Österreichisches

Institut für

Raumplanung

Mid-Term Evaluation Update INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space Programme 2000-2006

October 2005

Commissioned by:
Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung
Abteilung 15 (Wirtschaft, Tourismus, Energie)

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Project team: Peter Schneidewind
Gerhard Ainz
Johannes Lebesmühlbacher

Österreichisches Institut für Raumplanung (ÖIR)
(Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning)
A-1010 Wien, Franz-Josefs-Kai 27, Tel.: +43 1 533 87 47, Fax: +43 1 533 87 47-66
e-mail: oir@oir.at │ www.oir.at

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning conducted the 2003 midterm evaluation of the Alpine Space programme. In March 2005, it was commissioned with the update of the midterm evaluation.

This update is largely the completion of the midterm evaluation. It draws on the work carried out for it and focuses on areas where it can add value to the findings of the midterm evaluation (cf. EC, Working Paper No. 9, p. 2). It has a special focus on the output achieved, the findings to date, and the programme impacts.

The update plays an important role because the preparations for the next programming period are just starting and the findings of this update can serve as a basis for deriving recommendations and proposals from the current programme to improve the next one.

EC guidelines state that midterm evaluation updates should deal with the following key components (cf. Working paper No. 9):

- A review of the implementation of the recommendations made in the 2003 midterm evaluation.
- An analysis of the outputs and results achieved to date, analysed in the light of programme targets and financial performance.
- An analysis of the impacts achieved to date and the likely achievement of objectives.
- Conclusions and recommendations for the future.

These components are also the basis for structuring our findings. For the analysis of the outputs and results and of the impacts achieved it seemed appropriate to combine them into one part to improve the presentation of the findings.

A special feature is the fact that another study has been elaborated parallel to our update: the Prospective Study. This study focuses on the strategic issues of the Alpine Space programme. The findings of that study were included in our considerations where it seemed useful.

2. DATA SOURCES AND METHODS

The main part of the research activities were performed as desk research. All relevant documents and information were analysed and interpreted.

The most important information sources were the following:

- Managing authority: information about funding, access to monitoring system, annual reports
- JTS: information on indicators
- Midterm evaluation
- Prospective Study
- Protocols from transnational workshops especially from Innsbruck and Rosenheim
- Relevant working papers from the EC and other guidelines such The Guide, Studies from INTERACT, etc.

Other relevant materials from a broad range were also considered wherever useful.

A second important source of information were personal interviews. The restricted resources of the research project only allowed to interview a few persons. To obtain the most relevant information, the interviews were conducted with members of the MA and the JTS.

The methodological background for the following assessments were (1) the approach of the EC regarding the indicator model and (2) the general knowledge and experience on evaluation.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE 2003 MIDTERM EVALUATION

The first important component of the update for the midterm evaluation was an examination of the implementation of the recommendations made in the 2003 midterm evaluation. The basis was provided by the MA in a table containing comments and assessments of these recommendations from which options for dealing with them have been derived.

The findings of the evaluators were organized by the MA into three parts. The ones relating to

- amendments for the programme document,
- actions to be taken in the remaining programming period, and
- actions to be taken with respect to the next programming period.

This document was submitted in a written procedure by the Monitoring Committee in September 2004 and in this sense, it reflects the official opinion of the programme.

The actual status of how the recommendations were dealt with is reflected in some interviews on the basis of this document with the MA and the JTS. The findings of these interviews provide the basis for the update of evaluators' comments in addition to giving their own view of the situation.

To enhance the legibility of the table, the comments made by the midterm evaluators and the MA were summarized and shortened.

Amendments to the programme document

Issue	Recommendations MTE	Conclusions drawn from the programme	Status	Comments of update evaluator
SWOT analysis	The general conditions stayed unchanged. A tendency that certain problems are intensifying is recognisable.	Due to the unchanged general conditions, there is no need for amendments in the CIP.	No changes needed	No amendments necessary, agreement with MA
Programme objectives and strategy (internal coherence of CIP)	Much more visionary and positively formulated objectives would be appropriate. Priorities and their objectives should be deduced primarily from SWOT-analyses and not from Interreg guidelines or ESDP in order to have more relevance for the Alpine space. A more logical and structured hierarchy, and in some parts a clearer concretization of objectives, priorities and measures would be necessary. This could facilitate conceptualising strategic fields.	There are doubts about whether reformulations can lead to better/strategic projects. The programme document was set up with help of experts and approved by the EC and thus a certain level of quality is ensured.	No changes needed; not suitable before the last call; a programme change takes too much time to be relevant for this programme period	A certain quality of the documents undoubtedly is given. But the main purpose of MTE is to improve the programme. Thus, the improvement of the logic of the programme and some concretizations of the objectives would have been useful for the remaining period as well (e.g. as an appendix to the CIP or PC). Now it is indeed too late for any changes. Especially for the next Alpine Space Programme, more emphasis should be given when programming to the internal coherence of the programme and its strategic logic.
External coherence of CIP	There is a good coherence with Interreg IIIB guidelines and ESDP. More emphasis on and more influence from the female perspectives on Alpine problems are suggested.	Equal opportunities and the environment are well considered, mentioned as guiding principle and foreseen as obligatory criteria at the programme level.	No changes needed; at present this is not a relevant question	Close to the last call it is not the right time for improvements on the implementation of horizontal themes; actual procedures seem more suitable. For the future and thus for the next programming period, the relation between gender mainstreaming and spatial development should be discussed in more depth to enhance awareness of gender issues.

Issue	Recommendations MTE	Conclusions drawn from the programme	Status	Comments of update evaluator
Indicators	The indicator system of the programme is unsatisfactory, most indicators are not quantified and the logic of the indicators between the different levels is unclear. These deficits reflect the shortcomings of the internal coherence of the programme (see above).	Presently, a change of the indicator system is not useful (high admin. effort) despite the difficulties that occur in establishing it. EC believes that a revision is not compulsory.	No changes needed at this point in time, but in next programming more emphasis should be given to the indicators; especially the aggregation of the effects from the project to the programme level is an open question	We cannot completely agree with the programme view. It is too late for the improvement and the adaptation of the indicator system in its full range. But we believe that some efforts could be made at this point of time to obtain better information on the achievements of the programme goals and to make an assessment of the programme impacts more concrete. Otherwise, it will be very critical to assess the progress of programme in the future and especially to conduct an ex-post evaluation.
Project selection criteria	The meaning of a distinction between the more technical aspects of transnationality and a qualitative approach is questionable. "Spatial development" and "innovative design "should be better defined. Risks of a too big number of criteria and their necessity at the same time are mentioned. Criterion “equal opportunities” should be enhanced strategically by stating it also as priority criterion.	Proposal of JTS on how to improve the evaluation system will lead to a change in the PC and the evaluation guidelines, but does not seem to be necessary for the statements in the CIP. “Equal opportunities” see comment on “extended coherence”!	No changes needed	Because there is only one call outstanding with a special target and perhaps special selection criteria it makes no sense to adopt the criteria catalogue in general. JTS has started with a proposal for modifying the criteria, but stopped doing this because other work was more important and a selected last call is envisaged. For the future programming period, it is quite necessary to learn from the experience gained and to modify the project selection in an adapted way. Implicitly, JTS regards “equal opportunities” in the assessment of the projects.

Issue	Recommendations MTE	Conclusions drawn from the programme	Status	Comments of update evaluator
Conference of the Regions	The conference should get a defined role and function in the programme as it can importantly raise awareness and the political commitment of the region.	More precise formulation of the role of the conference gives an opportunity to involve other existing organisations, initiatives and political actors. Comment is in line with EC's point of view.	Chapter 7.1.4, changes needed	Role of Conference was somewhat enhanced but does not become clearer in our opinion. "Formal advice for MC" is not redeemable and should be cancelled in favour of networking and synergy building tasks.
Financial unwinding of the programme	Priority 2, especially Measure 2.1 needs more effort and ideas to fully exploit the funds and to avoid shifting of funds.	The problem beside this, which will be tackled with greater efforts, is the uneven commitment in the use of programme funds (between priorities and measures and participants of partner states).	Chapter 5, changes needed. MA had presented a new financial table	Funds were allocated in an adapted way as the financial status of actual programme implementation shows.
Programme bodies	Clarification of function and tasks of the MA in relation to JTS and SC in relation to MC needed. Role of NCPs should be enhanced in the project selection process.	The description of the tasks is based on EU regulations, thus no overlapping is recognisable but a clarification of the role should optimise processes. The task of approval of TA budget shall be shifted from SC to MC (EC-suggestion).	Chapter 7 1.2 and 7.1.3, changes needed	Roles and functions of programme bodies are adapted in a meaningful way and were somewhat clarified in the CIP. Functions of the National Coordinators (NC) were added in the document, but the description of role, position and tasks is not very clear. In future programmes, a clearer programme body structure is necessary.

Actions to be taken in the remaining programme period

Issue	Recommendations MTE	Conclusions drawn from the programme	Status	Comments of update evaluator
Networking with Alpine initiatives (Alpine convention, CIPRA, Arge Alp, COTRAO, etc.) and other programmes	Cooperation between Alpine Space and Alpine convention as well as other Alpine initiatives should be intensified. Better integration of the experiences of other Interreg IIIB programmes in the CIP appreciated.	JTS studied relationship with Alpine initiatives in order to deepen cooperation. MA, JTS and NCP will endeavour to deepen relationship with corresponding bodies of other programmes.	JTS have build up relations with Alpine organisations and other programmes. MA/PA/NCP stay in contact with bodies of other programmes to gain synergies.	Contacts and sharing experiences were intensified to a large extent, especially with the Alpine convention (but also with other Alpine organisations and NGOs). Alpine convention participates in MC meetings as observer and advisor, but without voting rights. Contacts to other Interreg IIIB programmes should be intensified.
Monitoring and Steering Committee	Clear division of tasks between SC and MC exists, but functions are often fulfilled by the same persons.	The respective partner state is responsible for nominating members of SC and MC.	Partner states have not changed their nominations for the committees.	It is not meaningful to solve the problem of the same persons working for MC and SC, and partly NC members in the remaining period. The continuity of an existing stable programme structure is more important. But in a future programme, a clear division of roles and functions should be planned without persons working in dual functions.
Project Evaluation	Sufficient expert knowledge is lacking to asses the relevant impacts of the projects.	JTS, which made list of experts, should cooperate with them. It should be funded from the TA budget.	JTS has updated the list; experts will be contracted by MA if necessary.	In the meantime, JTS has gained more expert knowledge itself. An updated list of experts for project evaluation exists.

Issue	Recommendations MTE	Conclusions drawn from the programme	Status	Comments of update evaluator
Information and Publicity	I & P officer shall be recruited as soon as possible and should support the national activities on this issue. More promoting of the programme in publicity (communication strategy, website) will be expected.	This has been done by Michaela Cavallini since January 2004.	Michaela Cavallini has resigned from her position at JTS.	It is important, that I&P activities shall be covered as soon as possible, whether through outsourcing to external experts and transferring tasks to present JTS team or by reoccupying the vacant position with a new I&P officer. Capacity of present JTS for taking-over I&P tasks seems indeed rather limited, insofar outsourcing to a wide extend would be necessary. Anyway the dissemination of information and publicity for the programme and project achievements are very important especially in this last programme period, if one thinks of the first projects completed and of the upcoming programme.
Monitoring system	A database solution is requested due to the increasing number of projects.	A monitoring system has been set up.	Monitoring system is in use.	Introducing data-based monitoring was not easy and currently still has some technical problems. Adaptation to the special needs of the programme bodies is still underway. Analysing data is still rather crucial.
Linkages between projects and programmes	Thus far, no project is linked with projects of other programmes, but will be with the support of the MA, NCP and JTS.	Project applicants are asked to indicate if similar projects in other programmes, JTS and NCP also do this kind of check.	Intensified contacts between JTSs/NCPs of different programmes lead to a better knowledge about other projects.	Contacts and the exchange of experiences between the projects of different programmes are visible, particularly in the case of special themes. Linkages should be fostered to build up synergies. Some of the activities of Interact are developing in this direction.

Issue	Recommendations MTE	Conclusions drawn from the programme	Status	Comments of update evaluator
Absorption of Funds	There is a lack of projects under Priority 2 (transport sector); a restricted call should be considered.	After the Conference of Regions in Lyon, a number of projects have been submitted under Priority 2. A workshop about the transport issue might lead to further new project ideas in this field.	Emphasis on the funding possibilities in Priority 2 is still needed, but absorption of funds is much better than in 2003. A restricted call is envisaged.	Funds were adapted and modified in the right way so that their exhaustion is actually satisfying. A special restricted last call is planned and leads one to expect the full absorption of funds till the end of programme period. The workshop on transport in Venice was not fully satisfying and there are real doubts about getting project ideas accepted.
Transnational workgroups	Transnational workgroups shall be set up in the remaining programme period.	Transnational workgroups involving experts and LP of approved projects should be set up. Opportunity to share experiences by LP of approved and newly approved projects shall be given.	Partner states have taken care of workshops. They are always offering possibilities for linking projects in workgroups by MA.	Three transnational workshops dedicated to the three priorities of the CIP were set up with varying success. Within the scope of these events, there were also opportunities for transnational workgroups of projects. A networking seminar held by JTS also made an attempt to bring projects together in transnational workgroups.
Strategic Projects	A discussion about the strategic projects is necessary, but maybe there is not enough time to prepare them within the remaining programming period. External experts and Alpine institutions could provide support to reach the long-term goal of a transnational spatial vision.	The approaches developed in Zurich go in the right direction and take these observations on board.	Organisation and the follow-up of the transnational workshops to be held in the single partner states were set out in Zurich.	The three transnational workshops delivered too a great platform to discuss the task of strategic projects. Furthermore an expert group was mandated to assume this task. The prospective study is showing one productive way to deal with the issue of strategic projects in the future

Issue	Recommendations MTE	Conclusions drawn from the programme	Status	Comments of update evaluator
Cooperation difficulties between the project partners	Differences in national contracting and funding practices caused problems, especially with Italian project partners; a task force joined by all relevant actors should get the problem solved.	Bilateral discussions between MA and Italy as well as meetings with relevant partners have taken place and the problems seem to be overcome.	MA, JTS and NCP shall inform each other immediately in case of any occurring problems.	Problem solved – constant information exchange between MA, JTS and NCPs.
Programme bodies	Evaluators see a lack of resources in JTS and partly on NCP level.	The JTS is fully staffed. MA and NCP in Italy & France might be supported by additional staff.	JTS actually is fully staffed with project officers. I&P activities are not yet covered.	I&P activities should be covered as soon as possible. Actually two staff members fulfil the task of team coordination. This model should be maintained in the remaining programme period.
Pre-financing of project development	Possibilities for pre-financing project developments for NGO or small companies, which do not have the resources and capacities to elaborate a high quality proposal for a project, should be improved.	A two-step-project-application shall be envisaged for the next programming period, but a change at this stage of the programme is not advisable.	A two-step-project application procedure is planned for the last restricted call.	Two-step-project-application as envisaged for the last call goes in the right direction. For the next period, the possibilities for smaller projects with an easier way of project application to reduce risks for applicants should be stressed.

Measures to be taken with regard to the next programming period

Issue	Recommendations MTE	Conclusions drawn from the programme	Status	Comments of update evaluator
Spatial visions	Preparing spatial vision is appreciated in order to jointly define problems, challenges and opportunities, and to define a common mission of the Alpine space. Defining strategic projects is promising; experts might help to structure the discussion process.	In Zurich, valuable approaches have been developed.	This is a main point of the Prospective Study.	On the basis of the summarized experiences of the remaining period, the results of Prospective Study and the midterm evaluation, this task should be deepened in programming of the next Alpine Space programme.
Programme budget	All national co-funding means should be joined in one common pot in order to reduce the influence of national interests and continuous peering on national absorption, and to support transnationality as a key-factor of Interreg III B.	MA strongly supports this idea.	A common funding pot should be foreseen in the next programme.	This idea should be fostered proactively at the EU level. Support for it should be carried out with the help of other programmes. The idea has also to be discussed with non-member states because there exists other financing-systems in these states.
Cooperation area	The cooperation area should be maintained in the next programme period.	It is too early to decide on this issue.	Partner states are invited to reflect on this finding.	In our point of view, the programme area was well chosen and should be maintained in future.

Conclusion

Most of the recommendations were accepted and led to some adaptations in programme documents, especially in order to clarify the responsibilities and roles of the programme bodies (e.g. National Coordinators, Conference of Regions) and to encourage more activities in recommended fields such as networking, synergy building, transnational workshops and work groups.

In some areas, a greater emphasis and more activity would be desirable especially for clarifying and adapting the objectives and the indicator system of the programme. Now it is indeed too late to make great efforts for full adaptations (at the end of 2003 this would not have been the case), but slight adaptations could nonetheless be possible today.

4. OUTPUT, RESULTS AND IMPACTS OF THE PROGRAMME

In the following, the outcomes of the projects and the progress of the programme to date are reviewed. First, the outputs before the backdrop of the financial situation and funding are addressed. Second, a closer look is taken of outputs, results and impacts, and based on the monitored and surveyed indicators the achievement of the goals of the programme is discussed.

The report is based on data provided by the Managing Authority (statistical data, access to monitoring system) and JTS (indicators).

4.1 Financial Output

4.1.1 Funding priorities and measures

General inventory and developments

The selection of the projects for the Alpine Space programming period 2000-2006 was carried out in three calls. The first was executed in 2002 and 2003 in two submission periods. A number of 27 projects were approved. In 2003, a second call followed and another eight projects joined the programme. Another 18 projects were approved in 2004. Overall, there are now 53 projects running and joined by a total of 632 project partners. That is an average of approximately 12 partners per project.

Table 1 contains the number of projects by priority and measure.

Table 1

Number of projects by priority and measure

Priority 1	The promotion of the Alpine Space as a competitive and attractive living and economic space within the scope of a polycentric spatial development in the EU	22
Measure 1.1	Mutual knowledge and common perspectives	11
Measure 1.2	Competitiveness and sustainable development	11
Priority 2	Wise management of nature, landscape and cultural heritage, promotion of the environment and the prevention of natural disasters	8
Measure 2.1	Perspective and analyses	3
Measure 2.2	Improvement of existing transport systems and the promotion of future one through large and small scale measures	5

Priority 3	Development of sustainable transport systems with particular consideration of efficiency, inter-modality and accessibility	23
Measure 3.1	Nature and resources, in particular water	8
Measure 3.2	Good management and promotion of landscapes and cultural heritage	8
Measure 3.3	Cooperation in the field of natural risks	7
	Sum	53

The table shows that the number of projects under priority 1 (22 projects) and priority 3 (23 projects) are fairly equal, while the number of projects under Priority 2 (8 projects) has a minor role.

Development of the programme throughout the calls

Table 2 illustrates the development of the programme. In order to gain an overview of the programme's dynamic and tendencies, the number of projects after the first, second and third calls are compared, and the change between first and third call is presented.

Table 2

Development of the No of projects throughout the 3 calls

	No of Projects after 1st call		No of Projects after 2nd call		No of Projects after 3rd call		Change: 1st call – 3rd call	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Priority 1	10	37%	13	37.1%	22	41.5%	12	120%
Priority 2	2	7.4%	4	11.4%	8	15.1%	6	300%
Priority 3	15	55.6%	18	51.4%	23	43.4%	8	53.3%
Measure 1.1	3	11.1%	5	14.3%	11	20.8%	8	266.7%
Measure 1.2	7	25.9%	8	22.9%	11	20.8%	4	57.1%
Measure 2.1	0	0%	1	2.9%	3	5.7%	3	-
Measure 2.2	2	7.4%	3	8.6%	5	9.4%	3	150%
Measure 3.1	4	14.8%	5	14.3%	8	15.1%	4	100%
Measure 3.2	5	18.5%	6	17.1%	8	15.1%	3	60%
Measure 3.3	6	22.2%	7	20.0%	7	13.2%	1	16.7%

The total number of projects increased from 27 projects after the first call to 35 projects after the second call and 53 after the last one, which signifies nearly a doubling (a plus of 96.3%).

The development since 2002 shows that the shares of the three priorities became more equal. Especially the measures under Priority 2 did quite well compared to 2002, where after the first

call just 2 projects under Measure 2.2 and no project under Measure 2.1 were approved. Now there are on the whole eight projects approved (the first three under m 2.1 and five under m 2.2) and Priority 2 is starting to catch up with expectations and to play a more important role in the Alpine Space programme. Priority 1 posted the biggest rise in the number of projects with 12 new projects (8 under Measure 1.1 and 4 under Measure 1.2) and together with Priority 3 now plays a central role in the programme. In 2002, more than half (15 out of 27) of all approved projects were under Priority 3. It still has the biggest share (23 out of 53 projects or 43.4%), but lost shares in comparison to the other two priorities.

Programme changes by shifts in funds

Table 3 compares the planned ERDF-funding from December 2003 with the ones of April 2005 per measure, priority and total amount and shows the extent of the change (last column).

Table 3

Development of planned ERDF funding 2003 & 2005

	Planned ERDF funding					
	2003		2005		Change since 2003	
	Euro	%	Euro	%	absolute	in%
P 1	15,691,928	27.9%	23,553,360	42.4%	7,861,432	50.1%
m 1.1	6,590,610	11.7%	12,279,550	22.1%	5,688,940	86.3%
m 1.2	9,101,318	16.2%	11,273,810	20.3%	2,172,492	23.9%
P 2	19,076,928	34.0%	12,395,184	22.3%	-6,681,744	-35.0%
m 2.1	7,630,771	13.6%	3,816,172	6.9%	-3,814,599	-50.0%
m 2.2	11,446,157	20.4%	8,579,012	15.4%	-2,867,145	-25.0%
P 3	21,409,048	38.1%	19,634,944	35.3%	-1,774,104	-8.3%
m3.1	6,422,714	11.4%	6,404,567	11.5%	-18,147	-0.3%
m3.2	6,422,714	11.4%	6,731,744	12.1%	309,030	4.8%
m3.3	8,563,619	15.2%	6,498,634	11.7%	-2,064,985	-24.1%
	56,177,904	100.0%	55,583,488	100.0%	-594,416	-1.1%

Overall, planned ERDF funding decreased slightly, but nearly stagnated at the same level.

As shown clearly in the table, a massive redistribution of funds has taken place. Thus, the volume of funds in Priority 2 has been cut significantly (appr. EUR 7mn or 35%) and enormously increased in Priority 1. Almost EUR 8mn are now additionally available, which corresponds to a 50% increase in funds. The largest portion of these funds is applied to Measure 1.1. (+ 86%). In Priority 2 the funding in Measure 2.1. was substantially cut (50% less), while in Measure 2.2 the funds were reduces by only ¼. A bit surprising is that the funds in Priority 3 were reduced

somewhat (in total by – 8%), with the relatively largest cuts being seen in Measure 3.3 with some EUR 2mn, which corresponds to approx. 1/4. The funds in Measure 3.2 in contrast were slightly increased.

On the whole, the redistribution of funds and the respective adjustments to the financial planning was meaningful and necessary. The funds under Priority 2 were very high to start with and the reduction has proven correct in the light of the experience to date and the current state of progress in the implementation (see below). The massive increase in Measure 1.1 is basically in line with the intentions of the programme as regards the strategic and comprehensive projects at the macro level.

The reduction of the funding for Priority 3 is not fully understandable and cannot be derived from the current state of progress in the implementation (see below).

Absorption of funding per priority and measure

The table below compares the committed ERDF funds with the planned funds and gives us information about current programmes and the status of implementation by viewing the absorption until now.

Table 4
Absorption of funding per Priority and measure

	Projects 2005		ERDF Funding		Planned ERDF Funding		Absorption
	No	%	€	%	€	%	
P 1	22	41.5%	18,087,525	39.1%	23,553,360	42.4%	76.8%
P 2	8	15.1%	9,856,031	21.3%	12,395,184	22.3%	79.5%
P 3	23	43.4%	18,326,723	39.6%	19,634,944	35.3%	93.3%
m 1.1	11	20.8%	10,131,772	21.9%	12,279,550	22.1%	82.5%
m 1.2	11	20.8%	7,955,753	17.2%	11,273,810	20.3%	70.6%
m 2.1	3	5.7%	2,546,595	5.5%	3,816,172	6.9%	66.7%
m 2.2	5	9.4%	7,309,436	15.8%	8,579,012	15.4%	85.2%
m 3.1	8	15.1%	5,967,679	12.9%	6,404,567	11.5%	93.2%
m 3.2	8	15.1%	6,296,077	13.6%	6,731,744	12.1%	93.5%
m 3.3	7	13.2%	6,062,967	13.1%	6,498,634	11.7%	93.3%
	53	100.0%	46,270,279	100.0%	55,583,488	100.0%	83.2%

It shows clearly that the measures under Priority 3 have applied the money especially well. In all measures more than 90% are committed. The reduction of the means highlighted above is all

the more crucial in the light of these results. Particularly the fact that Measure 1.2 of Priority 1 with 70% has the second-worst absorption rate and was enhanced by last funding shift. In any case, a cut in the funds of Priority 3 would not have been necessary. Currently, this priority area offers the greatest potential for the additional allocation of funds.

The situation for the measures under Priority 2 is rather different: while the projects under Measure 2.2 performed well, Measure 2.1 should be improved. At 67%, the absorption rate of this measure is the lowest one. However, bearing in mind the recently started additional efforts to amend the situation of the lacking number of projects, a positive development is recognisable.

Summarizing the implementation of the programme, it can be stressed that the absorption of the funds in comparison to the findings in the MTE is generally well developed and a full absorption of funds is likely to be achieved. Some additional efforts to improve and meet the aims should be made on Measure 1.2 and 2.1. Thus, it is to be recommended that the two measures with the lowest performance to date should be focused on in the next restricted call. A full absorption of the funds would not be very difficult then.

Some information of funded projects

Table 5 contains some information about the funding situation of the projects.

Table 5
ERDF Funding per Priority and measure

	Funding of EU (ERDF)							
	No	% of No	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	in% of Sum
				Priorities				
P 1	22	41.5%	822,160	867,126	216,089	1,338,161	18,087,525	39.1%
P 2	8	15.1%	1,232,004	1,209,618	602,529	1,980,756	9,856,031	21.3%
P 3	23	43.4%	796,814	767,500	124,500	1,416,720	18,326,723	39.6%
				Measures				
m 1.1	11	20.8%	921,070	886,858	312,500	1,338,161	10,131,772	21.9%
m 1.2	11	20.8%	723,250	700,403	216,089	1,187,424	7,955,753	17.2%
m 2.1	3	5.7%	848,865	949,330	602,529	994,736	2,546,595	5.5%
m 2.2	5	9.4%	1,461,887	1,496,680	875,000	1,980,756	7,309,436	15.8%
m3.1	8	15.1%	745,960	713,358	124,500	1,416,720	5,967,679	12.9%
m3.2	8	15.1%	787,010	846,000	399,853	991,680	6,296,077	13.6%
m3.3	7	13.2%	866,138	928,000	380,000	1,390,200	6,062,967	13.1%
Sum/Mean	53	100.0%	907,740	931,518	216,089	1,980,756	46,270,279	100.0%

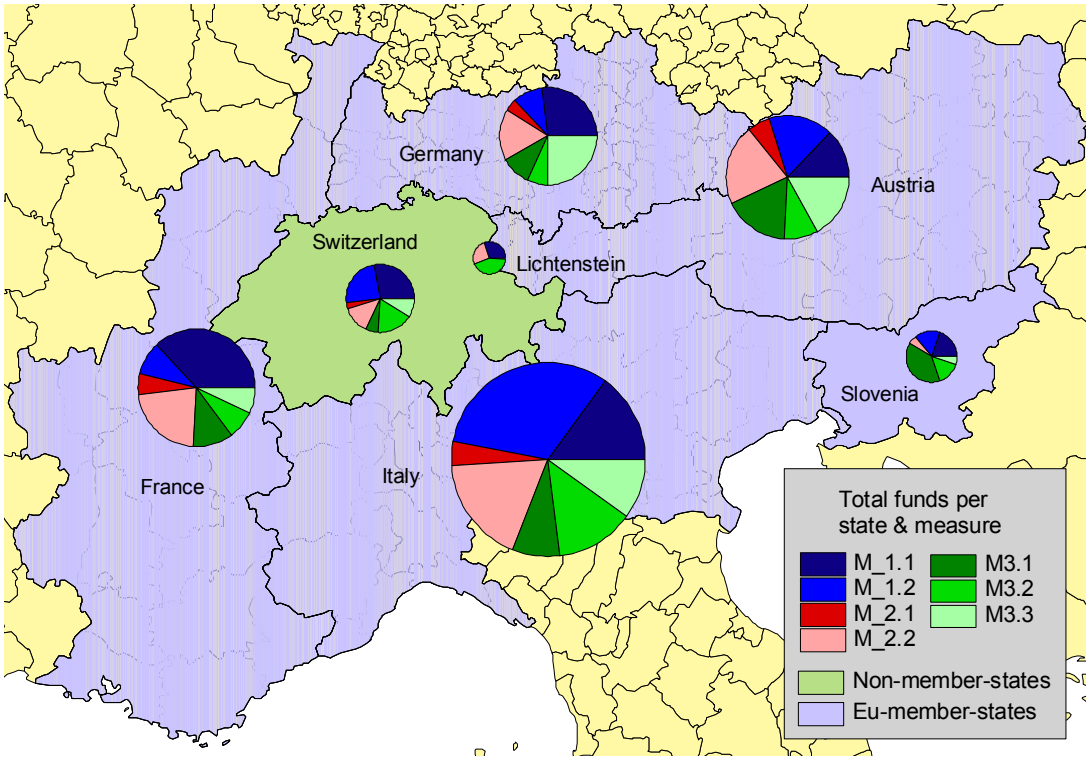
The average project funding by the EU lies a little bit over € 900,000. Projects under Priority 2 receive the highest ERDF funding with over € 1.2mn, while projects under Priority 1 and 3 have an ERDF budget of around € 800,000. A comparison of the average funds per measure generally confirms this tendency. An exception is Measure 2.2, which at € 1,461,887 is clearly over the average. But we should consider that there are just five projects, which are all well funded and related to the task of "the improvement of transport systems", which generally is bound to incur higher costs. Another exception is the average budget of Measure 1.2, which is slightly under that level at € 723,000. The values of the median (value exactly in middle of a sorted range of values) are fairly similar to the mean. The range between the minimum and maximum extends from € 216.00 to € 1,980,000. The big difference between these values shows that the variance of the costs of funded projects is high.

4.1.2 National Aspects of Programme Implementation

Total Funds per state and measure

Figure 1 shows the total (national and ERDF) funds per state and measure.

Figure 1
Total Funds per state and measure



The Figure 1 illustrates the aggregated total funds per state and measure and gives a good idea about the money circulation. The size of the circles reflects the total funds each state. It is clearly illustrated that Italy has by far the highest volume of total funds, with Measure 1.2 having the biggest share. It is also quite interesting to see that Measure 2.2 has quite a big share of total funds despite the small number of projects. It is also interesting to see that related to the national percentiles, Priority 1 is the most popular especially in Switzerland, Italy and France whereas in Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein and Slovenia this is clearly Priority 3. Within the priorities there are also clear differences between the measures from nation to nation. We can assume that a national distribution of the funding reflects the nation's specific intentions and aims for the Alpine Space programme.

National aspects of participation

The table below gives an overview of the national participation in the programme on the level of partnerships.

Table 6
Number of project partner and lead partner per nation

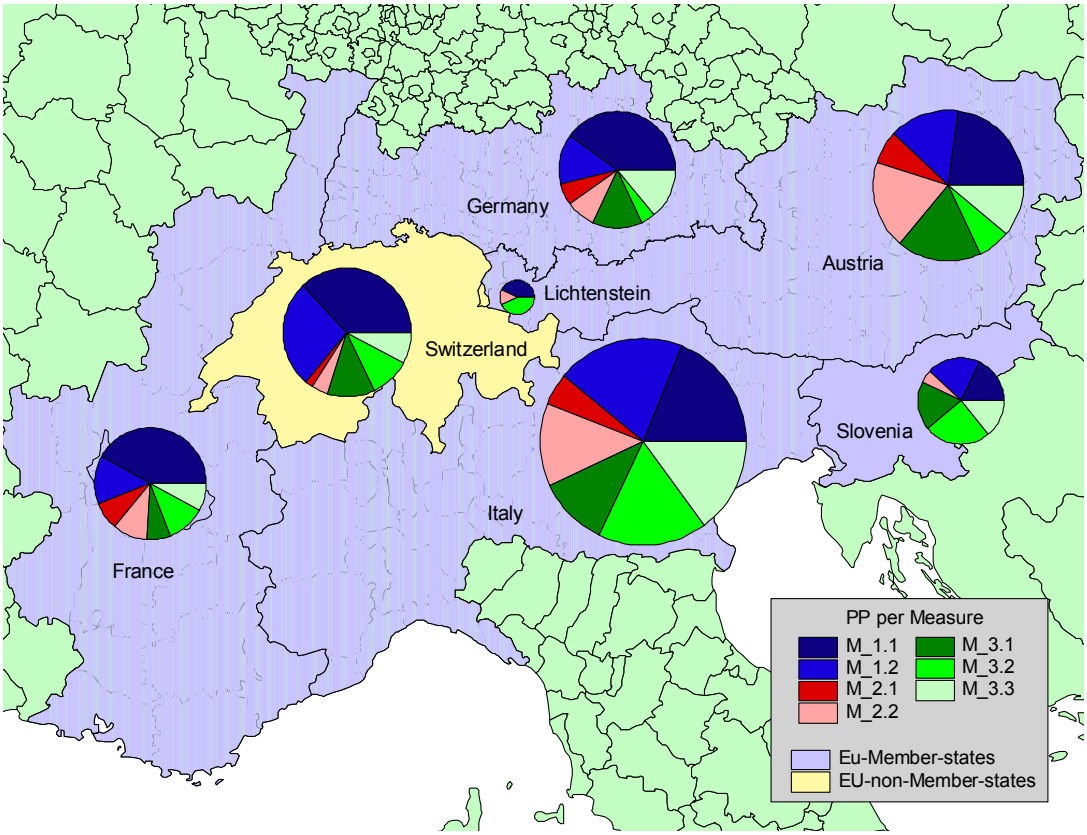
States	No of PP	In%	No of LP	in%
Italy	218	34.5%	19	34%
Austria	123	19.5%	14	24.5%
Switzerland	92	14.6%	3	9.4%
Germany	77	12.2%	8	15.1%
France	71	11.2%	9	17%
Slovenia	44	7%	0	0%
Liechtenstein	7	1.1%	0	0%
Sum	632	100%	53	100%

Italy has with 218 partners or 35.5% by far the largest number of project partners and also the biggest share of lead partners. The second largest contributor is Austria with 123 project partners (19.5%) and 14 lead partners. Switzerland also has a large commitment in the Alpine Space programme with 92 project partners and three lead partners. For a non-EU member state this is quite a good rate and Switzerland is significantly ahead of Germany, France, Slovenia and Liechtenstein.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of project partners and lead partners across the seven Interreg IIIB member states.

Figure 2

Distribution of project partners and lead partners across the seven Interreg IIIB member states



The size of the circle shows the total number of project partners per nation. One can recognise that in France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Germany approximately one-third of all project partners take part in measure1.1. In the other nations, this share is not as big, but with the exception of Slovenia it is also the measure with the most project partners. This is in line with one of the intentions of the programme to enhance networking on issues of spatial development. Participation in Priority 2 is most popular in Austria, followed by Italy. Switzerland and Slovenia shows only little interest in this topic. The interest in participating in the measures of Priority 3 is generally high in all nations but especially in Slovenia which seems to have the greatest interest in the topics of this Priority.

Typology of lead partners per state

Table 7

Typology of lead partner per nation

	Type of lead-partner	AT	CH	DE	FR	IT	LI	SI	sum
T 1	Scientific institutions	3	1	2	1	3			10
T 2	Territorial collectives	5	1	4	1	14			25
T 3	Public institutions	5			4	2			11
T 4	Public-private partnerships		1		2				3
T 5	Enterprises executing a public mandate								0
T 6	Non-profit organisations				1				1
T 7	Private consulting agencies	1							1
T 8	Economic actors								0
T 9	Enterprises			2					2
		14	3	8	9	19	0	0	53

Table 7 shows the distribution of the lead partners across the public, semi-public and private sector. With 46 lead partners (T1-T3), the public sector clearly plays the central role in the Alpine Space programme. Especially territorial collectives play a significant role with 25 lead partners.

The semi-private (T4-T6) and private (T7-T9) sectors play a similar minor role in comparison to the public sector. Public-private partnerships apparently have the potential, while private enterprises have to try to catch up.

Origin of the lead partners

Table 8 indicates the origins of the lead partners of the 53 projects.

Table 8

Origin and number of lead partners

Cities	No of LP
Grenoble, Innsbruck, Vienna	4
Bern, Salzburg, Torino, Trento, Venezia	3
Freiburg Im Breisgau, Milan, Munich, Strasbourg	2
Annecy, Aosta, Basel, Belluno, Berchtesgaden, Bolzano, Chavannes-près-Renens, Clusone, Gap, Graz, Lecco, Lons Le Saunier, Mäder, Neubiberg, Prien am Chiemsee, Trieste, Udine, Wessling	1

The lead partners are spread over 29 different cities. The cities with the most lead partners are Grenoble, Innsbruck and Vienna with four each. Bern, Salzburg, Torino, Trento and Venice have three each. Bern is also the city outside the EU-Region with the most LPs. The other two are Chavannes-près-Renens and Basel.

4.2 Physical Outputs, Results and Impacts

In addition to the overview given above of the programme implementation on the basis of financial outputs and some basic information about the number of projects, participation, etc., the following section will focus on the indicators monitored.

Indicators enable programmes to be measured by their achievements and results. However, for a programme on transnational cooperation and sustainable development, the aims and objectives are difficult to quantify. The Interreg IIIB Alpine Space programme has defined indicators for the following levels as shown in the midterm evaluation: programme, priority, measure, project and context.

The output indicators reflect what has been realized at the project or activity level. The result indicators show the immediate advantages of these activities. Impacts are the long-term benefits of the activities funded under the programme. Context indicators reflect the general developments in a target area and provide a base for the SWOT analysis.

In the Alpine Space programme, the indicators are generally not quantified.

The following measures were chosen as context indicators:

- Population
- Labour market (employment and unemployment rate)
- Employment by sector (agriculture, industry, services)
- Educational attainment of persons aged 25-59 (low – medium – high)
- GDP Index (per capita of the resident population, per employee)

These indicators were surveyed 1996/1997 on Nuts II and Nuts I level of the Alpine Space regions. They are the sole baseline of the programme; other baseline indicators were not defined. Until now, context indicators were not updated.

The following sources were available and were analysed for the following topics:

- The most important source was created by a questionnaire sent by JTS to all lead partners of approved projects and by which the actual status of all indicators mentioned in CIP and PC were surveyed. The questionnaires were adapted to the specified indicators on measure level; results on priority and programme level were aggregations from the measure level as foreseen in CIP.
- A second source was derived from analysing project specific indicators. The applicants had to name output and result indicators for their project and also quantification in the application form.
- Another important source relied on the results of the three transnational workshops in Rosenheim, Innsbruck and Venice. Especially in Innsbruck, the effects and effectiveness of projects and the programme were discussed and painted a many-sided picture of the Alpine Space programme.

4.2.1 General Remarks on Indicators

A closer look at quantified indicators surveyed by JTS by means of a questionnaire and project-specific individual indicators by project applicant shows that our criticism of the indicator system in the midterm evaluation was very valid. In the midterm evaluation, we criticized the indicator system only on a theoretical basis, because we had no access to project data. In combination with the latter, these shortcomings in using and defining indicators became clearer and much more concrete. The following shortcomings were revealed:

- There are no clear links between indicators and objectives. Indicators should be the means to measure the achievements of objectives, but no systematic link is recognizable. Shortcomings in the objectives system leads to deficits in the indicators selected.
- The objectives and indicators are generally not quantified. Only on the project level applicants have to define the expected outcomes of their projects. On the measure, priority and programme levels no such expectations are quantified and clear targets are missing. Thus, the success of the programme is very difficult to justify.
- A clear interconnectedness between the programme and project indicators is missing. For this reason, it is difficult to say if the objectives of the programme will be reached through the projects. The contribution of projects – and consequently of measures – to the programme goals are not very clear indeed. This is also the case because the input used, the output, result and impact indicators are not linked systematically enough.

- The context indicators set in the CIP are mainly descriptive and will not change if the conditions for programme are changed. They do not have the sensitivity to monitor the programme and to identify trends that support and counteract its aims.

4.2.2 Project Level

Previously in this section (Chapter 4.1) we dealt with projects on the input side of the programme. The focus was on the number of projects by measure, priority, number of lead partners and project partners, absorption to date and the national aspects of funding projects. Now our focus will shift to the outcome of the projects and their contribution to the achievement of the programme goals.

Project applicants have to indicate the specific outcome of their projects by defining some quantified output und result indicators. A look at these project-specific individually chosen indicators shows the following:

- The chosen indicators show a wide variety of different indicators, which make summarizing the effects of projects very complex and nearly impossible also within measures.
- Whereas output indicators seem defined quite well, this is not the case for result indicators. Much of result indicators chosen are also outputs or activity indicators (e.g. number of participants to workshops and seminars, number of meetings and seminars or number of regions, local authorities and other collective actors informed about the project and its result).
- The chosen indicators can be used to monitor the project itself. But as a contribution to the objectives at the measure level and programme aims, these indicators are not useful – they are too different. The direct link between project and programme indicators as noted above is missing. Therefore, a clear link between the measures under which the projects have been committed and the specified project indicators is missing.
- The wide range of indicators makes it difficult to compare projects and to summarize the effects as noted above. It fails to give a set of input or activity indicators that are used in all projects and make it easy to get an overview of the project implementation status.

On the whole, we can say that currently the indicators on the project level only have the ability to give information on individual project progress and can not contribute to indicate achievement of programme goals. Therefore, the indicators are too dispersed and too few combine to yield a programme indicator system.

4.2.3 Priority and Measure Level

In spite of the noted deficits of indicator system, an attempt will be made in the following to assess the programme status on the basis of the chosen physical indicators by measure, priority and the programme as a whole.

The main source for this view rests on the indicator tables of the JTS aggregated from questionnaires as presented in the Annual report 2004. This list is part of the Annex.

As a starting point, the analysis of the measures has been selected because this is the key level for assessing the programme as a whole.

Priority 1

Measure 1.1 Mutual knowledge and a common perspective

This measure is designed to promote contacts and networks among the territories of the Alpine Space in order to produce common visions and to address specific development topics within the context of European social and economic integration. It aims at drawing up common perspectives of spatial development taking into account the European Spatial Development Perspective. It should furthermore contribute to providing partners with the relevant information and to spreading information and knowledge on the social and spatial phenomena within the Alpine Space. This measure encourages the development of a strong partnership between territories at all levels (PC, 2005, p. 24; for a closer look at the objectives see also CIP pp. 58 ff. and MTE pp. 32-34).

Under this measure, 11 projects have been approved until the end of the year 2004. Six of the projects have been approved under the 3rd call. Therefore, the quantification of indicators does not fully reflect the real state of project implementation.

A closer look at the indicators (please refer to the Annex) shows us that they are not very well chosen:

- The two result indicators describe outputs.
- The impact indicators describe results and not the long-term effects, and if at all, only on a very general level.
- The indicators are not directed at concrete objectives; an interpretation therefore is difficult.
- Not all objectives are monitored adequately by the indicators; e.g. a common perspective on spatial development issues is gained as a main objective of a measure,

but it is not measured by indicators. Moreover, the establishment of common databases and indicator systems to view the development of social or spatial phenomena of the Alpine Space is not monitored adequately.

The main problem of the measure is this general approach as noted also in the CIP (p. 29). In our view, it represents an umbrella measure, which makes it difficult to choose adequate indicators and to relate these to clearly defined objectives. The shortcomings in defining measures are dealt with in more depth in MTE (refer to p. 32).

Therefore, it is difficult to interpret the data and this is only possible at a relatively abstract level. A second main problem of interpretation arises from the fact that we have no quantified objective targets to compare the present implementation status with the expected results. That makes it also difficult to justify the progress of the programme.

Bearing these shortcomings in mind, we can say that the overall measures still seem to run quite well. Nearly 3000 people have participated to date in some 60 information activities, training and educational courses. In twelve transnational networks, three pilot projects were established, and in seven of the twelve networks a mixed partnership involving authorities from the spatial and regional planning domain as well as partners from other sectors has been established. Another very positive aspect is that seven of the eleven cooperation projects between peri-Alpine and core-Alpine partners are functioning very well. Thus, the main goals of the measure – to foster cooperation among the core and the fringes of the Alps and between the domain of spatial planning and other sectors – seem to be promoted in a positive way. The question is if this can lead to sustainable cooperation networks or if these are just isolated events. It is too soon to answer this question, but measuring the impacts will undoubtedly lead to this question.

Measure 1.2 Competitiveness and sustainable development

This measure focused on strengthening the competitiveness of the Alpine Space by supporting the development of common approaches in different economic sectors. In order to increase competitiveness, the use of ICT technologies should be stimulated. The measure also intends to promote the development of the different Alpine territories according to their specificity through the creation of job and income opportunities as well as through the promotion of cooperation among enterprises and institutions for technology transfer and to make disadvantaged regions attractive to potential investors (PC, 2005, p. 28).

By the end of 2004, 12 projects had been approved under Measure 1.2.

The indicators generally seem to be better developed and more adequate than those of Measure 1.1. Some result indicators are outputs or activity indicators (number of people taking

part in professional training and education, share of women participating in project activities). A crucial point lies in the fact that indicators to not cover all objectives of the measure well. For example, the stimulation for using more ICT Technologies or strategies for disadvantaged regions are not covered adequately by the indicators. In this sense, the measure seems to be broad in general (similar to Measure 1.1) and greater differentiation would have been helpful to give the measures clearer outlines.

As regards the results, we can say the following thus far: The participation of 1,700 SMEs and 34 innovation and technology centres for networking and know-how exchange does not seem to be very much, but still contributes to strengthening the competitiveness of the Alpine Space. More interesting and also more indicative in this context are the 23 joint promotion instruments for Alpine products and 36 services that result from transnational cooperation, and especially the creation of 11 new enterprises. It is a pity that there was no question regarding the number of jobs created by these instruments (as an adequate impact indicator). The volume of investment induced of about EUR 2mn by programme-funded partnerships is also a notable figure for this stage of programme implementation.

In general, the possibilities of a programme like the Alpine Space programme strengthening the competitiveness in the Alpine Space are very limited. Thus, the results achieved up to now are quite good and it is still worth involving SMEs as far as possible in transnational activities in the future as well.

Priority 1 Promotion of the Alpine Space as a competitive and attractive living and economic area within the framework of polycentric spatial development of the EU

Under the Priority 1 improvements in three areas could be achieved:

- improvements in the territorial development within a polycentric spatial concept,
- binding of human capital to the regions and
- improving the access to the information society (for a closer look at objectives, refer to MTE p. 30 and CIP).

For measuring the attainment of these goals, four indicators were developed. They are surveyed at the measures level and then aggregated for the priority level. As the table below shows, the indicators describe outputs and results but not the impacts. The main objectives are covered by the indicators at a general level, but not regarding the more specific issues. As we mentioned above, the priority indicators are not systematically linked to the measure indicators (the same is applied to the system of goals), but implicit relations are visible. What is missing are impact indicators, e.g., number of permanent jobs created by projects or number of sustainable networks to promote sustainable development measured two to three years after completion of the projects.

A quantification of the indicators draws the following picture:

Indicator	Measure 1	Measure 2	Sum
Number of spatial planning authorities involved in projects	57	83	140
Number of networks established to promote sustainable development	21	23	44
Number of projects dealing with the use of ICT to contribute to a stronger Alpine Space economy	7	8	15
Number of projects dealing with best practice in the field of creation of permanent jobs and income opportunities	3	9	12

The priority of the projects lies clearly in spatial development. After all, 140 spatial planning authorities have been involved in projects until now and 44 networks have been developed in this context. In comparison to this issue, the contribution to creating access to ICT and the creation of permanent jobs and income opportunities is less developed. However, this reflects only the main thrust of the programme with a strong spatial development aspect and insofar not surprising.

It is difficult to justify programme progress in Priority 1 at the priority and measure level in general, because the programme is still running and until now only four projects of the whole programme are in the completion phase. Therefore, the actual results describe only a spotlight in an ongoing process. Furthermore, the impacts of the programme will perhaps become visible only several years after the end of the projects and the objectives are not quantified. Thus, it is very difficult to justify the programme's achievements adequately. More information will become available in the next few years, thus making it possible to draw more adequate conclusions.

Conclusion

If we also consider the findings regarding financial funding, the conclusion may be drawn that Priority 1 is developing very well. Most funding means are committed with some shortcomings in Measure 1.2 and the results achieved thus far seem to be satisfactory. The indicator system is not very well developed and this makes monitoring and the assessment of the programme at the measure and priority level difficult, especially in connection with the lacking quantification of objectives. For future monitoring and to obtain more adequate information about the impacts it seems necessary pay more attention to the sustainability of projects, established networks and cooperation activities. For the ex-post evaluation a survey of more impact related indicators should be planned. Otherwise, the evaluation of the impacts of the programme will be very difficult.

Priority 2

Measure 2.1 Perspectives and analyses

This measure intends to promote the development of common perspectives and strategies in order to address common long-range transport issues, to examine the main problems of Alpine transport and to propose common sustainable transport solutions (limiting congestion, providing for affordable travel options for all, etc.). The objective is to provide the actors with support in decision-making and information in the field of transport. The measure intends to promote the development of sustainable mobility and transport systems in order to optimise their spatial, social and environmental impact.

The indicators seem well defined and give a good picture of the outputs, results and impacts expected. Moreover, the relationships to the objectives are obvious at the general level.

By the end of 2004, only three projects had been approved under this measure, two of which were approved under call 3. Therefore, the outcomes of the projects are very small thus far.

Measure 2.2 Improvement of existing and promotion of future transport systems

This measure generally aims at finding common operational and innovative solutions for problems in the transport sector and to contribute to sustainable transport systems. In order to produce long-term effects, the close cooperation of the authorities from the transport domain and the concerned public and private actors is required.

The indicators cover the main objectives of the measures, but are not systematically linked to them. Some result indicators are output indicators (e.g. number of proposals concerning the harmonization) and impact indicators are result indicators (number of new transnational transport services or infrastructure installed). Nonetheless, on the whole the indicators are well developed, but are not always easy to understand. An explanation of indicators would be useful.

By the end of 2004, five projects were approved. Due to the small number of projects, it is difficult to assess programme implementation. Noticeable is the large number of proposals concerning harmonization in Alpine traffic. It seems like a wide area for conceptualizing common harmonized systems. Furthermore, five new transnational transport services seem to be a good ratio at this point in the implementation. The 1000 non-participating actors benefiting from the access to new networks are an interesting value, but without a context it is difficult to interpret. An explanation of the indicators would be necessary.

Priority 2 Development of sustainable transport systems with particular consideration of efficiency, inter-modality and better accessibility

Priority indicators cover the main goals of the priority and the measures quite well, while the objectives of the measure are relatively clearly linked to the priority goals. What is missing are clear impact indicators; the list below describes input and outputs and some results but not the impacts. They are useful for monitoring, but not for assessing the effects.

Indicator	Sum Measure 1 & 2
Number of projects offering innovative solutions for the accessibility to transport and communication infrastructure	6
Number of projects developing decision-making tools for transport issues	4
Number of projects improving access to transnational/high-capacity transport networks	2
Number of environmentally-friendly transport links between metropolitan areas and tourist areas	5

Therefore, the effects up to now are difficult to justify, because they only show what has been attained thus far. It is interesting to note that six projects offer innovative solutions for the accessibility to transport and communication infrastructure. But what about the means? What is the effect on the people who live there? How many people benefit from this? In our opinion, an ex-post evaluation would be necessary to assess the impacts in concrete terms.

Conclusion

Priority 2 lags behind as regards the absorption of funds and the number of approved projects. There were many difficulties especially at beginning of the programme due to the second call and it became necessary to shift funds from Priority 2 to Priority 1 and 3. With the 3rd call, the situation became much better and the current rate of exhaustion of Priority 2 meets expectations, even though in comparison to the other two priorities, the lag is obvious. The assessment of the implementation is therefore not really possible and meaningful, but most projects were approved by the 3rd call and have been running only a short time for which no effects are yet expected.

The indicator system shows an inconsistent pattern. A relatively good and coherently developed indicator system in general contrasts with the lack of indicators or deficits in the indicators at the impact level. These shortcomings should be minimized for the ex-post evaluation. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to interpret data seriously.

Priority 3

The priority exists for three measures and up to now 23 projects have been approved.

Measure 1: Nature and resources, in particular water

The general aim of the measure is to promote the conservation and the valorisation of natural resources within the framework of sustainability and to develop a common perspective and management strategies (for a closer look: CIP, 2004, p. 66; MTE, 2003, p. 31).

The indicators for this measure seem to be adequate and are interlinked systematically. Some of the impact indicators are defined quite weakly.

By the end of 2004, eight projects were approved under Measure 3.1. At the output level, the large number of studies and guidelines with a focus on natural resources (14) stands out. In comparison, the two other indicator values – two pilot projects and one database, electronic archive or GIS – are very small. In this context, it would be a good idea to foster these other issues especially at a future point in time. One positive aspect that should be mentioned is the fact that the acquired guidelines and studies were also adopted by the concerned authorities as shown by the indicators and that the results of the pilot projects were used by public authorities and have lead to improvements in the environmental assets of the areas covered by the pilot projects. Therefore, the success of the programme is given, but perhaps it would be meaningful to shift the focus from studies and guidelines to databases and pilot projects. This should be considered in the next call.

Measure 2 Good management and promotion of landscapes and cultural heritage

The general aim of the measure is to support the promotion and the efficient management of the natural and cultural landscape and of the cultural heritage (for a closer look at objectives: CIP, 2004, p. 67; MTE, 2003, p. 34).

The indicators are similarly well developed to those of Measure 3.1. Impact indicators are not very satisfactory. The link to the objectives of the measure is not very clear.

By the end of 2004, eight projects were approved. The outcomes are clearly visible and the measures show a good performance indeed. A number of 17 guidelines and management plans regarding cultural resources and landscape issues were produced in the meantime. This has lead to 13 interventions and 24 adoptions of suggestions, methodologies, guidelines and management plans. Thus, we can say that the projects have the desired direct and positive effects. In the meantime, 36 initiatives have been started which aim at promoting the exchange of experiences and good practices in the field of cultural heritage and landscape management. A few territorial institutions have adopted this practice in their own fields of work field (4

statements). Heightened awareness and greater experience especially in case of good management of cultural and natural heritage is also mentioned (6 statements). Up to now two pilot projects have been completed whose results are still being used by a few public authorities (3) and which in five cases have had positive effects based on the monitored indicators on cultural heritage and landscape both from the environmental and economic point of view.

It is too early to obtain a more precise view of the effects of the measure, but overall it is running quite well.

Measure 3.3 Cooperation in the field of natural risk

This measure aims at increasing the knowledge of natural phenomena in order to protect people, settlements and infrastructures from natural risks. Therefore, land use, vegetation, water regime and climate have to be taken into account. The measure is aimed at finding and implementing results for improving the safety of settlements and infrastructures in disaster-prone Alpine areas, particularly, those threatened by local risk phenomena such as landslides, avalanches, forest fires, floods and earthquakes. Furthermore, it aims at promoting decision-making and land use planning for preventing natural disasters and mitigating their effects (PC, 2005, p. 47).

The indicators are well developed and cover the main objectives to a large extent. The most adequate set of impact indicators is also worth mentioning. Some indicators are not clear, e.g., number of accesses to databases and electronic archives – is this the number of every entry to a database or the number of institutions or persons, which have an access to the database? Or does it indicate the increase in information and use of software dedicated to natural hazard prevention?

Seven projects had been approved by the end of 2004. As shown by the table of quantified indicators (see Annex), the measure displays generally good effects. In 26 initiatives and pilot projects, 145 joint actions by institutions within a transnational framework were conducted, and 29 adoptions of suggestions, methodologies, guidelines and management plans were made on the basis of these experiences. In five cases, this led to improvements of environmental assets in the areas covered by the pilot projects and in greater safety for the people living in such areas by raising awareness and disseminating information.

The number of databases, electronic archives and GIS solutions created in the field of natural hazards is rather high at 36. With 136 accesses thus far, we can say that the solutions are being used. Ten networks were established related to natural risk prevention and information, and 214 different institutions now use these networks for early detection, which is an imposing figure.

Overall, Measure 3.3 seems to be quite successful. This was also shown by the achievements in some projects of a faster circulation of information and a more efficient early detection system (four projects) as well as a general reduction of the probability and effects of natural disasters (5 project statements).

Priority 3 Wise management of nature, landscape and cultural heritage, promotion of the environment and prevention of natural disasters

The summarized effects at the priority level aggregated from the projects are shown in the following table. It must be stressed that the defined indicators are useful for monitoring, but are only of little value for measuring the impacts of the priority. They are all focused on the important aspects of the main goals of the priority (common strategies for nature conservation, sustaining cultural and landscape heritage, preservation of the environment and natural resources, and prevention of natural disasters). The highest scores were attained by those related to common perspectives for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources. Especially Measure 3.1 is clearly predominant in this field. Measure 2 is clearly ahead in developing transnational perspectives for common cultural heritage and/or initializing pilot projects. Measure 3 focuses on natural risk prevention. All of these themes are covered by the priority in a satisfactory way and therefore we may assume that the basic goals have been achieved to a sufficient extent although a clearer presentation of the effects and a better conceptualization of the impacts would be helpful and necessary.

Indicator	Measure 1	Measure 2	Measure 3	sum
Number of projects dealing with the management of water resources	3	1	4	8
Number of common perspectives for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources	11	1	2	14
Number of transnational projects developing perspectives of the common cultural heritage and/or initializing pilot projects	1	6	0	7
Number of projects developing and installing transnational risk prevention measures	0	0	7	7
Number of transnational plans for the prevention of flooding	0	0	3	3

Conclusion

All measures of the priority are quite successful. The absorption rate for all measures is over 90% (see Chapter 4.1). Therefore, the above mentioned cut in funds is not really understandable. Moreover, the indicator system shows that a good and valid structure exists to a large extent in comparison to the other priorities, but some shortcomings are visible at the level of impacts. The ex-post evaluation of these shortcomings should be minimized to obtain more valid information on the long-term effects.

4.2.4 Programme Level

At the programme level, the following indicators were surveyed (from the annual report 2004, 2005, p. 11).

Programme level	Results
Number of projects establishing a common perspective for programme specific development issues	28
Number of projects enhancing genuine transnationality of actions by having at least three financing partners	53
Number of projects initiating actions with established national, regional and local systems laying ground for new activities	27
Amount of projects co-financing from public-like or private institutions	€ 4,631,967
Amount of projects co-financing from regional and local administration	€ 51,755,199
Number of projects having a mixed partnership involving both authorities from the spatial planning domain and partners from other sectors	35
Number of projects involving non-EU partners	42

Overall, we have to say that the above list of programme indicators is not very satisfactory. The indicators describe mostly inputs and activities, and in some cases outputs, but no results and impacts. They are useful for monitoring the programme, but not for assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and usefulness of the programme and for giving indications of the extent to which the programme objectives have been met. To this end, the impact indicators at the measure level actually seem to be the best. Another problem is the fact that some of the indicators are not easy to understand. Better explanations would be useful. It would be more helpful if the indicators were quantified thus enabling us to compare the actual scores with the targets. It is hard to say why this has not been done.

What we can say though is that the projects do contribute to the achievement of the programme goals. Thus 28 projects support by establishing a common perspective for programme-specific development issues, the general aim of developing a common understanding of the role of the Alpine Space in terms of sustainable spatial development. The transnational focus of all projects also fosters the development of common perspectives, the same as the 35 projects with mixed partnerships.

Moreover, the other general aims are fostered by the projects (cf. MTE, 2003, p.26). The projects also support the measure and priority-related objectives. It is a pity that the relationships between the indicators and the objectives are not explained and presented more clearly.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The following section presents the main conclusions drawn.

Implementation of MTE recommendations

Most recommendations made in the 2003 midterm evaluation were accepted and led to some adaptations in the programme documents, above all, to a clarification of the areas of responsibilities and the roles of the programme bodies (e.g. National Coordinators, Conference of the Regions) and also encouraged more activities in the recommended fields such networking, synergy building, transnational workshops and workgroups.

In some areas, more emphasis and activity would be desirable, especially as regards clarifying and adapting the objectives and the indicator system of the programme. Now, it is indeed too late for any greater efforts for a full adaptation, but slight adaptations of the indicator system would still be possible today.

Output, Results, Impact

Funding

Overall, the programme is running well with respect to absorption of funds. We can expect all funds to be exhausted by the end of the programme period. Since the MTE Priority 2 is also coming along and is showing a satisfactory rate of absorption. This was the case because most efforts by the different programme bodies concentrated on this priority to foster projects, and financial means assigned were reduced by 35%. The current finance table seems to be much more adequate with respect to Priority 2. The funds shifted were allocated to Priority 1 especially in Measure 1.1. This seems appropriate insofar as spatial development issues, which are funded under this measure, are the main objectives of the programme as a whole.

Indicator system

The midterm evaluation also examines the shortcomings related to the indicator system, which reflect the deficits in the internal coherence of the programme. As we have stated in the MTE and as shown in the section dealing with the indicators, the indicator system has deficits in several areas:

- The definition of the indicators as output, result or impact is often incorrect.

- Indicators are sometimes hard to understand; explanation is missing and the kind of answer expected is not always clear (e.g. projects, studies, etc.).
- The relationship and the logic between the different indicators are not always clear.
- The indicators are not sufficiently oriented towards the goals; it is often unclear which objective an indicator is supposed to measure.
- The objectives are not quantified.
- In general, there are not enough indicators. More indicators would be useful at all levels. The measures are very varied and it would be useful to add more indicators per measure that include all facets.
- Most deficits refer to the measurement of impacts.

The problems with indicators are related to the programme structure. Very few measures were formulated in the priorities; three priorities are therefore not much. To include all important topics in the programme, the priorities – and especially the measures – were designed very broadly, similar to containers that must hold many different themes. This lacking specificity of the measures makes it very difficult to develop adequate indicators and to relate them clearly to objectives. We could also say that the measures are overloaded and therefore lacking contour and clearness. In Priority 1 and 2, another aspect must be mentioned. In both priorities, one measure is suitable at the macro level and another at the micro level. This does not seem to be an adequate solution and results in the greater generality of the measures.

These shortcomings are not only programme specific. They are also an effect of orientation on EC recommendations – EC guidelines also envisaged only three priorities for programmes – and the consequence of starting transnational cooperation in a new cooperation area. The real needs of the regions were not known in depth at the time of programming and so it was not possible to design measures that are completely satisfying. Therefore the intention of our critical comments concerning the actual programme is not to diminish the programme's success but to learn for a next programme.

Due to the problems described, it is not possible to make clear and quantified statements based on the indicators with respect to the attainment of the objectives. However, what we can say is that:

- The projects do contribute to the achievements of the programme goals at all levels. It is a pity that the links between the indicators and objectives have not been explained clearly in the programme
- The project covers a broad spectrum of relevant issues within the priorities.
- The project generally has a strong networking effect with good participation of spatial planning authorities.

5.2 Recommendations

5.2.1 Recommendations for the remaining programming period

Two years before the end of the programme period, it would not make such sense to suggest fundamental changes to the programme. Apart from this, the programme as a whole seems to be running well and there is no need for major changes.

Only some adaptations are suggested for the remaining period with the aim of tackling some of the weaknesses of the programme, and especially, to improve the basis for measuring the achievements of the projects and the programme as a whole.

Indicator system

The following steps are recommended for improving the indicator system:

- The indicators chosen should be better defined; if they are ambiguous, they should be explained. For the surveyed indicators, JTS noted, that these still were done to a certain extend; indicators which were not clear have been reformulated into understandable questions for the lead partners.
- Indicators should also be interlinked to the main objectives to which they contribute. This interpretation of the indicators should be made clearer.
- It would be useful to develop some profound impact indicators and to enhance the quality of the ones that already exist.
- The link between project and programme level should be made clearer. That means that the contribution of the approved projects for achieving the programme goals should be formulated more precise.
- For the project level, a set of input/activity indicators should be developed too for use by all projects in order to obtain the same information from all projects – in addition to their own indicators. The four indicators listed below serve as an example (this is applied in the North Sea Region programme):

  1. Number of organisations involved in the project
  2. Number of people involved in the project
  3. Number of meetings:
     - Workshops, meetings, seminars, conferences
     - Exchange of expertise
  4. Number of participants

  Adaptations could be necessary for the Alpine Space programme. As JTS noted these four indicators will be answered to some extent in the final activity report, in which

projects are asked to list and state the number of transnational meetings, workshops and events they have had and the number of participants. Insofar it could not be a great effort to ask in the final activity report for some additional information like the number of involved people and organisations.

The given recommendations could improve the basis for measuring the achievements of the projects and the programme considerably. Some shortcomings can be eliminated with little effort by JTS as we have seen above, Other improvements like the development of profound impact indicators, a clearer goal orientation of indicators and a clearer link between project and programme level needs undoubtedly some more efforts and are only realistic to fulfil with support of external experts.

That does not mean that without deeper improvements measuring of achievements of the programme are not possible. But it is as we have seen in section 4.2 only possible on the basis of limited quality and validity of results. Especially at Priority 1 it seems to be hard to get adequate results without substantial improvements. Taking into account that these improvements would also be a good background for programming a future programme such an improvement of the linking of project and programme level seems to pay off absolutely. Experiences made could certainly be used for developing better and integrated goal-indicator system.

Funding

Overall, the programme is running well In Terms of up-take of funds. Only two measures, Measure 1.2 and Measure 2.1 lie somewhat behind expectations and far below the average. These two measures should be given most attention and emphasis in order for their funds to be fully absorbed. For the measures of Priority 3, showing the highest absorption rate, it could be considered to assign additional means to:

Programme bodies

As regards the institutions, the most important action needed is to upgrade the JTS to a fully-staffed secretariat. Some weeks ago, the team coordinator and the I&P officer resigned. At present, the function of a team coordinator is fulfilled by two project officers. This arrangement is working well and could be continued, because finding a new team leader or coordinator for the last few years of the programme may turn out to be rather difficult. However, what is necessary is a new I&P officer or the outsourcing of I&P tasks to external experts. Some I&P activities perhaps can be taken-over by the JTS team, but their resources for additional tasks seemed to be very limited and they are project officers and no I&P experts. Just now, at a time when the first projects are coming into the finalization phase and the new programming period is on the horizon, an intensified information policy and publicity on a professional level would be

important and necessary. The MA should take the necessary steps to find the best solution of covering I&P tasks.

Since the time of midterm evaluation the monitoring system runs quite well but there are always necessities of adaptations. Particularly the module of (statistical) analysis and reporting seems to bear additional need for adaptation. The different programme bodies should be asked to articulate clearly their expectations as to the outputs the monitoring system so that JTS can adopt this accordingly.

Networking activities

Networking and activities for better exploitation of synergies of the projects of the Alpine Space programme and the projects of other programmes are to be fostered in the next few years. The transnational workshops in Rosenheim, Innsbruck and Venice were very successful and turned out to be a good opportunity to establish contacts, share experiences and engage in cooperation. Such events should be continued until the end of the programme period. Furthermore, the emphasis at project level and programme level should focus on the exchange of information and knowledge among the INTERREG IIIB programmes. The workshops and seminars organized by INTERACT are endeavours to bring the different programmes together and should be used intensively.

5.2.2 Recommendations for the future programming period

Nothing is fixed yet as regards the future Alpine Space programme in legal terms. Nevertheless, it is a safe to assume that (a) there will be an Alpine Space programme within the coming SF-period and it will (b) by and large cover the same territory as today and (c) the programme partners will continue to play their respective roles.

Although the new programme will no more be a Community Initiative Programme but one within the new Objective 3 (Territorial Co-operation), the l changes in the framework as concerns the basic programme structure and the possible interventions to be expected from the forthcoming regulations are limited, though the strategic focus of the EC has been shifting (basically towards Lisbon/Gothenburg objectives). This in mind we formulate a number of recommendations for the future programming as one result of the updated MTE.

Recommendations for programme documents

Improving the internal coherence should be an important topic for the programming of the next Alpine Space programme. The shortcomings of the current programme documents presented in the midterm evaluation and the experiences gained with the document are a good starting point for deriving the areas that need to be improved. These include:

- Clearer hierarchy of goals between programme, priority, measure and project level. The links between the goals at the different levels should be defined and the contribution of the minor goals such as measures for the higher-ranking objectives should be made clearer.
- The structural components of the Programme (status quo/SWOT analysis; goals and visions; priorities and measures; possible projects) should form a logical chain of related elements and a coherent and stringently structured context. Common visions of the Alpine Space should be developed as a main instrument for the common work towards the future of the Alpine Space. The Prospective Study has provided some important inputs for this.
- The definition of priorities and measures must be in line with the goals and should be formulated as concretely as possible. Above all, the measures should be more specific. In the current programme, they are formulated as umbrella measures that deal with rather varied tasks of different kinds, thus making an assessment of their achievements very difficult. To avoid overburdening the measures, it would be feasible to divide them into sub-measures or to specify more measures for each priority.
- A quantification of the goals by using an appropriate indicator system is necessary. The indicator system should be developed together with conceptualizing the objectives and should be an integral part of the programme targets. Experiences gained in the remaining programme period could serve as a basis for a well-developed indicator system and the quantification of goals. The consistent and correct differentiation of the indicators along the four-step EU approach with input-output-result-impact indicators is necessary and should be stressed. A mixture of these indicator levels as is the case in the current programme should be avoided in future programme.
- Programme objectives and related indicators should be formulated according to the SMART rule: specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based. If one bears this in mind, an adequate hierarchy of objectives and measures will be the result. To this end, the quantification of the indicators and objectives is required. Descriptions using words like “improved” or “strengthened” do not fulfil these requirements.
- Also necessary is the clear relationship between project and programme indicators. The current programme concept does not make it clear which share the projects contribute to the achievement of the higher goals at the measure, priority and programme levels.

There are many very different indicators defined by the project applicants that make it impossible to relate them systematically to the higher-ranking goals and indicators and to compare projects to each other. For this reason, we propose to use a main set of input/activity indicators for all projects to enable a minimum degree of comparability of the projects and to summarize their effects. This set of general project indicators can be added to the specific ones. In the North Sea Region programme, the midterm evaluation proposed the following indicator set:

1. Number of organisations involved in the project
2. Number of people involved in the project
3. Number of meetings:
   - Workshops, meetings, seminars, conferences
   - Exchange of experts
4. Number of participants

This list can serve as a basis for a similar one for the Alpine Space programme. Adaptations may be necessary.

- Context indicators should paint a correct picture of the situation in the Alpine Space area. For this reason, they must allow changes to measures during the programme period. The current context indicators of the programme are too general and do not have the sensitivity to reveal developments and changes in the area. Their selection should be improved for a future programmes.

In the new programming documents emphasis should be placed on horizontal themes. In particular the relationship between gender mainstreaming and spatial development should be discussed in more depth to raise awareness for gender-sensitive issues at all levels of programme and project implementation. The concretization of these themes in programmes with a focus in spatial development should be stressed and dealt with in more in detail in the programme documents.

Project selection criteria must be adapted based on the new programme. It is important and would be quite necessary to learn from the experiences gained during this period in order to modify future project selection. This is also a reason why the continuity of JTS staff would be desirable. JTS started work on a proposal to the modify selection criteria in this period. This paper could be a good reference and starting point for adapting the project selection criteria for the new programme.

The definition of the tasks, roles and functions of programme bodies should be more precise and clearer. The bodies should not be overloaded with tasks and the scope of responsibility should be clearly defined. We do not see, though, any need for the establishment of a new organisational structure for the new programme. Neither the forthcoming SF

regulations, nor the discussed visions of the future of the Alpine Space, nor – most important – the performance of the present institutional setting suggest such a move. Quite to the contrary, the progress made within the current period as regards the performance of the programme bodies and further foreseeable progress would be severely endangered when tampering with the institutional setting of the Alpine Space Programme. Since the largest part of the participating programme actors will most likely remain unaltered, the setting up of new structure would only deter energy and valuable time to institution building instead of devoting it to (further) improving existing institutions' performance.

Recommendations in relation to programme structure/programme bodies

The shortcomings of the programme structure in the remaining period (mentioned in MTE) should be improved for the next programme. The improvements are perceived primarily in the following fields:

JTS: The Joint Technical Secretariat was the most unstable factor of the programme structure at the level of the principal programme bodies during this programming period. A very high rate of staff fluctuation and the fact that five team leaders/coordinators left shows that dissatisfaction with the working conditions was – and still is – a great problem indeed.

In our view, a number of factors were responsible for this dissatisfaction:

- The role and function of JTS, and especially its relation to the MA, were unclear for quite some time. There seems to have been two different models: one favouring the closest possible relations between the MA and the JTS, which primarily supports the MA (we prefer this position for the current situation in MTE), and secondly, the JTS as a more separate group with its own area of work and responsibilities. Presently the option with a relationship between the MA and JTS prevails and will continue to do so for the remaining period. However, for the next programme period, the second model could be reconsidered, though, what is most important, it has to be clear from the beginning which model is preferred. In the case of the second model with a stronger position of the JTS with more power (also for decision making) and its own scope of responsibility as regards project implementation, it would be necessary to make a clear division of tasks between the MA and the JTS. Both models do have their draw backs and the advantages. Sharing of experiences with other programmes would be one way of finding the best model for dealing with this issue. We believe that it is of utmost importance to decide very clearly to use one model at the beginning of the cooperation process in order to avoid difficulties and problems. Moreover, a clear definition of the tasks and responsibilities of the JTS would be necessary for all of the other programme bodies.

- The selection of the location for an internationally staffed Technical Secretariat turned out to be not really helpful. First of all, a place like Garmisch-Partenkirchen is far from major international cities and is not linked to international traffic routes, making it rather unsuitable location for an international organization. The current location in Rosenheim is much better, but hardly is it the best choice.

SC/MC: The roles and functions of MC and SC have been largely filled (about 90%) by the same persons acting in dual functions. As regards the exchange of information and for economic reasons, this mode of procedure has been thoroughly positive and it does not seem meaningful to change this arrangement at present. However, for the next programming period a clear division of the roles and functions would be good. The meaning of separate decision boards of the MC and the SC are lost if the functions are carried by same persons. There is no mutual control or balance of power if the functions are united.

Perhaps another possible way is to merge the functions of SC and MC to one body which than is responsible for steering and monitoring programme implementation. If only one person is available for both functions it seems a better and more straightforward way to merge the functions. But advantages and disadvantages of merged functions should be carefully considered because this has consequences for the whole system of programme bodies and not only for SC and MC. Experiences of programme areas where the functions almost are merged can help to find the most adequate way and should be stressed for this question.

NCP, National Coordinators

The NCPs plays an important role for the national side of the programme. Their competence for project development and project creation and as advisors to project applicants could be enhanced in the next period.

The National Coordinators were added to CIP 2004 as a separate programme body. The description of their role and function was very brief and not at all clear. As we know from the MTE, they play a very important role in the informal exchange of information of the programme. As the function is usually coupled with the role of MC or/and SC member in one person, the same problems of role diffusion arise as at the SC/MC level. In future programmes, the role, functions and tasks should be clarified and not filled by one and the same person. The main tasks of the National Coordinators should be (international) coordination and cooperation.

Especially if SC and MC are merged it could be useful to set up the national coordinators as a kind of "supervisory group" in order to make the decision process more efficient and to allow for reactions in short time if urgent decisions shall be taken. Of course any decisions taken by this body should be validated by the merged SC/MC Committee in an appropriate way.

Other issues

Alpine institutions like the Alpine Convention, CIPRA, etc., should be more involved in the programming process for the next Alpine Space programme. Networking and synergy building with Alpine organisations have been expanded since the midterm evaluation very satisfactorily (especially with the Alpine Convention). The next logical step would be to deepen participation in the programming.

In the midterm evaluation, we proposed the pre-financing of project development. Particularly, NGOs and small companies, which generally do not have the financial resources and capacities to prepare a high quality proposal for a project, should be given better opportunities to participate in the programme. The two-step-project application as envisaged for the last restricted call goes in the right direction and should be continued in future. Furthermore, the opportunities for smaller projects should be enlarged by making it easier to submit project applications and reduce the risks for applicants (e.g. like disposition funds in Interreg IIIA programmes).

In general, a simplification of the project and programme administration should be aspired to where possible. In this respect, it would not be necessary for every Interreg IIIB programme to develop its own application form, contract form, etc. More guidance from the EU and the presentation of a basic model that can be adapted by programme organizers would be the better way of dealing with the complexity of transnational cooperation. Based on programme experience and by finding out the best way of dealing with this issue, the EU could develop and propose such basic models. This would enhance comparability with other programmes too.

Furthermore, the quality of the projects submitted should be enhanced. Especially the quality of projects and their management of the first calls were not very satisfactory. Although project quality could be enhanced by the following calls it seems indicated for a next programming period to improve the offer of advice and consulting to project applicants during the submission period. NCPs are addressed in this context and they should extend their range of services. Another important point is the necessity to communicate the date of calls as soon as possible so that applicants have more time for the preparation of the application forms.

A higher quality of the project proposals would reduce the need for project modifications during project runs and would therefore entail less work for the project administration by JTS and MA. The resources could then be deployed more constructively.

ANNEX

Quantified Indicators at the Programme Level as established in the CIP

Quantified Indicators at the Programme Level

Programme level	Results
Number of projects establishing a common perspective for programme-specific development issues	28
Number of projects enhancing genuine transnationality of actions by having at least three financing partners	54
Number of projects initiating actions with established national, regional and local systems laying the ground for new activities	27
Amount of projects co-financing from public-like or private institutions	€ 4,631,967
Amount of projects co-financing from regional and local administration	€ 51,755,199
Number of projects having a mixed partnership involving both authorities from the spatial planning domain and partners from other sectors	35
Number of projects involving non-EU partners	42

Quantified Indicators at the Priority Level

Priority 1: 23 projects approved

Priority level	Number of spatial planning authorities involved in projects	140
Priority level	Number of networks established to promote sustainable development	44
Priority level	Number of projects dealing with the use of ICT to contribute to a stronger Alpine Space economy	15
Priority level	Number of projects dealing with best practices in the field of creation of permanent jobs and income opportunities	12

Priority 2: 8 projects approved

Priority level	Number of projects offering innovative solutions for the accessibility to transport and communication infrastructure	6
Priority level	Number of projects developing decision making tools for transport issues	4
Priority level	Number of projects improving access to transnational/high-capacity transport networks	2
Priority level	Number of environmental friendly transport links between metropolitan areas and tourist areas	5

Priority 3: 23 projects approved

Priority level	Number of projects dealing with the management of water resources	8
Priority level	Number of common perspectives for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources	14
Priority level	Number of transnational projects developing perspectives of the common cultural heritage and/or initializing pilot projects	7
Priority level	Number of projects developing and installing transnational risk prevention measures	7
Priority level	Number of transnational plans for the prevention of flooding	3

Monitoring Indicators at the Measure Level as established in the PC

Measure 1.1 – Mutual knowledge and common perspectives

Type	Indicator	Results
Priority level	Number of spatial planning authorities involved in projects	57
Priority level	Number of networks established to promote sustainable development	21
Priority level	Number of projects dealing with the use of ICT to contribute to a stronger Alpine Space economy	7
Priority level	Number of projects dealing with best practice in the field of creation of permanent jobs and income opportunities	3
MI output	Number of transnational information activities and training and education courses	59
MI output	Number of transnational networks	12
MI output	Number of policy evaluation reports according to the main policy fields mentioned in the ESDP	1

Type	Indicator	Results
MI result	Number of people participating in information activities and training and education courses	2,879
MI result	Number of pilot projects generated through projects	3
MI impact	Increase in the number of information activities, training and education courses	5
MI impact	Mixed partnership involving both authorities from the spatial and the regional planning domain and partners from other sectors	7
MI impact	Co-operation among peri-Alpine and core Alpine partners	7
MI impact	Co-operation among partners of different language areas	9

Measure 1.2 – Competitiveness and sustainable development

Type	Indicator	Results
Priority level	Number of spatial planning authorities involved in projects	83
Priority level	Number of networks established to promote sustainable development	23
Priority level	Number of projects dealing with the use of ICT to contribute to a stronger Alpine Space economy	8
Priority level	Number of projects dealing with best practices in the field of creation of permanent jobs and income opportunities	9

Type	Indicator	Results
MI output	Number of SMEs involved in networking and know-how exchange	1,732
MI output	Number of innovation and technology centres involved in networking and know-how exchange	34
MI output	Number of firms and institutions that achieve certifications (i.e. quality and environmental management, occupational safety)	4
MI result	Number of people taking part in professional training and education	2,391
MI result	Share of women participating in project activities	49%
MI result	Number of joint promotion instruments for Alpine products	23
MI result	Number of services resulting from transnational cooperation	36
MI impact	Amount of off-programme investment or other activities induced by programme-funded partnerships	€ 1,195,000
MI impact	Additional positive economic effects	9
MI impact	Creation of new enterprises	11

Measure 2.1 – Perspectives and analyses

Type	Indicator	Results
Priority level	Number of projects offering innovative solutions for the accessibility to transport and communication infrastructure	1
Priority level	Number of projects developing decision-making tools for transport issues	0
Priority level	Number of projects improving access to transnational/high-capacity transport networks	0
Priority level	Number of environmental friendly transport links between metropolitan areas and tourist areas	0
MI output	Number of transnational feasibility studies dedicated to investments in sustainable transports	0
MI output	Number of new tools and data-bases for assessing transport developments	0
MI output	Number of information campaigns on territorial impact of transport addressed to public	0
MI result	Number of feasibility studies inducing investments	0
MI result	Number of administrative/technical services implied in transnational networks coordinating funded actions	0
MI impact	Use of alternative solutions to road transport means or inter-modality	1
MI impact	Number of non-participating actors benefiting from the access to new transport networks	0

Measure 2.2 – Improvement of existing and promotion of future transport systems

Type	Indicator	Results
Priority level	Number of projects offering innovative solutions for the accessibility to transport and communication infrastructure	5
Priority level	Number of projects developing decision making tools for transport issues	4
Priority level	Number of projects improving access to transnational/high-capacity transport networks	2
Priority level	Number of environmental friendly transport links between metropolitan areas and tourist areas	5
MI output	Number of technical equipment installed or implementation of existing ones	7
MI output	Number of projects supporting alternative solutions to road transport following the recommendations of feasibility studies	3
MI output	Number of pilot projects testing new tools for inter-modality	2
MI result	Number of proposals concerning the harmonization	13
MI result	Security standards carried out on a transnational basis	0
MI result	Number of users of pricing models	0
MI impact	Use of alternative solutions to read transport means or inter-modality	3
MI impact	Number of non-participating actors benefiting from the access to new networks	1.000
MI impact	Number of new transnational transport services or infrastructure set up	5

Measure 3.1 – Nature and resources, particular water

Type	Indicators	Results
Priority level	Number of projects dealing with the management of water resources	3
Priority level	Number of common perspectives for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources	11
Priority level	Number of transnational projects developing perspectives of the common cultural heritage and/or initializing pilot projects	1
Priority level	Number of projects developing and installing transnational risk prevention measures	0
Priority level	Number of transnational plans for the prevention of flooding	0
MI output	Number of pilot projects	2
MI output	Databases, electronic archives and GIS created or enlarged in the field of natural heritage protection and development	1
MI output	Number of studies and guidelines focused on natural resources, in particular concerning water issues	14
MI result	Number of public authorities which made use of the results of pilot projects	12
MI result	Number of accesses to databases and electronic archives	3
MI impact	Improvement of the environmental assets of the areas covered by pilot projects	3
MI impact	Increase of information and use of software dedicated to environmental protection and development	3
MI impact	Adoption of methodologies contained in studies and researches by all the authorities concerned	14

Measure 3.2 – Good management and promotion of landscapes and cultural heritage

Type	Indicators	Results
Priority level	Number of projects dealing with management of water resources	1
Priority level	Number of common perspectives for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources	1
Priority level	Number of transnational projects developing perspectives of the common cultural heritage and/or initializing pilot projects	6
Priority level	Number of projects developing and installing transnational risk prevention measures	0
Priority level	Number of transnational plans for the prevention of flooding	0
MI output	Number of guidelines and management plans on cultural resources and landscapes issues	17
MI output	Number of initiatives aimed at transferring experiences and good practices in the field of cultural heritage and landscape management	36
MI output	Number of pilot projects	2
MI result	Number of interventions related to the output	13
MI result	Number of territorial institutions adopting good practices suggested by the projects	4
MI result	Number of public authorities which made use of the results of pilot projects	3
MI impact	Adoption of suggestions, methodologies, guidelines and management plans	24
MI impact	Increase of awareness and of experiences, exchange on good management of cultural and natural heritage	6
MI impact	Creation of derived positive effects on cultural heritage and landscape from the environmental and economic point of view	5

Measure 3.3 – Cooperation in the field of natural risk

Type	Indicators	Results
Priority level	Number of projects dealing with management of water resources	4
Priority level	Number of common perspectives for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources	2
Priority level	Number of transnational projects developing perspectives of the common cultural heritage and/or initializing pilot projects	0
Priority level	Number of projects developing and installing transnational risk prevention measures	7
Priority level	Number of transnational plans for the prevention of flooding	3
MI output	Number of initiatives and pilot projects aimed at transferring experiences and good practices in the field of natural risk prevention	26
MI output	Databases, electronic archives and GIS created or enlarged in the field of natural hazards	36
MI output	Number of networks established related to natural risk prevention and information	10
MI result	Number of joint actions among institutions in a transnational frame	145
MI result	Number of accesses to databases and electronic archives and thematic maps connected to the individuation of risk areas	136
MI result	Number of different institutions using networks for early detection	214
MI impact	Adoption of suggestions, methodologies, guidelines and management plans	29
MI impact	Increase of information and use of software dedicated to natural hazard prevention	4
MI impact	Faster circulation of information and a more efficient early detection system	4
MI impact	Improvement of the environmental asset of the areas covered by pilot projects	5
MI impact	Reduction of probability and effects of natural disasters	5
MI impact	Increasing security of people living in areas where pilot projects have been implemented through an adequate awareness raising and information	5