



EVALUATING A REGIONAL AIRPORTS POLICY IN FRANCE

MAIN RESULTS AND FEEDBACK FROM THIS EXPERIENCE

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1. OVERVIEW

1. CONTEXT OF THE EVALUATION

1. Public policy evaluation : a new mission for regional audit chambers
2. The chambre Grand Est has been solicited by the region Grand Est to carry out an evaluation of its airports policy



2. REGIONAL AIRPORTS

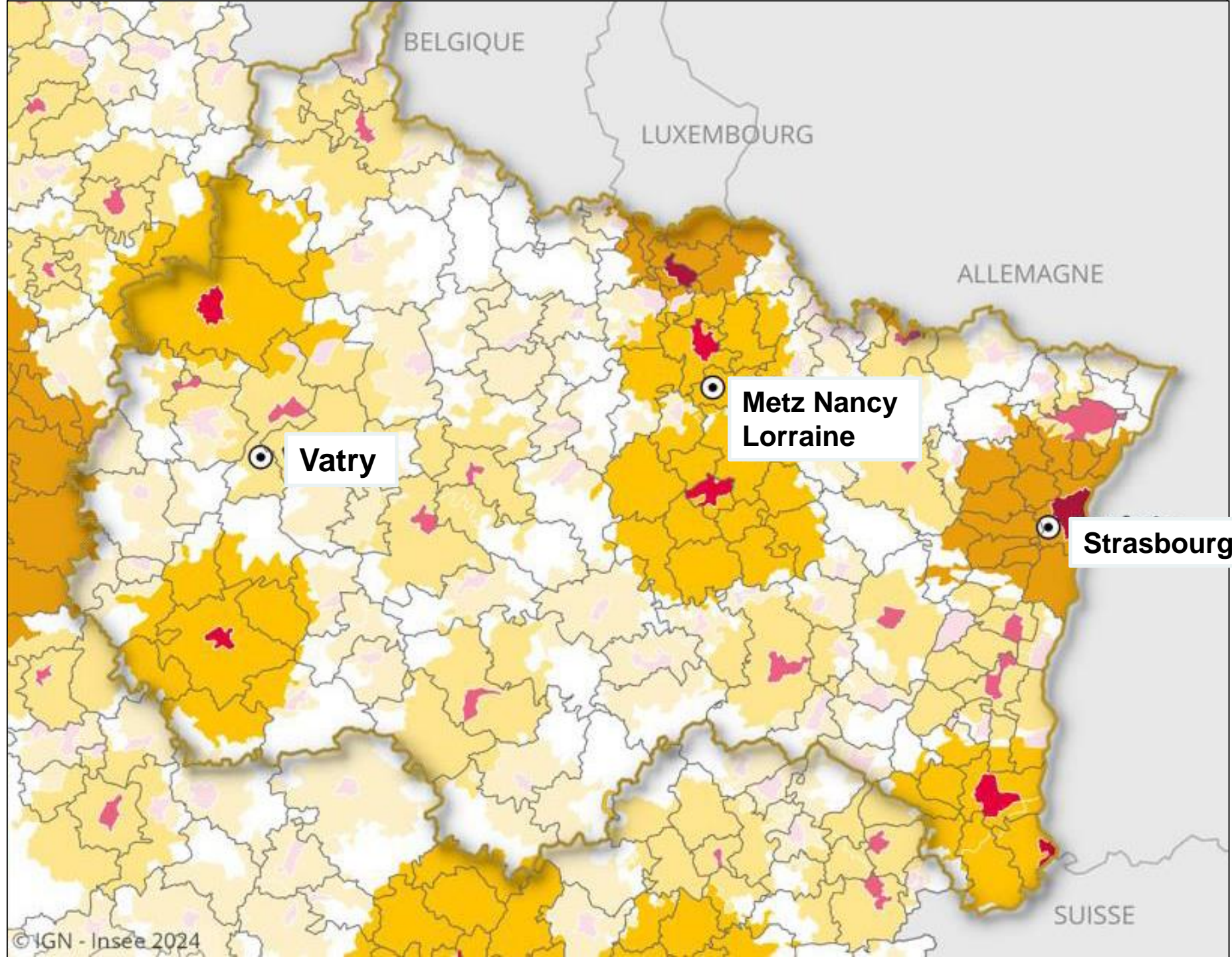
1. Global characteristics

- Airports competition
- Business model fragility
- Dependence on public funding

2. Local characteristics

- Strasbourg airport
- Metz-Nancy-Lorraine airport
- Vatry airport

Proximity to Euroairport Basel-Mulhouse



3. EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

1. Methodology

- 3 axes of analysis
- 1 consultative comity with the main stakeholders
- 80 interviews
- Examination of the airports' financial accounts

2. Time span

- 12 month : from february 2024 to february 2025

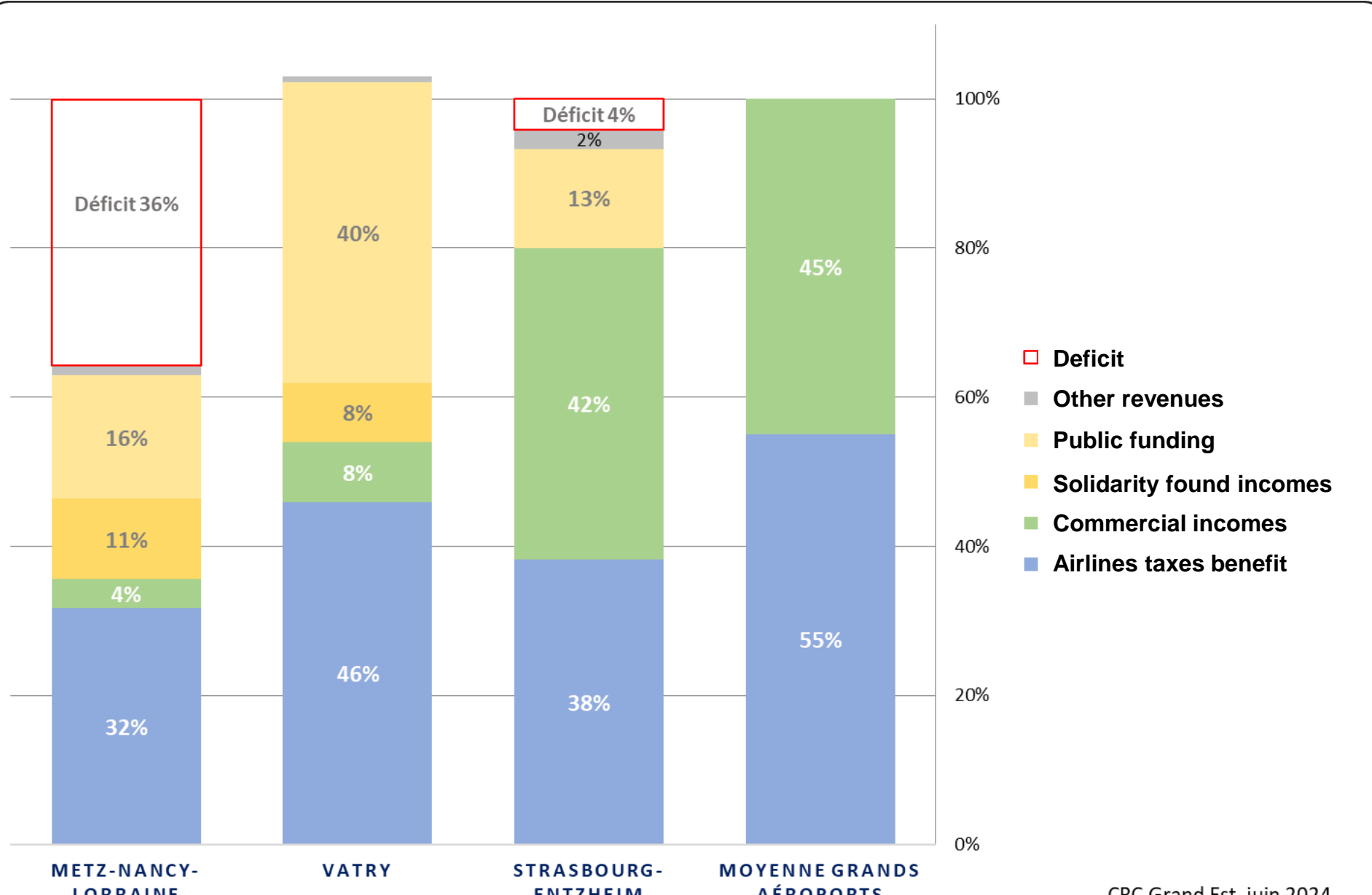


2. MAIN RESULTS

1. AN UNREACHABLE PROFITABILITY

1. A theoretical profitably baseline estimated to 700 000 passengers a year
2. An activity not enough important to reach that level
 - Structural causes
3. The Strasbourg airport specificity : 1,2 million passengers a year
 - Circumstantial factors

PROPORTION OF REVENUES IN COMPARISON TO EXPENSES (2023)



2. THE DEPENDENCE ON PUBLIC FUNDING

A total of 129,2 M€ of funding provided from 2016 to 2023

	Fonctionnement	Investissement	Aides indirectes (dont concours financiers de l'Etat)	Total	Total / passager 2016-2023
<i>Strasbourg- Entzheim</i>	24,1 M€	2,3 M€	56,2 M€	82,6 M€	10 €
<i>Vatry</i>	22,9 M€	4,1 M€	1,5 M€	28,5 M€	*
<i>Metz-Nancy Lorraine</i>	12,8 M€	5,3 M€	/	18,1 M€	15 €
<i>Total</i>	59,8 M€	11,7 M€	57,7 M€	129,2 M€	

Source : Chambre régionale des comptes Grand Est

3. THE ONCOMING TERM OF STATE AID TO AIRPORTS

1. The 2014 guidelines on State aid to airports and airline

➤ Term : 4 april 2027

2. The issue of the regional airports existence : 3 options

1. Expanding the activity to the profitability baseline
2. The status quo
3. The cessation of activity

4. A POTENTIAL OF POSITIVE EXTERNALITIES STILL UNPROVEN

1. Economical impact

- A moderate impact in terms of wealth and job creation,
- Mainly based on the Strasbourg-Entzheim airport

2. Environmental impact

- CO₂ emissions mainly provided by airline activity and passengers transport to the airport
- Measures for reducing the environmental impact limited to ground activity



3. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

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1. The necessity to elaborate a regional strategy

1. A heritage without a prospective approach
2. Local authorities as key stakeholders of the regional airports issue
3. The role of the regions as coordinator of transports policy

2. Ways of development

1. Metz-Nancy Lorraine : ensuring the airport in its capacity to meet a proximity demand
2. Vatry : exploring ways to diversify the activity
3. Strasbourg-Entzheim : strengthening the commercial strategy to reach the profitability baseline



4. FEEDBACK FROM THIS EXPERIENCE

10. WHAT UTILITY BEYOND THE COST ?

1. The difficulty to evaluate the real impact of public funding
2. How to measure externalities ?
3. The importance to consider the potential utilities in a long term timespan



THANK YOU