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For a participative approach to a post-nuclear transition : methodology

MÉdiations dans la gestion des Projets d'Aménagement post-DEmantèlement de la centrale nucléaire de Fessenheim (MEPADE)

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ABSTRACT

In 2020, Fessenheim's nuclear plant bordering the Rhine stopped functioning. Its closure raises questions as to the territory's nuclearized identity. In 2019, a steering committee, specially created by the French Government, gathered different actors for the writing of a 'Projet d'Avenir du Territoire' (PAT) [Territory's future Project]. The major aim was to make the territory as an example in terms of lower-carbon innovation. The project defines four major points – including cross-border mobility and energetic transition – and three relevant scales to get the reconversion projects. However, their executions take time and failed to garner unanimous support.

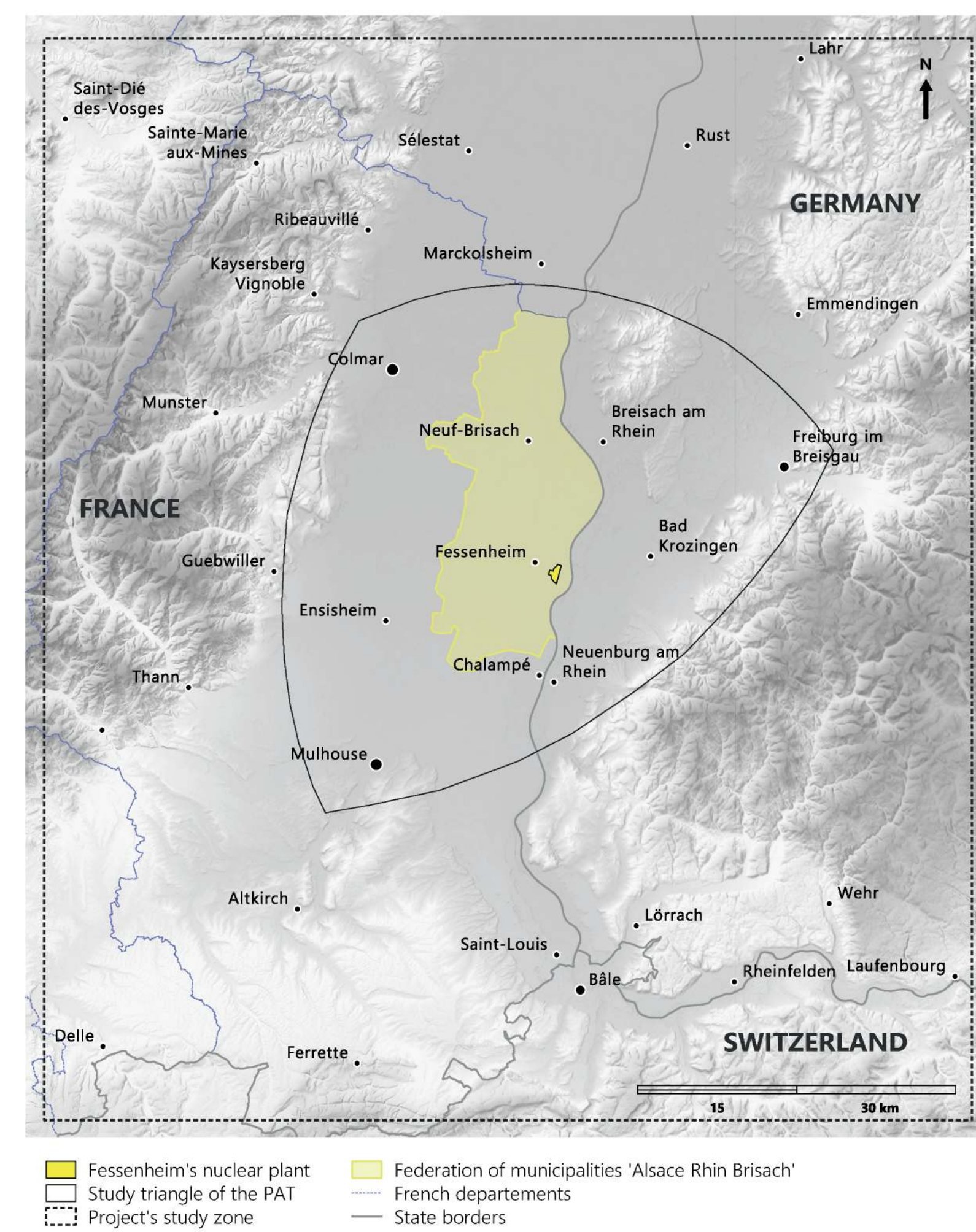
The research project MEPADE aims to experiment with new participatory methods so as to understand how the territory is lived in and perceived by its population. We will therefore be asking ourselves the following question :

How are we to diagnose the issues of a nuclearized territory in transition through participatory methods?

Two tools are set up for this purpose:

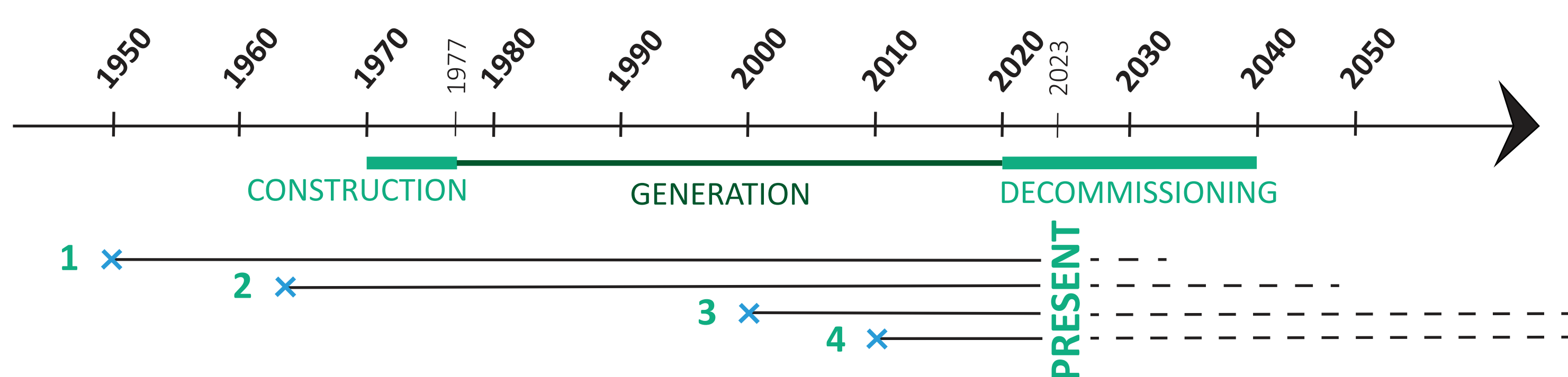
- A diagnosis of the perceived stakes within the territory through *mapping interviews* (PBRM - Perception Based Regional Mapping)
- A gathering of the future's representations of the territory through *serious games*

These two tools will lead us to a current stakes mapping, and to different sensitive and prospective stories.



SERIOUS GAMES

The different targets of the games



- 1 The previous generation : was at least 15 years old before, 5 years before the construction of the plant
- 2 The present generation : was at least 15 years old when the plant was started
- 3 The young generation : currently student
- 4 The next generation : middle school and high school student

| 3 games | « TRIBUNAL DES IDEES »* | « FUTURHEIM » | In the process of being created |
|----------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| POPULATION | The next generation | The young generation The present generation | The previous generation |
| AIM | Argue, debate and vote for the 3 projects for the conversion of the power plant site | Create a story about the future of the territory | |
| GAME PROCESS | Each group must argue for its project : A museum A technocenter A return to the green After a debate, each person votes for their favorite project | Create a story with the basic idea : «The Fessenheim nuclear power plant has closed, what do we do now» Using the 5W : Where ? Who ? What ? Why ? When ? Tell the story with the game : «Comment j'ai adopté un gnou» | In the process of being created |
| DATA COLLECTED | Arguments Votes Surveys | Stories 5W Surveys | |

*The game will be adapted to suit the audience and the location where it will be played

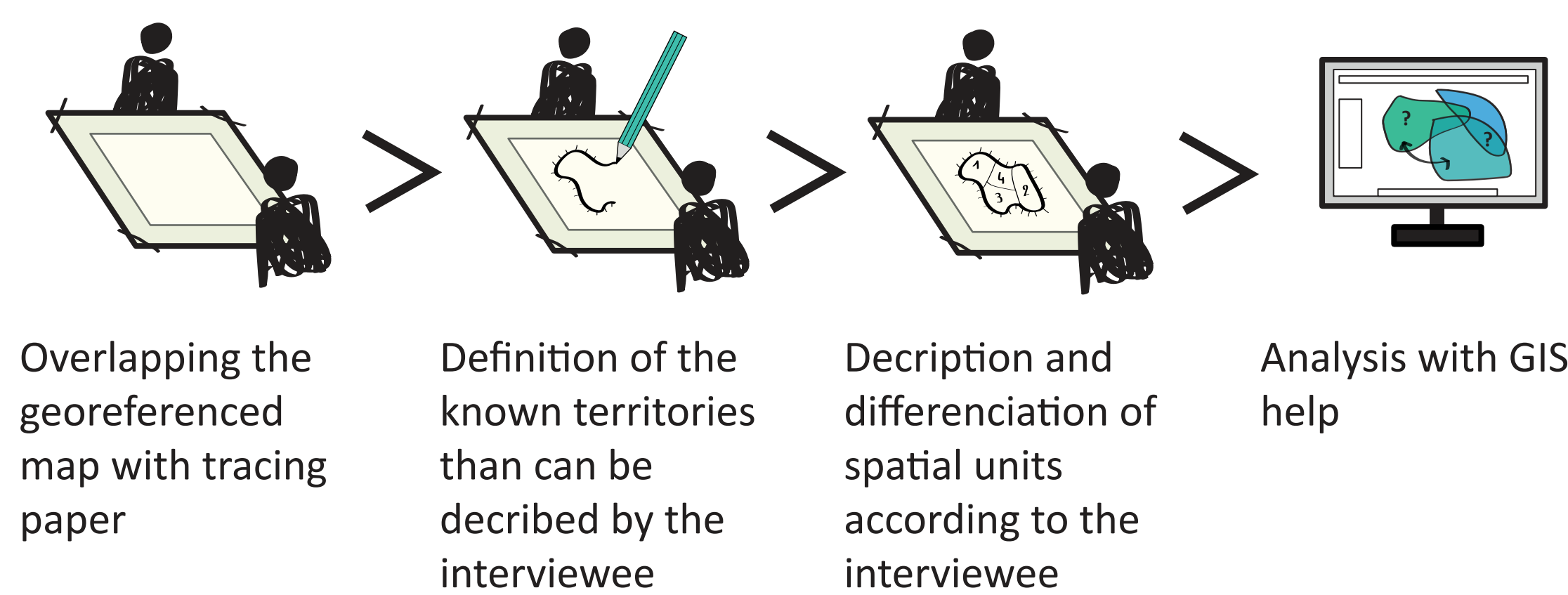
MAPPING INTERVIEWS

Perception-Based Regional Mapping (PBRM) method

In order to understand the limits of the territory and the diversity of its representations, almost 70 interviews were conducted. A tracing paper is stretched over a regional topographic map, in order to trace the perimeter of the interviewee's practice area. The map is a support for the interview, and allows the conversation to begin.

The sample of interviewees is made up of elected officials, territorial experts, activists, and volunteers from 6 to 90 years old. The objective is to create a diverse sample in terms of its relationship with the territory and its sociological profile.

The informations collected are archived on a GIS software. Throughout different mapping techniques, several sensitive and thematic maps will be created. These maps will represent the major territorial stakes according to the sample, and will construct a portrait of the territory as it is currently perceived.



13th May 2023 interview and its tracing paper
Médiathèque de la Vallée de Munster

PERSPECTIVES

How significant is nuclear energy on Fessenheim's territory?

Who seems concerned by a transition?

How these methods could help in the definition of the transition?

How to generate a dialogue between population and authorities supervising the transition?