

The future of Territorial Cooperation through the implementation
of Macro Regional Strategies.

“The Alpine Strategy, a widespread common framework”.

Carlo Badino

Border Regions:

Are places where the integration process should be felt most positively.

BUT

Generally perform less well economically than other regions.

Access to public services is generally lower.

Navigating between different administrative and legal systems is often still complex and costly.

Territorial Cooperation:



Stimulated cooperation and joint action across national borders.

Established networks or partnerships of SMEs and research centres.

Allowed the joint management of natural resources.

ETC really promotes European integration.



Territorial Cooperation:

Limited attention to the notion of a functional region or area when identifying the border regions to support.

Bottom-up approach has made for difficulty in prioritising objectives or pursuing a coherent overall development strategy.

Low real dissemination and capitalisation of projects results.

ETC generally failed to remove border obstacles.

Border Obstacle:



A border obstacle is not a restriction on free movement, but also a law, rule or administrative practice that obstructs the inherent potential of a border region when interacting across the border.

If only 20% of the existing obstacles were removed, border regions would gain 2% in GDP.

Only 3 EU land borders are not covered by obstacles.

A number of Member States are considering the merit of a new instrument which would make it possible for the rules of one Member State to apply in the neighbouring Member State.

The solution

A common transnational strategic framework where stakeholder can “meet” across the border.

EUSALP, for example!



What is EUSALP ?

A Macroregional strategy is an integrated framework endorsed by the European Council to address common challenges relating to Member States and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Provides an opportunity to improve cross-border cooperation as well as identifying common goals for 7 Alpine Countries and 48 Alpine regions.

EUSALP – Management Structures

An Executive Board formed by representatives of States and Regions and representatives from the European Commission that oversees the implementation of the Strategy.

9 Action Groups and Action Group leaders that are the drivers of day-to-day implementation in the thematic fields of intervention of the Strategy.

A General Assembly that is responsible for laying down the general political guidelines for the Strategy.

The General Assembly gathers the high-level political representatives of States and Regions involved in the Strategy, the European Commission, and the Alpine Convention as observer.

Annually, the General Assembly **can meet in an extended format, open to all relevant stakeholders** (Annual Forum).

Conclusions

EUSALP is not a panacea, but an example of a common ground for different actors to meet.

Other solutions will do, so long as the aim is to further close cooperation among all important actors in a given area.

More support on the part of Member states and of the Commission (even for EUSALP).



Région Autonome
Vallée d'Aoste
Regione Autonoma
Valle d'Aosta



Sources of information

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