



The Alpine Convention

- potentials for cooperation -

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The Alpine Convention

General information

- The only international legal instrument for the sustainable development of the Alpine space
- Set of Treaties: A Framework Convention laying down general objectives and eight thematic Protocols setting out concrete provisions
- Contracting parties: The eight Alpine States and the EC





The Alpine Convention

Contracting parties

- Germany
- Austria
- France
- Italy
- Liechtenstein
- Monaco
- Slovenia
- Switzerland
- European Community





The Alpine Convention Framework Convention

- The scope of application (geographical, 190.000 km², 13,2 m. people)
- A general obligation to pursue a policy of conservation and intensified cooperation, in particular in 12 thematic areas: population and culture, land use, air quality, soil protection, water, nature protection and landscape tending, mountain farming, mountain forests, tourism, transport, energy, waste.
- A commitment on legal, scientific, economic and technical cooperation
- A common policy of research and observation
- An institutional structure





The Alpine Convention

General characteristics

- Global approach integrating the ecological, economic and social dimensions
- Protection but under a development perspective
- Connections of Alpine Space with other surrounding areas considered
- Participation of local and regional authorities
- Emphasis on the interests of the resident population
- Efforts required at various levels: national, regional and local





The Alpine Convention & Protocols

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

Mountain farming

Soil Conservation

Tourism

Energy

Transport

Mountain forests

Conservation of nature and
the landscape protection

Spatial planning and
sustainable development

Climate Change

Population and Culture





The Alpine Convention

Major stakeholders

- The Alpine Convention system is multi-layered and based on complex interaction of different stakeholders such as politics, public administrations, scientific communities, general public
- NGOs have a greater weight than in much other Conventions: discussion culture and requests for checking compliance
- Success of the Alpine Convention is strongly dependent on initiatives at regional and local level





The Alpine Convention

Mountain partnerships

- Mountain partnerships are a long term working priority
- The Alpine Convention is a member of the Mountain Partnership (UNEP/FAO)
- Priority areas of cooperation:
 - Carpathians
 - Balkans
 - Caucasus
 - Central Asia (Pamirs, Tien Shan)
- Main cooperation matters
 - Projects for the sustainable development of mountain villages and the network building of mountain villages
 - Projects for linking up protected areas





The Alpine Convention

Mountain partnerships

- Mountain Regions are similar (landscape, natural resources and biodiversity, water reservoirs, climate regulators, economic, social and cultural functions)
- Mountain regions differ considerably (political organization, economy, natural conditions, history and culture)
- Key elements of sustainable mountain development processes
 - Treaties under international law
 - Projects and funds
 - Networks and cooperation
- ▶ Cooperation should incorporate bottom up and top down processes





Priority issues and activities during the Slovenian presidency:

„Alps as development potential of Europe“

1. Adapting to climate changes in the Alpine space.
2. Enforcing the implementation of the Alpine convention at regional and local level and acknowledgement for the development potential of the Alpine space.
3. Regional co-operation; linking Alps and Dinaric Arc





POTENTIALS FOR CO-OPERATION:

- **Common themes**

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Sustainable competitiveness
- Sustainable transport problems/solutions...

- **Projects and funds**

- Alpine Space Program, SEE, Central Europe, CEI...

- **Networks and cooperation**

- CIPRA, Alpine Convention, private/public stakeholders, National/Regional/Local Authorities...
- Western Balkan Countries – Dinaric Cooperation Initiative, Balkan Development Strategy...

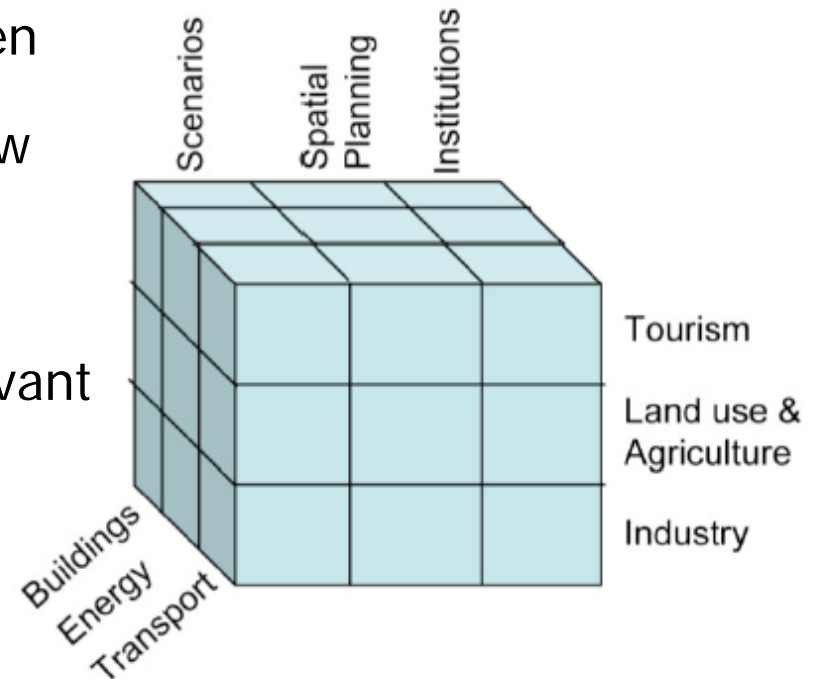




Common themes through good practice

"Climate Neutral Alps 2050. Make Best Practice Minimum Standard!"

- Frame: Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps
- Developing climate neutral strategies – important policy objective after Copenhagen
- State of the art in the Alps: good know-how and methods of reducing CO2 emissions - implementation in pilot studies....
- Ground base for the project: study on relevant thematic clusters for defining climate neutrality (Wuppertal Institute 2009)





Common themes through good practice

– Major issue:

- how the different reduction measures can be combined to achieve a high level of climate neutrality throughout the regions
- how these combined uses can be drawn together in a uniform standard to be applied throughout the Alpine regions

– Levels to be involved:

- National – policy designation
- Regional and local – implementation activities, pilot areas, regions

– Actors to be involved:

- Sectors (transport, energy, buildings, tourism, land use, industry..)
- Networks and NGO's





Common themes through good practice

" Sustainable competitiveness of the cable lift tourist resorts in the Alpine space (Project "Cable@Tras")

Main problems addressed

1. Mountain tourist destinations in the Alpine region are difficult to compare in the view of competitiveness, development and segmentation (market, sport, social).
2. It is essential to make the Region as one attractive tourist destination which can compete with other European and world-wide tourist areas.
3. Implementation of benchmarking system with standardised performance indicators enables to compare different resorts and to exchanged good practice.

Beneficiaries

1. Local, regional and national public authorities;
2. Local, regional and national development agencies;
3. Education and training centres;
4. Public/private organisations acting as representatives of companies, in particular SMEs (for example, SME networks, clusters);
5. Chambers of economy, industry.





Common themes through good practice

to make the Region as one attractive tourist destination which can compete with other European and world-wide tourist areas

increased and positive competitive position

sustainable development

performance indicators,
benchmarking system

exchange of experience,
common policies





Common themes through good practice

Shifting the road cargo on the rail – (Project "RailTrucks")

– Some highlights:

- The sensitive Alpine Environment is overloaded with heavy road cargo traffic
- Trucks are using Euro 3 or worse engines
- There is enough railway infrastructure (built or planned) in Alpine Space to serve such initiative
- The main orientation goes to development of small intermodal nodes where traffic will be shifted from wheels to tracks...

– Levels to be involved:

- National – policy designation
- Regional and local – implementation activities, pilot areas, regions

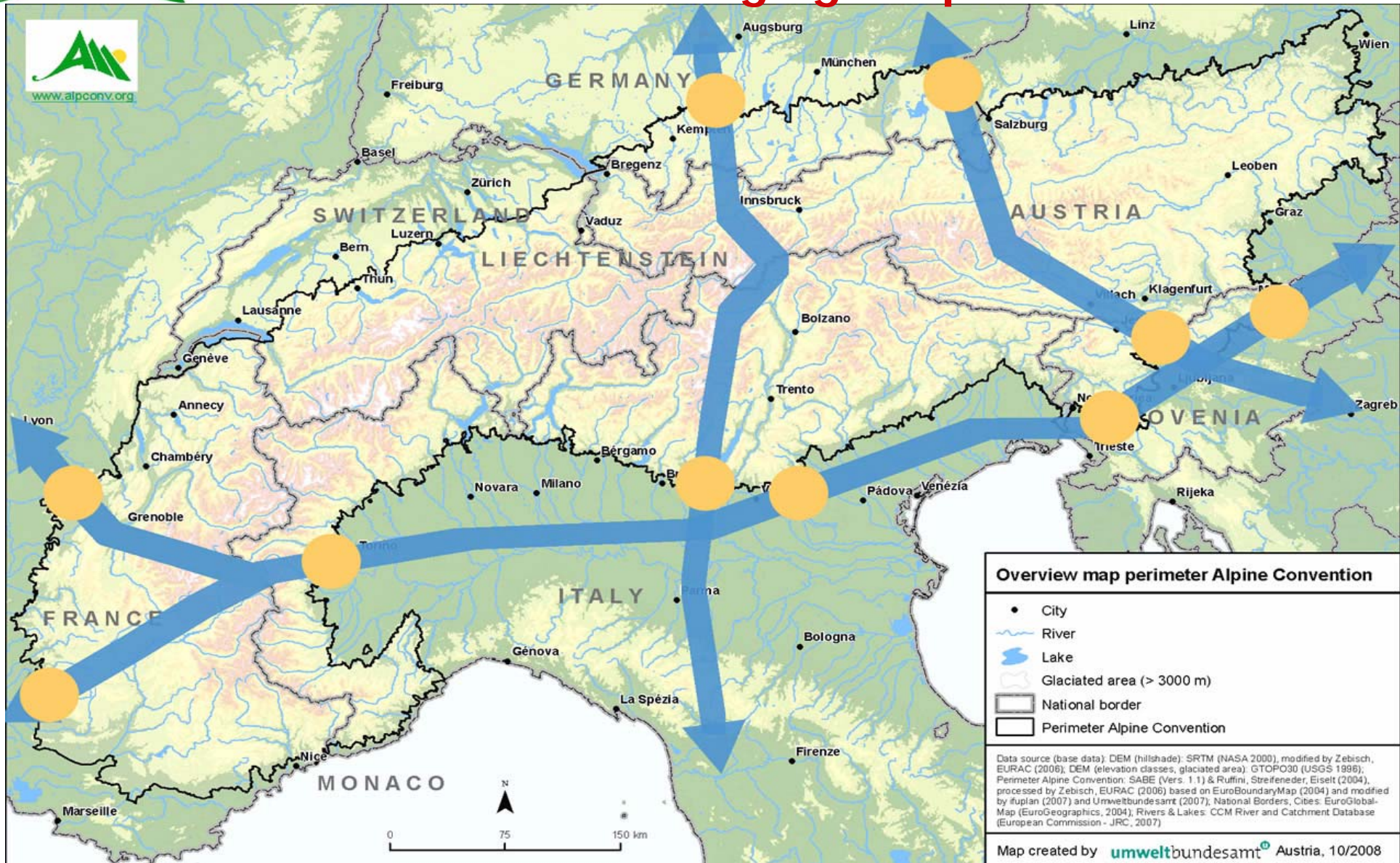
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- Sectors (transport - logistics, energy, buildings, tourism, land use, industry..)
- Networks and NGO's





Common themes through good practice





Thank you for your attention .

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