baden-Württemberg will be inviting union representatives to Baden-Württemberg. The goal is to come together in looking for ways of promoting social cohesion in the Four Motors through

this form of cooperation, especially in view of the sometimes grave effects of the European financial and economic crisis. This meeting is also to be used to discuss international staff exchanges and share experience with legal conditions.

**Events calendar
for the Baden-Württemberg presidency
of the Four Motors for Europe**

Date	Event
9/10 July 2012	Danube Health Conference in Ulm
19 August to 1 September 2012	Four Motors youth work camp
2nd half of 2012	3rd international symposium on vocational education
25 to 26 October 2012	International conference on climate action in Stuttgart
November 2012	Workshop on electromobility in Brussels
Winter 2012	Inaugural meeting of the new working group on civil society and civic participation
Spring 2013	Flagship competition with awards for good civic participation
Spring 2013	Danube Culture Conference in Ulm
June 2013	Joint mission to Novi Sad
July 2013	Presidential meeting; presidency transferred to Lombardy