



Future cooperation between INTERREG and the Alpine Convention

Information day INTERREG IV B and IV C

Regula Imhof

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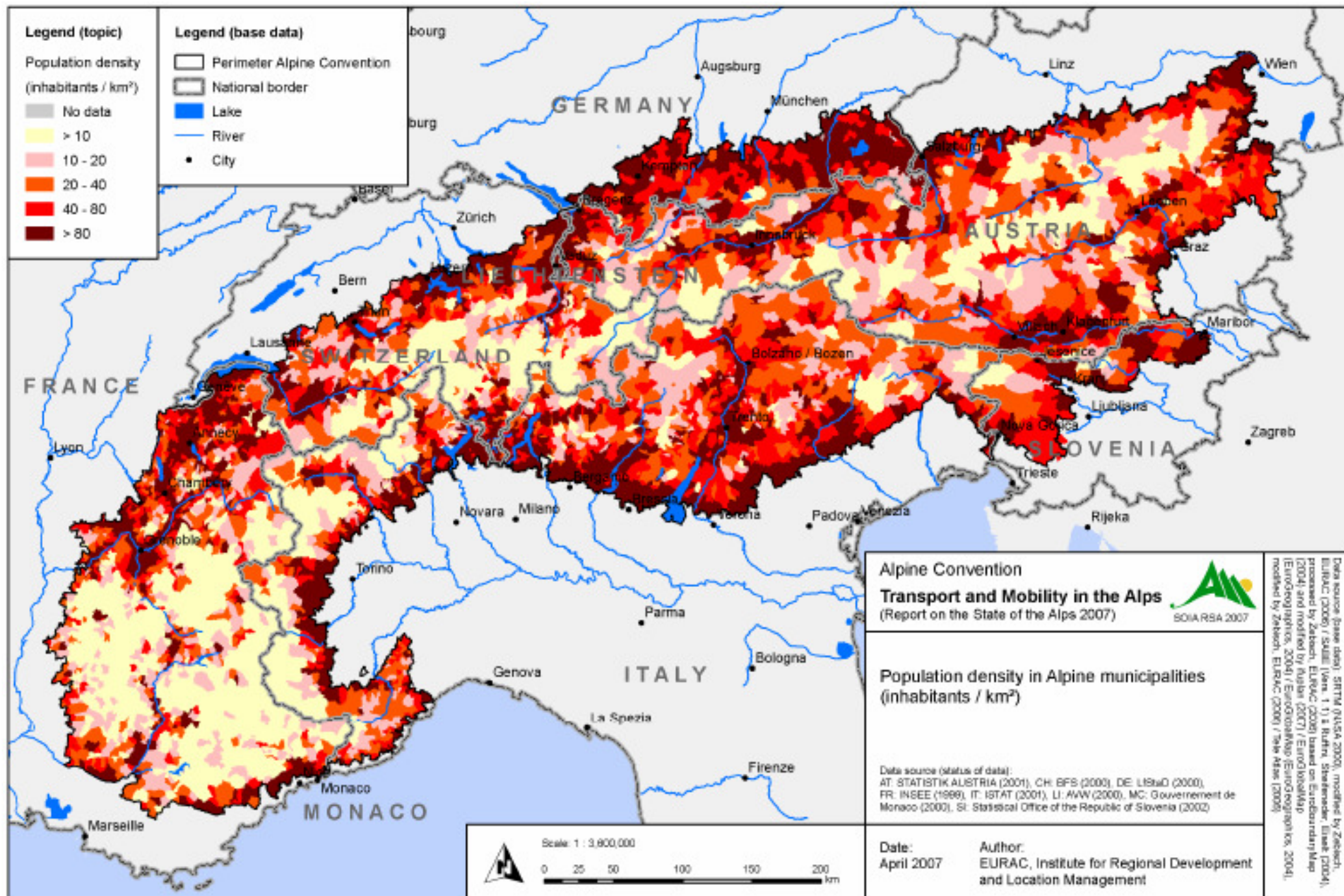




1. Basic information on the Alpine Convention

- **Multilateral international agreement**
- **Only legal instrument for sustainable development for the Alpine Space on the international level**
- **Instrument of Integrative policy and approach for sustainable development of the Alpine Space as living space**
- **Takes into account the linking up with surrounding areas**
- **Essential focus on the needs of the population living in the Alps**
- **Protocols:** Tourism, Mountain Agriculture, Spatial planning and sustainable development, Mountain Forests, Transport, Soil Protection, Nature Protection and Landscape management, Energy







2. Actualities of the Alpine Convention:

2.1 Preconditions in 2008

- **Protocols of the Alpine Convention:**
 - have come into effect in 2002
 - have been ratified by the parties except in Switzerland and Italy and partly in the EU
 - first report of the Compliance Committee on the implementation of the protocols of the Alpine Convention is being finalized and will be adopted at the next Alpine Conference (spring 2009)
- **Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention:**
 - has been established in 2003
 - Branch-office of the Secretariat in Bozen becomes operational in 2007
 - Task Force of the Permanent Secretariat in Chambéry gets affiliated in 2006
- **Elaboration of Action Plan of the Alpine Convention (Climate) has been agreed at the ministerial conference in Alpbach 2006**
- **Declaration on population and culture in the Alps with focus on regional and local levels has been agreed at the ministerial conference in Alpbach 2006**
- **Alpine Convention is a base for comprehensive commitment and understanding in the Alpine Arc, networks appeal to the Alpine Convention, increase of alpine-wide cooperation, Example for other mountain regions: Important contribution by CIPRA, the networks Alpine Alliance, Protected areas in the Alps ALPARC, International Scientific Committee Alpine Research ISCAR**



2. Actualities of the Alpine Convention:

2.2 Consequences

- ⇒ **Accelerated implementation of the Convention expected**
- ⇒ **Accelerated establishment of the System for the Observation and Information on the Alps (SOIA)**
- ⇒ **Complete the legal framework in the fields of Population and culture, air, water, waste (?)**
- ⇒ **Cooperation with other mountain regions and various partners**
- ⇒ **Development of „Alpine (Mountain) Policies“ in the European context (water, transport, forestry...) and being loud speaker for the Alps and together with the Carpathian Convention on the European level**

Implement and Facilitate multilateral projects and initiatives among the parties – strengthen links with Interreg programmes and projects



3. Tools of trans-boundary Alpine-wide cooperation in the frame of the Alpine Convention:

3.1 The protocols and their implementation

The Compliance Committee and its first Report 2008

- First report being finalized in 2008 on the basis of country reports (among them the report of Switzerland on the webpage of the Alpine Convention: www.alpconv.org - Structure and Activities – Compliance Committee – Country Reports 2005)
- Recommendations concerning challenges of implementation of protocols in the fields of surface-saving use of soil, real costs of transport, supporting sustainable tourism, protected areas and management of resource use conflicts
- Procedure for the second round will be elaborated until the next Alpine Conference of spring 2009



3. Tools of trans-boundary Alpine-wide cooperation in the frame of the Alpine Convention:

3.2 The bodies of the Alpine Convention

- The Alpine Conference (every two years)**
- The Permanent Committee (two times a year)**
- Working groups and platforms (according needs)**
- Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention**



3. Tools of trans-border Alpine-wide cooperation in the frame of the Alpine Convention:

3.3 The Multi-annual working program of the Alpine Convention MAP, 2005-2010

– Tasks of the organs of the Alpine Convention:

- Information
- Verification of the implementation of the Convention
- Observation of the development in the Alps and Alpine research
- Development of common international initiatives
- Support of cooperation and exchange of experiences

– Priorities of the next 6 years:

- public information
- exchange of experiences and cooperation
- Reports on the state of the Alps
- Common initiatives to 4 thematical focusses (one of them is „nature, agriculture and forestry“)
- completion of juridical framework
- cooperation with other mountain regions and conventions

– 4 main aspects of sustainable development:

- Mobility, accessibility, transit traffic
- Society, culture, identity
- Tourism, leisure, sports
- Nature, agriculture and forestry, cultural landscape



3. Tools of trans-border Alpine-wide cooperation in the frame of the Alpine Convention:

3.4 The declaration on climate change - Objectives

Prevention of climate change progressing further through appropriate measures for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the support to the absorption of greenhouse gas in particular by means of:

- an increased use of local renewable raw material as for example wood and the increased use of renewable energy in the Alpine area,
- the promotion of sustainable forestry

Adaptation to the effects of climate change by means of the development of concrete strategies for inclusion of adaptation measures in segment policies, guarantee organizational, legal and appropriate budget framework conditions, intensification of current actions, raising awareness and targeted research, in particular in agronomy and Forestry, Tourism transport and further integral risk management for prevention and reaction to increasing natural hazards



3. Tools of trans-border Alpine-wide cooperation in the frame of the Alpine Convention:

3.5 System for the Observation and Information of the Alps SOIA

Data- and information management as process involving key partners.

- **Data base** (collection, harmonization and opening access): for example
 - Alpine perimeter (in excel form and shape files for internal use)
 - data in excel form on community level (about 30 actual data sets according key indicators)
 - alpine wide maps in form of pdf
 - meta-database (alpinwide research and existing data in the SOIA system, alpine research on national level, worldwide mountain research, actors in alpine research, etc.)
 - geodata and Web-GIS as following steps (?)
 - geodata of Eurogeographics on base of licence for internal use
 - access to data through indicators possible

- **Report on the State of the Alps (RSA)**
 - Coordination of the data collection in the frame of the development of RSA to different topics (Transport, water)
 - Writing parts of the RSA to different topics (harmonization of data etc.)
 - Organizing the midterm verification and update of the RSA data and conclusions (two years period)
 - Update database (RSA I and RSA II etc.)
 - structure of the RSA oriented partly to indicators

- **Building of long-term partnership and network** for Alpine Research with research projects, institutions and administration

- **Active dissemination** of issues concerning Alpine research by
 - internet tools (webportal, newsletter, vulgarization of research results, etc.)
 - further products about research results (publications, studies, simulation games, etc.)



3. Tools of trans-border Alpine-wide cooperation in the frame of the Alpine Convention:

3.6 Multilateral projects

- Projects of the Contracting Parties (e.g. Study on long-distance transport in tourism, Conference on the implementation of the declaration on population and culture in Villach, etc.)**
- INTERREG projects (Alpine Space) with Contracting Parties as partner (e.g. Lexalp)**
- Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention is an observer in the Programme Committee of the Alpine Space programme 2007-2013 and in single projects of the Alpine Space Programme**



4. Conclusions for „optimal“ Interreg-programs and project set-up from the view of the Alpine Convention

- **Good correspondence of projects with Alpine Convention principles and priorities and also in view to contributing to a coherent use of structural funds**
- **Important output best practice exchange: concrete products, actions and services, which are typical for the Alpine region and the local identity**
- **Development of regional, trans-boundary, transsectoral projects and integration of various stakeholders of different levels**
- **Lobbying for long-term strategies for rural and regional development as frame condition for interdisciplinary and trans-boundary know-how transfer – therefore motivation of all Alpine Countries especially „Southern Countries“ (ensure geographical balance)**
- **Interact with other sectors as energy, tourism, education, water, integrated risk management etc. (not concentrate on forest specialists only)**
- **Identify permanent structures with different levels – light and functional**
- **Ensure the long-term use of project results by permanent structures**



5. Role of the Alpine Convention in INTERREG Programs and Projects

Alpine Space: Role of the Alpine Convention in Alpine Space INTERREG Projects as observer in projects and the Programme Committee (not as partner)

INTERREG IV C: Role of the Alpine Convention as partner in Projects of INTERREG IV C possible (has to be assessed carefully in each case)

In any case:

- Permanence of follow up for policy development and the use of „results“ (especially political and scientific level)**
- Permanent link for different aspects of strategies for sustainable development to structures on the European level**
- Cooperation with Carpathian Convention, other Conventions and International Organizations**



Looking forward to the discussion!

Thank you for your attention

www.alpconv.org

Regula.imhof@alpconv.org