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

Final Report

22th December 2003

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

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CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION

As laid down in the council regulation (Ec) No. 1260/1999 on the Structural funds it is necessary that Community structural assistance shall be the subject of ex-ante, mid-term and ex-post evaluation in order to gauge the effectiveness. Therefore this is also true for the Community Initiative INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space programme 2000 – 2006. The ex-ante evaluation for the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space was finalized in July 2001 and provided a basis for preparing the development plans, assistance and Programme Complement and also included an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses and potentials (SWOT) of the region concerned.

The mid-term evaluation shall examine (in the light of the ex-ante evaluation) the initial results of the programme, their relevance and the extent to which the targets have been attained. For the Community Initiative Interreg III Alpine Space 2000 – 2006 the ÖIR – Managementdienste GmbH (Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning, ÖIR) was assigned to carry out the mid-term evaluation. ÖIR – Managementdienste is working with external experts from France, Germany and Italy for this evaluation, which is conducted from April to November 2003.

The main steps of the evaluation are:

- research approach and design of evaluation (concretion of questions, methods and work steps)
- SWOT analysis (experience from the past, analysis if the framework and SWOT did change)
- programme on the test bench (relevance and coherence of the programme, quantification and examination of indicator system)
- use made of financial resources (effective and efficient, exhaustion of means)
- reflection on programme implementation (implementation, procedure for the selection of projects, partnership and cooperation)
- conclusions and recommendations
- draft final report – final report

The mid-term evaluation is carried out under the responsibility of the Managing Authority (together with the Commission and the member states) which is for INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space the Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung, Abteilung 15 with Mag. Dr. Christian Salletmaier as the person responsible in the Managing Authority for the programme.

2. EVALUATION TASKS

According to the working paper no. 8a of the Commission of the European Communities (May 2002) the aim of the mid-term evaluation is:

- "to assess whether the overall form of assistance remains the appropriate means to address the issues confronting the cooperation area,
- to review whether the strategic axes, priorities and objectives are coherent and still relevant, how far progress has been made towards the achievement of these objectives and the extent to which they can actually be achieved,
- to assess the quantification of objectives, specifically the extent to which they have facilitated monitoring and evaluation,
- to assess the extent to which horizontal priorities – equal opportunities and the environment in particular – have been integrated into the forms of assistance,
- to analyze the adequacy of the joint implementation and monitoring arrangements."

The aim of the mid-term evaluation of INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space 2000-2006 under the leadership of ÖIR-Managementdienste is to provide information about the present status of implementation and to identify possible needs to change the programme in its strategic orientation. In doing so the driving forces of the programme implementation and the effectiveness of the interventions must be registered and as far as possible quantified through the indicators based on measures and projects.

Furthermore it is necessary to look if the results of the evaluation are corresponding with the aims of the programme or if there is a need to change the strategic orientation. Special attention is laid on the management structure, because the quality and efficiency of the cooperation between the participating administrations is of vital importance for an adequate implementation of the programme. The mid-term evaluation is an instrument to improve quality of the programme, which means that not final judgements and assessments are in the foreground but to highlight possibilities of improvement for a further efficient implementation. With regard to this the ÖIR – Managementdienste has the opinion that not the external independent experts alone know enough to evaluate the programme, but that the responsible for the programme – actors directly involved in programme implementation – are the real experts. So only together with them an improvement of existing organizational structure and the conception of the programme is possible. Therefore the mid-term evaluation was a cooperative process with direct involvement of these actors. Besides the analysis of quantitative indicators and other "hard facts" also the qualitative aspects – not so easy to measure – are taken into account especially through interviews and analysis of the documents.

3. INTERREG IIIB ALPINE SPACE PROGRAMME IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT

In this chapter the Alpine Space programme is set in context to relevant activities on European and transnational level. This programme does not stand for itself but has many connections and links to other initiatives and policies as well as institutions dealing with the Alpine Space as programme area. To give a short view on those relations and to basic sources of the programme is the main aim of this chapter.

(a) European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)

European spatial development policy is not a formal competency of the European Union but has the competency for several sector policies with spatial effects. But nevertheless the idea to deal with spatial development on European and transnational level in an informal way within the EU is now already 13 years old. The reasons for these activities lie in the changing framework of activities in Europe, like growing economic and social integration, increasing interdependencies, globalization, increasing importance of national borders in economic activities, more intensive relationships and interdependencies, ... Furthermore the European territory is characterized by a broad variety of regional cultures, geographical conditions and its differences in economic, social and economic terms. An increasing awareness is emerging that various problems of spatial planning may only be solved within a larger framework and on transnational and European level. As it is also mentioned in the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP, 1999) the “development projects in different Member States complement each other best, if they are directed towards common objectives for spatial development. Therefore, national spatial development policies of the Member States and sectoral policies of the EU require clear spatially transcendent development guidelines.“

Different activities emerged to deal with this new dimension in spatial development and to grasp the pan-European dimension with documents like e.g. Europe 2000 and Europe 2000+, the Study Programme on European Spatial Planning. The results of these activities offer a guidance and basis for transnational cooperation. The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) adopted by the Ministers for Spatial Planning at the Potsdam Council on 10 and 11 May 1999 must be regarded as one key document for spatial development. It was worked out over a ten years process from the EU member states in cooperation with the European Commission and is dealing with balanced and sustainable development of the territory of the EU. It concerns territory as a new dimension of European policy and is dealing with European policies with spatial effects.

The ESDP is a legally non-binding document, a policy framework for better cooperation and deals as a reference document for the European territory. Also the Alpine Space programme is from its programme content strongly connected with the three fundamental goals of the ESDP:

- economic and social cohesion,
- conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage,
- more balanced competitiveness of the European territory,

which are translated into following three spatial planning policy guidelines in the ESDP

- balanced and polycentric urban system and new urban rural relationship,
- parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge,
- sustainable development, prudent management and protection of nature and cultural heritage

From these policy guidelines 11 policy objectives are derived which were finally concretized through 60 policy options. As an outcome of the ESDP, process the EU introduced integrated spatial development policy at transnational level with the Community Initiative Interreg IIC in 1996 (successor programme is called INTERREG IIIB) and Pilot Actions under ERDF Article 10. The Interreg initiative is also mentioned as one important programme to foster an integrated spatial development in the ESDP.

(b) INTERREG IIIB

The Commission of the European Communities decided on 28th April 2000 to establish a Community Initiative concerning trans-European cooperation. The overall aim of the Interreg Initiatives has been, and remains, that national borders should not be a barrier to the balanced development and integration of the European territory.

INTERREG IIIB is one Community Initiative programme out of three strands (Interreg IIIA cross-border cooperation; Interreg IIIC interregional cooperation) fostering transnational cooperation through the involvement of national, regional and local authorities and aims to promote better integration within the Union through the formation of large groups of European regions. Therefore the European territory is divided into eleven cooperation areas whereas the Alpine Space is one such programme area for the programming period 2000-2006.

Transnational cooperation programmes follow the recommendations of the ESDP to encourage a sustainable and balanced development of the European territory and should help to a better integration between the Member States and candidate and other neighboring countries. Proposals for transnational cooperation should be based on the experience of the last

programming period (Interreg IIC; in the case of Alpine Space: Pilot Action under Article 10 ERDF) and must be referred to the priorities of Community policies, especially trans-European transport networks and the recommendations made in the ESDP. At the same time, given the limited financial resources and the vastness of the territories involved, it is important to avoid dispersal of efforts and seek a strong focus.

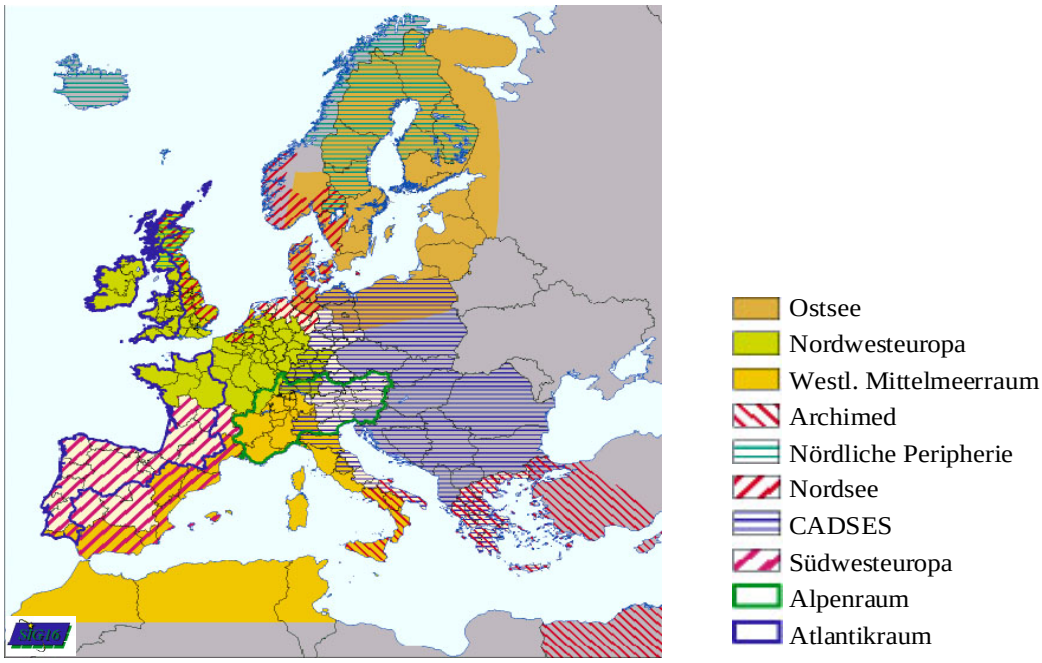
INTERREG IIIB is supporting:

- the elaboration of operational spatial development strategies on a transnational scale, including cooperation among cities and between urban and rural areas, with a view to promoting polycentric and sustainable development;
- the promotion of efficient and sustainable transport systems and improved access to the information society;
- the promotion of the environment and the good management of cultural heritage and of natural resources, in particular water resources;
- the promotion of integration between maritime regions, and of insular regions, each through a specific priority with an appropriate financial allocation;
- the promotion the integrated cooperation of the outermost regions.

The measures of the programmes must underpin an integrated territorial approach that responds to common problems and opportunities and should lead to benefits for the transnational area.

INTERREG IIIB Programme Areas:

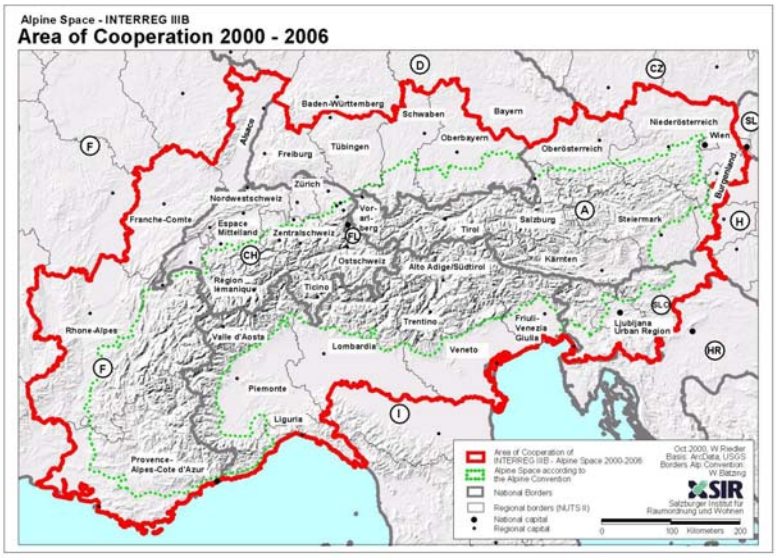
As already mentioned the INTERREG IIIB strand consists of eleven transnational programme/cooperation areas dealing with spatial planning and transnational cooperation. Apart from Alpine Space are existing “Archimed”, “Atlantic Area”, “Baltic Sea Region”, “CADSES” (Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-East Europe), “Northern Periphery”, “North Sea Region”, “South West Europe”, “North West Europe”, “Most Remote Regions” and “Western Mediterranean”.



Within each programme area specific priorities and measures were elaborated in consensus-oriented cooperation by the participating countries which deal as frame for project development and submission. Following table gives a short overview about the topics of priorities within the different programme areas.

Regarding this wide range of different programmes with measures specified for each region one has to keep in mind that the development perspectives and projects of various Member States do not automatically complement each other. But the same can be said for various field of Community and Member States policy. Here a pro-active approach is necessary in order to avoid double or contradicting work.

(c) INTERREG III B Alpine Space Programme



The transnational cooperation area is defined as “Alpine Space” (as laid down in the Commission’s guidelines for the CI Interreg III) referring to its main characteristic feature, the Alps, Europe’s largest mountain range. The Alpine Space comprises the mountainous area in the geographical sense as well as the surrounding foothills and lowlands, a small part of the Mediterranean coastal zone including the Adriatic, parts of the great river valleys of Danube, Po, Adige, Rhone and Rhine.

- Programme area

The programme covers an area of 450,000 km² around the Alps. This area has a population of 70 million people and includes mountainous alpine rural areas with low population densities, as well as the river valleys, foothills and lowlands around the major European urban centers such as Milan, Vienna, Munich, Zurich, Lyon, Marseille, Geneva, Strasbourg, Turin and Venice, where most of the population is concentrated. It is a central area, crossed by important axes and corridors for transit and trade. The "Alpine Space" is one of the richest areas in Europe, with some of the most innovative and competitive European regions and cities, and it hosts a rich cultural diversity. The area requires specific integrated and land use management measures, especially with regard to managing the impact of tourism activities, the crossing of major transport corridors, or the intensive urbanization processes in certain areas. Clear differences between the Alps and the lowlands can be observed, not only in terms of topography, but also in terms of economy. Therefore two zones can be distinguished: the *core area* as the Alps with a great number of small and medium-sized cities and towns and the *peri-apline belt*, the foothills and lowlands, hosting big cities and metropolitan areas.

Concerning the Sixth Periodic Report on the social and economic situation and development of the regions of the European Union, the Alpine Space is described as an area with strong industrial areas in the peri-alpine belt as well as high added value services especially in the alpine core area, high spatial density of universities and research centers, a good level of accessibility regarding links between regions and their respective countries and high level of work force qualification. The core alpine area faces a strong population decrease with the resulting loss of economic attractiveness. Nevertheless strong disparities are existing on a small scale level, which are not visible from data on Nuts II level. Due to topographically determined disadvantages such differences occur especially in the mountain areas, even within a distance of few kilometres.

- Objectives and strategies – short overview

The following four programme objectives give an idea of possible answers to the question "where to go":

I. To establish the Alpine Space as a powerful area in the European network of development areas: This would make it necessary to develop a common understanding of the role of the Alpine Space in terms of sustainable spatial development and to actively promote this by various activities and measures.

II. Initialization and support of sustainable development initiatives within the Alpine Space under consideration of the relationship between the alpine core region and the fringes of the Alps. This would cover transnational activities in various sectors from Community to communal level with a stress on the most important issues of the Alpine development.

III. The solution of issues of accessibility and transport by the promotion of sustainable modes of transport and communication.

IV. Protection of the richness of the natural and cultural heritage, preservation of population and infrastructure from natural hazards by the development of common tools, exchange of methods and information.

The overall reinforcement in the general context of territorial competition is the common aim of the programme.

(d) Transnational Cooperations in Alpine Space: Arge Alp, Arge Alpe Adria and Cotrao; Alpine Convention and CEMAT

Within the Alpine Space a very long tradition in cross-border cooperation is existing, whereas the Interreg IIIB Alpine Space Programme is not based on the cooperations existing in the different institutions and organisations. Nevertheless it seems important to be aware of other

cross-border activities within the area in order to interlink these activities or to foster synergy effects. Different institutions and organization already founded appr. 30 years ago are until now very active in this field. A short description of Arge Alp (Eastern Alpine Space), Arge Alpe Adria (Central Southeast Alpine Space), Cotrao (Western Alpine Space), Alpine Convention and CEMAT and its connection to the INTERREG IIIB programme is following. Regarding this we can distinguish in two functions:

On the one hand Arge Alp, Arge Alpe Adria and Cotrao shall be directly involved in INTERREG IIIB Alpine space on programme level because they are members of the monitoring committee. On the other hand the Alpine Convention and CEMAT which produced reference documents (as the ESDP) for the content and activities within the frame of the Alpine Programme.

Arge Alp:

Arge Alp was founded in 1972 and was the first cross-border regional organization in the Alpine Arc and consists of eleven regions from four states of the Eastern Alpine Space. Arge Alp now has 30 years of experience and tradition in cross-border cooperation. Decisions and resolutions are classed as recommendations and are therefore not legally binding ("soft law"). They may be considered as gentlemen's agreements between the Government leaders of the members to use all legal and political means to ensure the implementation of such recommendations. The annual budget of ARGE ALP is appr. 500.000 €.

The aim of Arge Alp is to deal with the joint expectations of its members, within the field of its competencies, in particular in the cultural, social, economic and ecological fields. Awareness raising for the natural alpine environment, to make contact between populations and citizens easier, to strengthen the positions of the countries, Regions, provinces and cantons are the main task of the Arge Alp.

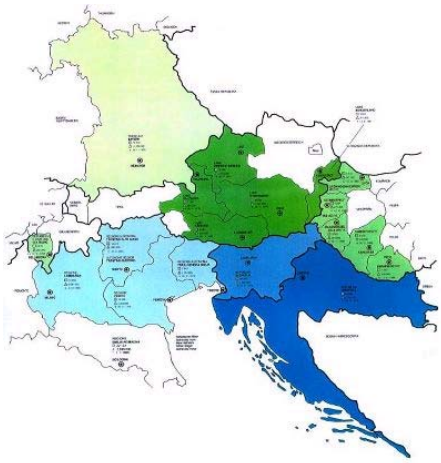
In order to draw up a more precise definition of objectives, a detailed set of guidelines was adopted in 1996 based on the following principles:

- respect for the ecology in the context of the development of the Alpine Arc,
- protection of diversity in natural and cultural heritage,
- strengthening of the economic potential of the Alpine area in the context of economic exploitation of natural resources,

- reduce economic and social imbalance,
- increase awareness of the special nature of the Alpine Arc, – take into account correlation with non-Alpine Regions,
- strengthen the autonomy of the Regions and the principle of subsidiarity in the Alpine Arc.

Arge Alpe Adria

Arge Alpe Adria was founded in 1978 and at that time unique because it allowed for the first time cooperation cross the Iron Curtain. Nowhere else regions from NATO states, Warsaw Pact states and neutral and non-aligned nations worked together in friendly solidarity at that time.

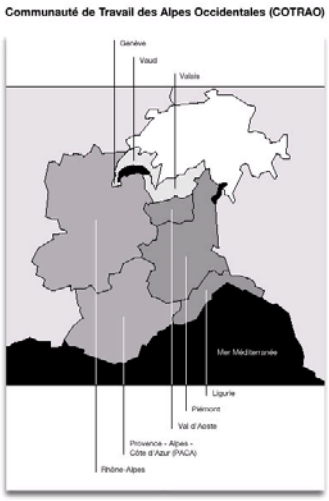


The task of the Arge Alpe Adria is to treat questions of common interest and to coordinate them. Numerous topics are dealt within the Arge Alpe Adria, e.g. transalpine transport, harbours, energy generation, agriculture, forestry, water management, tourism, environmental protection, landscape conservation, spatial planning, settlement development, cultural and natural heritage, etc.

Five standing commissions with various working groups are established dealing with regional development and environmental protection; economic affairs, traffic and tourism; culture and society; health and social affairs; agriculture and forestry.

Cotrao

Cotrao was founded on 2nd April 1982 and is a complementary institution for the Western Alps (Arge Alp – Eastern Alpine Space), consisting of eight regions of three states. It is an association based on a protocol agreement between France, Italy and Switzerland. The mission and main objectives of Cotrao is to exchange information and the coordination of solutions and problems regarding the interests of the member cantons and regions. Cotrao is involved in the programme (member of the monitoring committee) but the influence on the implementation of the programme is quite restricted.



Examples for past achievements are several political initiatives, in particular regarding the European Charter of Mountain Regions or the Alpine Convention, but also the production of several guides (e.g. the guide of documentation centers). Furthermore various networks (youth theatre, youth cinema groups, grants for post-doctorate students, rectors, etc) were established. In future initiatives they plan to create an electronic gateway to the Western Alps, an observatory of natural dangers in mountain environments and a cross-border crisis unit.

Alpine Convention

The Alpine Convention is a framework agreement for the protection and sustainable ecological development of the Alpine region. It is an international treaty between Germany, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia, and the European Union which was signed in 1991 and was set into force in 1995. They regard the Alps as one common space, regardless of all national borders and administrative barriers, in order to develop common strategies for protecting and developing the Alps, following the principle of sustainable development. The agreement consists of a framework convention with protocols for its implementation regarding: land-use planning and sustainable development, conservation of nature and countryside, mountain farming, mountain forests, tourism and recreation, soil conservation, energy and transport. Further protocols on the topics of population and culture, prevention of air pollution, water management and waste management are provided for in the framework convention as well.

The goal of the Alpine Convention is a holistic policy for the conservation and protection of the Alps involving the circumspect and sustainable use of resources taking due account of the principles of prevention, polluter-pays and cooperation. It is also designed to strengthen cross-border cooperation in and for the Alpine region. The framework convention relates to the following sectors: people and culture, land use planning, air quality, soil protection, water regimes, environmental protection and landscape management, mountain agriculture, mountain forests, tourism and leisure activities, transport, energy and waste management.

Concerning the relationship between Interreg and Alpine Convention (which does not implement financial means) the Alpine Convention and its protocols are mentioned as reference documents within the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space programme for different priorities and measures. The Alpine Convention area is covered as a whole by the INTERREG IIIB programme area which does additionally include large city regions like Lyon, Milan, Munich, Vienna or Zurich. Furthermore INTERREG IIIB is regarded as tool to give flesh to the Alpine Convention. Besides this expectation and with regard to real activities it can be said that cooperation between Interreg Alpine Space and the Alpine Convention should be intensified.

CEMAT

In Hanover, 8th of September 2000 the Regional Planning Ministers from Council of Europe member states (CEMAT) of the Council of Europe adopted the "Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent" and a programme for greater cohesion among Europe's regions. This guidelines are covering now a territory far beyond the EU territory and refers to all members of the Council of Europe and is besides the ESDP and the Alpine Convention an important reference document also for the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space activities.

The guiding principles are a coherent strategy for the integrated and regionally balanced development of the continent, based on the principles of subsidiarity and reciprocity. They should help to strengthen competitiveness, cooperation and solidarity among local and regional authorities across borders, thereby contributing to stability in Europe.

The key points of the Guiding Principles include intercontinental relationships as strategic elements for European spatial development policy (INTERREG IIIB cooperation areas) with the involvement of all Council of Europe member states, strengthening the interregional and transfrontier cooperation between states, regional authorities and local authorities on spatial development (especially between Western Europe and Central and Eastern Europe) to ensure social and territorial cohesion, backing for progress made in coordinating projects for the EU (ESDP) and a call for the Pan-European transport network.

4. RELEVANCE AND COHERENCE OF THE PROGRAMME

In this chapter the focus of the evaluation lies on some aspects of the programme, which are essential for a good functioning of its implementation. The sources for this examination are primarily the Alpine Space programme document and the programme complement. An important background and reference source provides also the ex-ante evaluation of the programme.

(a) Actualizing the SWOT

For actualizing the SWOT we decided not to take the SWOT from the programme document. The programme document SWOT is very widespread and detailed and covers also a wide range of alpine problems which could not be met by such a limited programme as INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space. Therefore we prefer to use the SWOT from the ex-ante evaluation as basis for our work. This one distinguished the topics of the SWOT along the ESDP priorities, which in turn correspond very well with the priorities of the Alpine Space programme. From this point of view it seemed to be more reasonable deal with this SWOT because it has more practical relevance for the programme than the SWOT from the programme documents itself.

In following tables the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the ex-ante evaluation for the three parts

- polycentric development and town/country relations,
- access to infrastructure and know-how, and
- environment and cultural heritage

are verified through looking at the changes which happened since the ex-ante evaluation was made. The tables below show the changes within each part in detail. Summarizing it must be determined that the general conditions remained the same but that there is a tendency that certain problems are intensifying. Following you find a short description about the changes for each part:

Main changes in SWOT within the polycentric development and town/country relations must be described as intensification of already described trends like e.g. “cross-road”-function and center of Europe with regard to enlargement. The danger of sub-urbanization was added to the strength of strong networks of cities furthermore increasing unemployment rates and disparities are detectable.

In the field of access to infrastructure and know-how main developments in SWOT are found in future improvements of connectivity between the metropolitan areas, concentration of high environmental impact of growing traffic load and furthermore the importance of truth in costs of transport is emphasized. The advantage of new information and communication technology is mentioned with the annotation that it is one possibility to create jobs, but should not be overrated.

Within the SWOT of environment and cultural heritage changes can be noticed in the development as tourist destination where it must be mentioned that tourism is a key-sector only in selected areas in the Alpine Space and is very concentrated (potential of conflicts, e.g. development of skiing areas and contradictions between economic and ecological aspects). Also within this part of the SWOT sub-urbanization and its negative effects must be added to the weaknesses. Improvements can be stated concerning protectorates (15 % of the Alpine Space) which could also be a motor for further regional development. Concerning the structural changes in agriculture a worst case scenario – “city and wilderness” – must be mentioned due to the recent developments.

A. Polycentric development and Town/Country Relations

	Ex-Ante Evaluation	Remarks and Assessment 2003
Strengths	The Alpine Space area represents one of the major "crossroads" of the EU territory, including dialectic relationships between many cultural and spatial environments.	Valid; "crossroad"-function is still intensified by EU-enlargement; not one common space regarding functional integration, but homogenous spatial conditions and problems (Schindegger, 2003);
	Strong networks of metropolitan town and medium and small size cities. High economic and strong network of industrial and services activities, including R&D excellence poles.	Valid, but danger of "sub urbanism"; alpine areas no longer independent area of living and economic, only complement functions towards metropolitan areas (Bätzing 2003)
	Good level of accessibility and links at European and global scale. High pro-capita GDP and low unemployment rates contribute to attractiveness of the area.	Valid, But unemployment rates are increasing (not only in the alpine space…)
Weakness	Strong disparities between NUTS II and NUTS III levels, between towns and rural areas and, more generally among different sub-areas in terms of socio-economic development and labor market.	Valid; disparities become larger, „development is dispersing" (Bätzing, 2003) disparities at different levels – small-scale disparities are more important than big-scale disparities
	Unbalanced spatial development due to topographical disadvantages.	Valid; Globalization and capitalism still intensify this process
	Depopulation and migration phenomena involving young people in rural areas.	Valid; caused by structural transformation (population, economic, social structure)
Opportu-nities	New cooperations of rural areas and cities for innovation and development of new enlarged markets.	Valid; EU-Enlargement 2004 – alps in the center of Europe Cooperation implemented through EU-programmes
Threats	More peripheral location in enlarged Europe. Depopulation and increasing disconnection between rural areas and cities.	Valid
	Emigration and brand drain, aging population. Mature market behaviors in several economic sectors.	Valid

B. Access to Infrastructure and know-how

	Ex-Ante Evaluation	Remarks and Assessment 2003
Strengths	Good integration in the European Transport Network with primary level hubs and gateway-cities.	Valid
	Well-functioning and well distributed regional infrastructure yet, considerable deficits and differences between the peri-alpine belt and the alpine core area still remain.	Valid – disparities are increasing
Weakness	Lack in connectivity between the metropolitan areas and between urban and internal areas.	At the moment a weakness but improvements are planned for the near future for high-speed trains e.g. 2 new tunnels in Switzerland (Gotthard and Lötschberg) until 2010; connections: Lyon – Turin (Fréjus), München – Verona (Brenner) and Wien – Klagenfurt (Semmering, Koralm)
	Unbalanced development of road transport at the expenses of rail and weak inter-modality exchanges.	Valid.
	High environmental impact of growing traffic load.	Valid, but concentration (pollution, noise,...) on a few routes → one of the main problems of the Alps in the next decades; position of EU are very ambivalent and unsatisfactory
Opportunities	Strengthening the role of environmental friendly means of transport.	Valid; truth costs of transport are absolutely necessary (road-pricing in Austria etc.)
	Taking advantage of new information and communication technologies to overcome geographical barriers	Valid, but should not be overrated; Infrastructure of internet and wireless communication is available for almost all regions Possibility to create ubiquitous jobs
Threats	Rail transport suffers from capacity constraints and technical incompatibilities, that hamper the development of high level inter-modality and further integration of the Trans-European networks.	Valid
	Loss of young qualified personnel due to migration affects the development of information society.	Valid

C. Environment and Cultural Heritage

	Ex-Ante Evaluation	Remarks and Assessment 2003
Strengths	Richness of cultural and natural landscape. This diversity forms a unique common value of European importance.	Valid
	Traditional highly developed tourist destinations.	Valid; but tourism is the key-sector only in selected regions in Alpine Space and concentrated in a couple of areas (Bätzing, 2003)
	Richness of agriculture and forestry activities with great variety of products, particularly important as a cultural heritage rather than for economic productivity.	Valid
	High density of natural resources.	Valid
Weakness	Urban sprawl in peri-alpine belt pushes territorial assets.	Valid – Suburbanism
	Conflicts of interests between alpine and peri-alpine areas and contradictions between economic and ecological functions of conservation and development strategies.	Valid e.g. development of skiing areas
Opportunities	Improved preservation strategies by means of transnational cooperation.	Valid; e.g. 300 protectorates (15% of the alpine space) – motor for further regional development (e.g. biosphere-parks)
	Better integration of environmental concerns in sectoral policies.	Valid, but really a long way; environment as horizontal theme in EU-policy
Threats	Farm abandonment and depopulation trends constitute a substantial risk of disappearing of cultural and landscape diversity.	Valid; “City and wilderness” – perspective as worst case
	Increasing environment burdens along transport corridors.	Valid; A major problem in the Alps
	Natural hazards and over-exploitation of resources.	Valid

(b) Analysis of objectives: internal coherence

This chapter will take into consideration the internal coherence of the programme. Therefore the focus lies on the objectives and the strategy of the programme. The main question refers to the point whether the whole system of objectives constitutes a logical chain and gives the programme a clear structure. Regarding this we have to have in mind that the programming process was quite complicate and consensus between all partners was necessary very fast.

The ex-ante evaluation pointed out that there is a positive relation between the major challenges in the Alpine Space, which were deduced from the SWOT and the four general aims, priorities and measures of the programme (see table below).

Major challenges	Strategic objectives (general objectives and sub-objectives)	Priorities and measures
Institutional strengths of cooperation	I. establishing A.S. as a powerful spatial unit in the EU network of development areas, II. Sustainable spatial development inside A.S. and between core region and fringes of the Alps	1.1 2.1 3.1
Extending capillarity of opportunities in: ▪ Development spread (NUTS II and III levels) ▪ Accessibility ▪ Diversification of industrial activities and R&D efforts	I. establishing A.S. as a powerful spatial unit in the EU network of development areas, II. Sustainable spatial development inside A.S. and between core region and fringes of the Alps III. Improve accessibility and transport by the promotion of sustainable modes of transport and communication	1.2 2.1 2.2
Supporting technological improvement and updating concerning: ▪ Exploitation of information technology ▪ Trans-nationality of R&D structures ▪ Industrial innovation and development of niche sectors ▪ Transport and logistic innovation and technological investments	I. establishing A.S. as a powerful spatial unit in the EU network of development areas, III. Improve accessibility and transport by the promotion of sustainable modes of transport and communication	1.2 2.1 2.2
requirement of standards for competing in the global market for: ▪ Agricultural products (labeling and distribution innovative patterns) ▪ Tourism	II. Sustainable spatial development inside A.S. and between core region and fringes of the Alps	1.2
Preserving natural and cultural heritage	IV. Protect the richness of natural and cultural heritage. Preserve alpine population from natural hazards	3.1 3.2 3.3

Source: ex-ante evaluation, p.12

The ex-ante evaluation concludes, that the Alpine Space programme shows in general a high degree of internal coherence and a good, though not always punctual correlation between priorities and measure objectives.

In principle, we share this appraisement but have some additions in detail. As we have seen by actualizing the SWOT (see chapter above) the problem view within the Alpine Space programme is valid until now but in some respects there are visible intensifications of problems. Furthermore there are some new concretions which were not seen as such in programming period. This concerns in the field of polycentric development and town-country-relations the problem of “sub-urbanism”, the increasing dependency of alpine area from metropolitan belt regions (all kinds of subsistence economy in mountainous regions are irrevocable over) and in general the dispersing development. In the field of infrastructure and know-how access, the growing traffic load in context with increasing resistance of inhabitants is one main challenge the Alpine Space has to face and is not noted in the table above. The ambivalent position of EU enhances this problem. Moreover the increasing inaccessibility of remote regions with public traffic services is also a main task in the alpine future. In the context of environment and cultural heritage the increasing environmental burdens along the transport corridors, farm abandonment and depopulation trends and the natural hazards problematic are main challenges of the future.

The aspects mentioned above are significant problems which should be treated seriously in the projects. Perhaps these themes can be a starting point for strategic projects as well. In the ex-ante table above these aspects did not get enough attention from our point of view.

Following we choose another emphasis to examine the coherence of the programme than the ex-ante evaluation which based its analysis not so much on the objectives. Our main task is to clear the logical chain of the objectives of the programme. This could complete the results of the ex-ante evaluation and highlight the coherence of the programme from another side.

Programme objectives have important functions:

- Objectives express the mission of a programme: at the best programme objectives give a clear picture on the desired situation in the future. What should be different from now after an intervention or the implementation of a programme? Objectives specify the desired results or impacts of an intervention. They give orientation and direction, have an integrative effect and helps to bundle efforts and resources.
  Ideally the objectives of a programme are the first which are constituted. After that there can be considerations how the objectives can be reached, what means, measures, interventions or actions can be implemented for arriving the goals and with what indicators we can view that changes have taken place.
- Objectives ensure effectiveness of a programme: the effectiveness specify the degree of the achievement of objectives in a programme. Are the aspired results or

impacts occurred? To what degree do they occur? Defining clear objectives are the precondition to measure effectiveness of an intervention.

- Objectives increase the efficiency of programmes: the efficiency focus on the relation between input and output of a programme. The applied means will be compared with the achievement of objectives.
- Objectives are a requirement for evaluating programmes and for their quality-development.

In sum we can say that objectives are the guidelines of a programme, which give structure, orientation and clearness.

General programme objectives

The overall aim is the development of the Alpine Space and its overall reinforcement in the general context of territorial competition which is influenced by the processes of globalization and accelerated in Europe by European integration (the completion of the single market and the introduction of the Euro).

Deduced from the SWOT-analysis four general programme objectives are stated out:

1. To establish the Alpine Space as a powerful area in the European network of development areas: This would make it necessary to develop a common understanding of the role of the Alpine Space in terms of sustainable spatial development and to actively promote this by various activities and measures.
2. Initialization and support of sustainable development initiatives within the Alpine Space under consideration of the relationship between the alpine core region and the fringes of the Alps. This would cover transnational activities in various sectors from Community to communal level with a stress on the most important issues of the Alpine development.
3. The solution of issues of accessibility and transport by the promotion of sustainable modes of transport and communication.
4. Protection of the richness of the natural and cultural heritage, preservation of population and infrastructure from natural hazards by the development of common tools, exchange of methods and information.

These general programme objectives only mark important issues of the Alpine Space but it seems not to be powerful objectives for the area itself. Only the first objective is formulated more powerful and points the way ahead. On this high level of abstraction where these programme objectives are stated much more visionary and sophisticated formulated objectives would be appropriate.

A better way to formulate objectives is to phrase them in a positive and not negative (e.g. as a solution of problems) way and to develop it as a desirable picture for the future. That means, a picture of an ideal Alpine Space should be drawn which animates for actions. In this sense we think e.g. a formulation for the third objective like: “The alpine transport and communication system should be characterized by a high accessibility and profound sustainable modes” is much better as the origin formulation.

What we can also see is that the objectives include also strategic connotations (…. by development of common tools …, ….by the promotion …). These we think are the next step to formulate strategies and measures for reaching the goals. It is not necessary at this level of goal finding process to reflect about means. It supplies rather the danger to limit the scope of potential interventions at this point.

The general programme objectives are complemented and supported by some principles and strategies:

Principles:

- The basic principle of sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimension should be represented in all operations in order to avoid contradictory efforts between conservation and development. A general definition of what sustainable development means for the Alpine Space would help to concentrate activities and to provide a clearer picture about the aims of the programme.
- All operations should provide equal opportunities for men and women.
- Innovation orientation should be the basis of all activities and should include new developments, new technologies and should be oriented on new trends and existing potentials.

Strategies:

- Transnationality: that means that all partnerships must have a strong transnational component. Especially in the field of defining a common understanding of spatial development strategies a participation of all partner countries is recommended.
- Building on existing networks, previous programmes and experiences: Existing experience and networks in the various fields relevant to the programme should be used as far as possible. Very important is in this context bringing together all isolated initiatives for either the Western or Eastern Alps that were launched during the last period of the structural funds in order to reach a “corporate identity” for the entire Alpine Space and a strengthened cooperation also with the participating Non-Member States Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland.

- Achieving a wide spread commitment of the population of Alpine Space: The beneficiaries of the programme should represent relevant groupings of the alpine population. Therefor, innovative solutions must take into account the needs of the local population and should be consensus-based to a widest possible degree. Bottom up approaches should be sufficiently supported. Besides national, regional and local authorities also economic and social partners and other relevant and competent bodies such as NGOs, representatives of the academic and educational world, private institutions and companies should participate on the programme. Public relation and information activities for the programme itself as well as for project results should accompany the implementation process from the very beginning to the end.

- Focussing on integrated approaches: The sector-orientated procedure of problem solving should be overcome and transferred into an integrated approach bringing together different views from all technical aspects concerned.

- Use of new technologies: In all operations the use of new technologies such as information and communication technologies should be encouraged and the innovative aspect of solutions has to be stressed.

- Tangible Results: Main focus should be on implementation of gained experiences and knowledge and on tangible and visible results.

Formulating principles and strategic issues for programme implementation are very positive because they can lead to a more concise work and deliver a framework for the definition of more specific objectives and criteria for project selection. As such they give on the one hand an orientation for project applicants and on the other hand support evaluation and decision making procedures of project proposals. If we shall see later these principles and strategies are really well developed project selection criteria.

Nevertheless some aspects for reflection should be stated out in the following:

- The basic principle of sustainable development is important but we should be aware to the fact that in a more competitive world we live (also Alpine Space) this can become much more crucial and a point of conflict. Globalization and capitalism contradict in tendency sustainable development and therefore the programme plays a crucial role in steering the economic development in a more sustainable way.

- New technologies like information and communication technology (ICT) are important tools for economic development and should play a role within the projects. Nevertheless they should not be overemphasized because the use of new technologies has not in itself an innovative character. It depends on the textual context of a project whether ICT make sense or not.

Priorities and its objectives

Besides the general programme objectives, the priorities and its measures are defined. Before we have a closer look to these objectives we give some attention to the priorities itself. The main question is how they were constituted. In fact it seems that they are taken from the INTERREG IIIB guidelines. The first three priorities of the guidelines are slightly rephrased priorities of the Alpine Space programme. On the one hand this is understandable and meaningful from the point of a common European perspective on all INTERREG IIIB programmes. On the other hand this operation brings a very unspecific and generalizing touch to the programme. The specific conditions and spatial characteristics of the Alpine space area seem not to be fully considered and reflected under these circumstances. The better way to develop priorities would be to deduce them from the SWOT analysis and the general programme objectives and to look whether they are corresponding with guidelines like INTERREG III B.

In this sense the general objective 2 of the programme ("Initialization and support of sustainable development initiatives within the Alpine Space under consideration of the relationship between the alpine core region and the fringes of the Alps") is not fully covered by the priorities and only partly represented in Priority 1. The reason for the weak participation of alpine NGOs and other relevant initiatives may be rooted partly in the restricted consideration of this general programme objective on priority level.

The table below shows the three priorities and their objectives. In Priority 1 and 3 there are several main objectives differentiated. As we can see and we already have stressed critically on the level of general programme objectives the formulations are mainly in the way of strategic options (e.g. cooperation, reinforcement, evaluation …) and not as reachable goals. Apart from this the objectives give a relatively clear map of issues where improvements in Alpine Space should be applied.

PRIORITY	OBJECTIVES
1. Promotion of the Alpine Space as a competitive and attractive living and economic space in the scope of polycentric spatial development in the European Union	Territorial development within a polycentric spatial concept ▪ Specification of the ESDP taking into account structures, problems and needs of the Alpine area, ▪ Cooperation among urban agglomeration, ▪ Reinforcement of the role of small and medium towns, ▪ Definition of new urban-rural partnership (with reference to several projects developed under ERDF art.10 Pilot Action Alpine Space), ▪ Evaluation of potential impacts of sectoral policies, ▪ Adoption of trans-sectoral approach in spatial planning. Binding human capital to the regions. ▪ Development of the links between the metropolitan areas and the small and medium sized centers; ▪ Cooperation of research and development centers, education and training institutes, public administration and private companies in order to bind high qualified human capital to rural regions; ▪ Creation of common marketing strategies to influence location decision and to attract new companies, in order to complement mainstream programmes. Access to information society. ▪ Create virtual regional platforms in order to improve public services and allow the exchange of knowledge and innovation; ▪ Development of education and training activities in the field of IT.
2. Development of sustainable transport systems with particular consideration of efficiency, intermodality and better accessibility.	▪ Ensuring mobility to local population, visitors and tourists in a sustainable way, through a more efficient use of existing infrastructures and in the context of the TEN's and the transport Protocol of the Alpine Convention. ▪ Identification of potentials to reduce total traffic. ▪ Improving public transport especially local and regional access to national and trans-national transports networks. ▪ Development of the links among the metropolitan areas framing the alpine arc. ▪ Shift to environmental friendly transport modalities, also through common systems of road tolls and innovative organizational models. ▪ Creation of transnational networks of logistic centers and most effective multimodal transports.

PRIORITY	OBJECTIVES
3. Wise management of nature, landscape and cultural heritage, promotion of the environment and prevention of natural disasters.	Nature conservation. ▪ Further development of the network Natura 2000. ▪ Strengthening the coordination of national instruments for the protection and the management of natural resources. ▪ Elaboration of balanced solution for nature conservation and improvement of living conditions of local population. Cultural and landscape heritage ▪ Realization of an inventory of the cultural heritage in order to create a common database. ▪ Use of new technologies for the revival of lost and unused or underused structures. ▪ Protection of the diversity of the cultural heritage on local and regional level. ▪ Realization of exchange of experiences and information. ▪ Definition of common criteria for balancing image conservation and contemporary human intervention. Environment and natural resources. ▪ Monitoring of quality, eutrophication and purity of surface and groundwater. ▪ Definition of common standards for economic activities, such as energy production and tourism, in order to ensure environmental compatibility and avoid overuse of resources. ▪ Development of common actions in the field of renewable energies, soil management, waste avoidance, disposal and recycling Natural disasters. ▪ Trans-national cooperation for early detection, monitoring and risk management. ▪ Promotion of exchange of experiences and knowledge. ▪ Testing of new technologies. ▪ Development of real time information systems on weather conditions. ▪ Danger zone planning development of common alarm plans.

Source: ex-ante evaluation, own adaptation

Measures and its objectives

For each priority a set of measures was specified. Priorities 1 and 2 have two measures each and Priority 3 has three measures. If one regards these measures it seems not very clear after which criteria measures were deduced from the priorities. Especially for Priority 1 the measures "Mutual knowledge and common perspective" and "Competitiveness and sustainable development" seems to follow another logic as the priority they should implement. The question arises why measures were not more orientated to the objectives of the priorities. They look artificial and not very well formulated and placed. The question arising is whether the main objectives of Priority 1 formulated as measures would not be more suitable and logic than the measures we can find in the programme now. This would mean that "Territorial development within a polycentric spatial concept", "Binding human capital to the regions", "Access to information society" would be more adequate and concrete basis to formulate measures than measures you find in the programme for Priority 1 ("Mutual knowledge and common perspective" and "Competitiveness and sustainable development").

Another aspect is the formulation of the objectives of measures. In comparison to the objectives of the priority they seem to be more abstract, unclear and general in content. But in fact it should be vice versa – objectives on measure level should be as concrete as possible because this is the precondition for deducing applicable indicators from them for measuring outputs and impacts. Regarding this we have to say that the measures and its objectives are not chosen in the best way.

Measure	Objectives
1.1 Mutual knowledge and common perspective	▪ to develop a common understanding of spatial development strategies in an enlarged Europe covering the entire Alpine Space as a connected spatial unit according to the aims of ESDP; ▪ to ensure the connection of the Alpine Space and its metropolitan areas as a central node in the system from the south-west to the east as well as from the Mediterranean to the Baltic and Scandinavian regions; ▪ to improve knowledge, to promote widespread information and to develop and use common indicators and comparative analyses of spatial phenomena; ▪ to develop networks and exchange of best practice between different alpine actors; ▪ to strengthen the internal cohesion and identity of the population within the Alpine Space; ▪ to reinforce the transnational cooperation between all countries of the Alpine Space and to promote alpine networks covering the entire territory;

Measure	Objectives
1.2 Competitiveness and sustainable development.	▪ to preserve and strengthen the functionality and attractiveness of the rural areas even if they are of strong peripheral and/or mountainous location; ▪ to stop intra- and interregional migration to urban agglomerations and depopulation of rural areas as well as the trend of urbanization; ▪ to promote implementation of Agenda 21 at the local and regional level and to promote cooperation between cities and other local authorities in the field of sustainable urban and spatial policies; ▪ to achieve an intensive cooperation in the fields of research and development, innovation and technology transfer between cities and their rural neighbourhood as well as between SMEs and innovation centers; ▪ to reinforce the role of the Alpine Space as a hinge between different cultural traditions and economy; ▪ to speed up the reorganization and to strengthen the competitiveness of the tourism sector, especially in the mountain areas by implementing sustainable tourism development strategies;
2.1 Perspectives and analyses	▪ to develop strategies and instruments for sustainable transport systems taking into account the Alpine Convention and to establish an action plan for implementation under special consideration of alpine transport and environmental problems (freight transport, tourism and leisure traffic, land use and infrastructure, urban sprawl, pollution and noise); ▪ to increase the knowledge about the possibilities of, the acceptance for and the use of modern information technology for all social, labour and cultural groups of the Alpine Space; ▪ improve the accessibility of public services and institutions to modern information technology;
2.2 Improvement of existing and promotion of future transport systems by large scale and small scale intelligent solutions such as intermodality	▪ to improve functionality and inter-modality of existing transport systems as well as infrastructure and services of environmentally friendly transport modes, in particular of rail; ▪ to preserve the existing public transport systems and to improve their interconnectivity, also concerning systems within the metropolitan areas and those of the rural territory; ▪ to improve the accessibility of public services and institutions to modern information technology;
3.1 Nature and resources, in particular water	▪ to reduce emission of pollutants to sensitive ecosystems such as mountain forests and all drinking water resources; ▪ to avoid uncontrolled exploitation of water resources and to promote its wise management in various fields (energy production, irrigation, drinking water, etc.);

Measure	Objectives
3.2 Good management and promotion of landscapes and cultural heritage	▪ to improve connectivity, conservation and management of ecosystems and traditionally used cultural landscapes; ▪ to support landscape conservation and the use of traditional regional products and their manufacturing to stop land abandonment; ▪ to protect and improve the cultural heritage through collection and exchange of information, data and documentation; ▪ to maintain and develop the regional diversity of cultural assets and to promote an active exchange in the various fields of the cultural heritage; ▪ to maintain and manage typical landscape features referring to both, the natural and cultural heritage e.g. traditional settlements and buildings, historical routes, fortresses, etc. and implementing the European Landscape Convention;
3.3 Cooperation in the field of natural risks	▪ to avoid damages of lives and settlements through extreme natural hazards by new combined strategies and technical solutions, forecasting as well as by creating buffer areas of natural dynamics; ▪ to strengthen and conserve mountain forests and their protection function; ▪ to analyze risks from natural hazard and/or from man made hazard, propose technical instruments and preventive strategies for risks and to improve the information for the Alpine Space population about natural risks;

Source: Alpine Space programme

Conclusion

Summarizing we can say that the objectives of the Alpine Space programme and the priorities and measures only partly are satisfactory. While it seems that the SWOT-Analyses of the programme were implemented very engaged and comprehensive the conception and elaboration of the objectives, priorities and measures of the programme are not fully satisfactory. In general the logical order of the system of objectives, priorities and measures could be improved in order to get clearer contours for possible strategic fields. A general problem we met on all levels lies in the strategic formulation of the objectives. Instead to give a view on the situation when the objectives are reached, strategic issues are taken for defining objectives. But strategies signify the way to the goals, they are not the goals. But this is not a deficit especially for this programme, it is rather a common phenomenon also apparent in other programmes and in EU guidelines.

But regarding the very high complexity of the programme areas, the very diverging interests between actors but also different spatial scales (regional, national, transnational) and the quite short time involved actors had to discuss content and to develop a common strategy, this is not wondering. Not without reason the process to elaborate the ESDP needed ten years and is regarded as important learning process which is necessary to find a common language and discuss objectives for spatial development.

(c) External coherence

The external coherence reflects the accordance of the Alpine Space programme to other EU policies and documents.

As we have seen above and in chapter 3 there is a good agreement of Alpine Space programme with the INTERREG IIIB guidelines and the ESDP – regarding priority level they are very complementary (see chapter 3). As it was mentioned the Alpine Space priorities seems to be deduced from the INTERREG IIIB guidelines, which correspond in turn with the ESDP priorities. Insofar there exists a very good accordance between these documents. But as we have argued it could be meaningful to deduce priorities also from the results of the SWOT which reflect much more the specific problems of the Alpine Space.

The contribution of the programme to the mainstream EU-policies (environment, equal opportunities) are varying. Both are mentioned above as principles for the programme implementation. The strongest impacts to these mainstream policies could be expected in environmental issues, because especially in Priority 3 measures are focused on it, but they also have a promising place in Priority 2 (sustainable modes for transport should be fostered).

Predictions to the considerations of impacts on equal opportunities are much harder to make. For sure the Alpine Space programme has no continuous gender mainstreaming perspective integrated in the programmatic conditions. Female perspectives on alpine problems and living conditions were not given a particular respect.

Relatively balanced is the distribution of the sexes on the programme management level. Here women and men are represented in a similar degree.

On project level equal opportunities (and also environment) are faced as one selection criteria under many others. It is a question whether it could not be possible to get a more prominent position for these principles and give them more power on the development and selection of projects.

Because we didn't get access to the complete application forms we can make no statement at project level to outputs and results of horizontal themes right now. We do not know anything about how projects give attention to the domain of equal opportunity. The only thing we know is that so far no projects dealing with equal opportunities as a main task are on the way.

Therefore it is impossible to give assessments and recommendations of horizontal theme aspects on project level at the current status of implementation.

(d) Suitability of Indicators and Quantification of Objectives

Indicators are necessary for monitoring the implementation of a programme. They deliver information about to what extent the specified goals of interventions are achieved. With the indicators the objectives became operationalized. Giving this information they have an important function for steering the implementation of every measure and at least the whole programme. The effectiveness of the programme, its efficiency and utility can only be appraised through the usage of adequate indicators.

The measurement of achievement of goals is confronted in general with two problems: Are the objectives formulated in a way that we can find a scale (indicator) for them, and are the values of objectives appraised in a right way. It is clear that both aspects but especially the quantification of objectives are limited in a cross-border programme as INTERREG IIIB. Especially impacts will be difficult to measure, due to the large size of the cooperation area and the limited size of the budget.

Two further aspects of indicators we should not forget. Indicators do in general shorten the whole information to a punctual result. This means, that normally information loss is involved with using indicators. Therefore it is necessary to decide very carefully on the type of indicators and give some attention to their validity and reliability. A second issue is that quantitative indicators are not always better than qualitative ones. The EU promotes very much the involvement of quantitative indicators, because they allow summarizing and comparison procedures. But not all aspects of programmes are quantifiable and quantification is often very limited. The most important aspect of indicators is their adequacy to the problem they should meet.

In general four types of indicators are differentiated for monitoring EU-programmes:

- Input: budget allocated;
- Output: physical measure of activities, measured in physical or monetary units;
- Result: direct and immediate effects of the programme;
- Impacts: consequences of the programme beyond the direct and immediate effects.

The model of indicators is also used for the Alpine space programme.

Indicators are used on all levels of the programme (programme, priority, measure and project level). Following frame shows the specified indicators on programme and priority level:

Programme level

- Number of projects establishing a common perspective for programme specific development issues
- Number of projects enhancing genuine transnationality of actions by having at least three financing partners
- Number of projects initiating actions within established national, regional and local systems laying ground for new activities
- Amount of project co-financing from public-like or private institutions
- Amount of project co-financing from regional and local administrations
- Number of projects having a mixed partnership involving both authorities from the spatial planning domain and partners from other sectors
- Number of projects involving non-EU partners

Based on the quantitative and qualitative information collected on project and measure level, the following aggregate indicators should be used on programme-level:

- 70% share of A- and B-level projects according to the aggregate qualitative project indicator;
- size-distribution of projects:
- between 70% and 80% share of large projects above 1.0 MEURO
- between 20% and 30% share of small projects between 0.5 MEURO and 1.0 MEURO
- progress of financing plan

Priority level

Priority I:

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

Priority II:

- Number of projects offering innovative solutions for the accessibility to transport and communication infrastructure
- Number of projects developing decision making tools for transport issues

- Number of projects improving access to transnational/high-speed transport networks
- Number of environmental friendly transport links between metropolitan areas and tourist areas

Priority III:

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

Based on the quantitative and qualitative information collected on project and measure levels, the following aggregate indicators should be used on priority-level:

- 30% share of A-level projects according to the aggregate qualitative project indicator in each priority
- 40% share of B- level projects according to the aggregate qualitative project indicator in each priority
- 50% share of projects involving local and regional Authorities
- 50% share of projects involving Partners of 3 Countries at least

Source: Programme document

The elaboration of the indicator system was also a consensus oriented process during the programming process. Assessing the indicator system on programme and priority level we can state the following:

- Only output indicators are quoted; result and impact indicators are not described. As in the programme document is mentioned, the constitution of result and impact indicators on these levels are seems not to be meaningful because “in order to adequately reflect the expected variety” of possible projects (CIP, p. 74) it would be better to aggregate the results and impacts on programme and priority level in a bottom-up approach from the project and measure level.

  On the one hand it does be really very heavy to make some assertions about results and impacts of priorities and the whole programme and aggregating effects from project and measure level are meaningful. But on the other hand we suppose that this way of doing is also partly a consequence of some unclearness in the constitution and formulation of the programmes objective system.

- No values for objectives are suited out, most of the indicators are not quantified. We can suppose that in turn the deficits in internal coherence make the quantification more difficult.
- Only some aggregated indicators are quantified which build a frame of several dimensions for desired projects. The frames are built up by quantified shares of desired project features (e.g. quality indicator reached in project selection phase (A or B) or financial targets of the projects, participation of local and regional authorities). We think this kind of quantification is more worthy for an adequate project selection than to give a precise and adequate overview about the developmental status of the programme (or the priorities). It is a very rough frame to ensure the quality of the programme.

On measure level we can find indicators of output, result and impact developed for each measure in the programme complement. The indicators are accomplished primarily to the type of action they represent.

In general five types of actions are distinguished:

- Observation/data processing/monitoring
- Studies and strategies
- Networking
- Information/training/awareness raising
- Infrastructure/investments

A closer look to the indicators on measure level (please have a look in programme complement) shows following:

- The indicators are oriented more to the desired types of actions than to the objectives (which are – as we already stated above – not very clear and give therefore only few clues for creating indicators; we can suppose that linking indicators stronger to actions is a result of deficits in objective system)
- The indicators are not quantified.
- In this context the indicators developed seem to be adequate. Reliability and adequacy of indicators will arise definitely in the monitoring of implementation process.

Concluding we can say that on all levels indicators were established. In general there is a deficit of clear goal orientation of indicators and a missing of quantification of indicators. Main source for this dilemma is seen in shortcomings in the coherence of objective system. It is true, it is not easy to conceptualize an adequate indicator system for an INTERREG IIIB programme,

because the variability of cooperation activities and cross-border-relations are very great and difficult. But even in such a case it can be very worth to have an adequate system of objectives and indicators.

An assessment of programme indicators on all levels was not possible.

We did not get all necessary information and data of the projects, so it was not possible to check the indicators in use. It would only be an academic lesson if we assess indicators without real project data and therefore we defaulted it

(e) Project Selection

In the following we have a look to the process of project selection, furthermore selection of criteria is stated out.

The project selection procedure includes five steps:

1. Formal check
   In the formal check (accomplished by the JTS) they look whether the application form was sent within the deadline of the call, if the formal completeness of the documentation is given and if the application is properly signed.
   Proposals passing this check will enter the second stage of the evaluation.

2. Check of the obligatory criteria
   The obligatory check will be carried out by the JTS on the basis of the obligatory criteria listed in the programme complement.

3. Technical and financial evaluation by NCPs
   All proposals considered as eligible by the JTS will be assessed from the point of view of technical and financial requirements at national level by the NCPs. In the joining countries are different aspects relevant for this evaluation.

4. Evaluation of the priority criteria
   During this phase eligible project proposals will be assessed by the JTS on the basis of the priority criteria listed in the programme complement. Each project get a final rank reflecting the overall quality and maturity of the proposal and taking the results of the national evaluation into consideration. Also external experts can support JTS at this stage of evaluation

5. Summary evaluation and submission to the steering group
   JTS will submit an argued recommendation to the SC for each project. Proposals will be grouped into 3 categories: to be approved, to be approved under conditions or to be

rejected. After the formal decision of the SC, the results and the reasons for rejection as well as the conditions for approval will be communicated to the LPs.

A special role for evaluation of proposals play the obligatory and priority criteria. Both are defined at programme and measure level. Programme criteria are applied to all projects, measure criteria are applied only to those projects which are assigned for the measure.

The obligatory criteria must be fulfilled otherwise the project will be rejected.

The priority criteria describe the quality of a project. Each project can gain points depending on the conformity of project with each priority criterion (0 – 3 points). The total amount of points is the basis for a classification of projects in one of four categories (A-very good standard, B-good standard, C-intermediate standard and D-low standard).

This classification provides the basis for the Steering Committee's decision on whether a project will receive ERDF-funding or not. In order to obtain ERDF funding within the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space programme, projects have to meet at least an intermediate standard (which is "C-level"), whereby projects classified as A and B level will be given priority.

After a first very unsatisfactory evaluation meeting in Rome the criteria catalogue was completed by the JTS through sub-criteria, which make the criteria more applicable for project assessment. This new catalogue seems to be very professional indeed.

In the following selection criteria on programme level are listed and some comments and possible appraisements were made. The basis for these remarks are the results of the interviews and own interpretations.

Obligatory criteria	Comments / appraisements
Transnationality	Surely the most important criteria; at least two partners from two different states are necessary to get transnational status; but this is only a technical definition of Transnationality; for many interview partners the term refers to a more qualitative approach in the sense of working to really common problems and not only to cooperate in some aspects; the sub-criteria enhances the requirements partly in this sense; the question arises, whether a distinction between the more technical aspects of Transnationality and a more qualitative approach would be meaningful.
Lead Partnership	It is in general viewed as necessary and useful, but also very challenging – it brings a very high responsibility especially to the LPs; some LPs mentioned that the own protection in partnership agreement provided by MA was not enough;
Consistency with the programme	Projects must fit into one measure of the programme; in general this is no problem for project applicants
Financial correctness	Some technical problems were mentioned, especially with financial excel sheets (linkage between sheets, unexpected changes of form).

Obligatory criteria	Comments / appraisements
Respect national and EU policies	In general no problem for applicants, but in the real implementation of projects different administrative structures between joint countries and different legislative and political rules and traditions are one of the major challenge of the programme;
Accordance with EU and national spatial development issues	Regarding ESDP, CEMAT guidelines and national strategies of spatial development there are in general no problems;
Concentration on a transnational problem calling for a transnational solution	Transnational problems are defined as common problems of a larger area (not a mere cross-border relevance) or the same problem in different regions with similar solutions; delimitation of transnational problems and solution are in reality not easy; should be one of key criteria for project selection, clear argumentation should be necessary; overlapping with the first criterion – Transnationality
Description of quantitative output	Meaningful; but we suppose that listed output indicators in PC do not cover all kinds of relevant projects; perhaps possibility of creating new output indicators should be given to project applicants
Conclusion within the programming period	No problem so far
No funding within other EU-programme	Double funding should be avoided
No duplication of work	Necessary criterion to supply creative and new projects and to beware the mere continuation of existing projects
Contribution to sustainable spatial development	Definition of “spatial development” would make sense; it is a very ambiguous term with much different connotations; as we have seen in the interviews also on management level and between nations differences occur on the understanding and significance of spatial development for programme; Apart from its value for project selection one of the key aspects for further clarification.
Tangible and visible results	For clarification of project objectives and expected results meaningful (especially for the project applicant).
Innovative approach	Innovation is important in order to avoid repetition of what we already know, but a clear definition of the very ambiguous and unclear term would be helpful. We are not sure if the innovative character should be a criterion for project selection. Perhaps it would be better placed as a priority criterion;
Equal opportunities	It is only necessary that a project has no negative impact to this domain; in this sense it is placed right; but to enhance its strategically significance and relevance for the programme it should be also stated out as a criterion at priority level
Consultation with public authorities at project development stage	It makes sense that the relevant public authorities are informed about and involved in the development of a project. This facilitates the implementation and the public support for the project; Very important !
Priority criteria	
Cross sectoral approach	meaningful
Efficient work organization	meaningful
Contribution to the institutional setting	Meaningful; Facilitation of relations and cooperation are one of the main goals of the programme
Synergies with other projects	It make sense to support and cultivate synergies between projects and to make sure that there are no duplications; but it is also a task of MA and JTS to facilitate synergy building between projects

Priority criteria	
Give arguments for practical decision making	Meaningful; especially for project applicants it is useful to develop their projects in a way that expected findings are useable for decision making and of practical relevance;
Contains elements for system building	Meaningful but very ambitious
Continuation of the activities after 2006	It make sense that cooperation will be continued after the end of funding
Transferability of results	Meaningful; dissemination of results and the communication and discussion about it are very important.
Pilot projects	Well suited they can be very relevant for research and implementation issues.

Source: Programme document; Applicants Manual for the second call for proposals form 11th June – 25th July 2003

We can summarize that the criteria catalogue on programme level is very broad and include many different aspects. The definition of two criteria could be improved in our opinion: The criterion “innovative approach” is not very well suited on obligatory level. It seems for us not logical and comprehensible that only innovative approaches are worth for funding in the Alpine Space programme. Moreover “innovation” is a very ambiguous and in fact unclear term that it seems not meaningful to make it to a source of approval or rejection of a project. We think it would be quite better placed on priority level. To assess “innovation” on a four step scale belongs nearer to the character of this term.

The other criterion regards “equal opportunities”. In addition to obligatory level where the criterion differentiates between projects which have and have not negative impacts on domain of equal opportunities (negative ones are rejected) we think it would be meaningful to give them more strategic value through their placement on priority level. This would also represent the intention of EU-Commission in a better way, which gives equal opportunities the status of a horizontal theme. This means that this topic should be aimed at and reflected in all EU-co-funded programmes, projects and actions.

Some criteria are, similar to the term “innovation”, not very clear in their definition and understanding. This is the case especially for the terms “transnationality” and “spatial development” as we mentioned above. But at the same time these two terms are essential key aspects and key words for the whole programme. In so far discussion and reflecting on these issues should be continued to get a common view and a better understanding between participants.

In other respects criteria seem to be well developed and applied. Especially the completion with sub-criteria gave them more clearness and applicability.

Obligatory and priority criteria are also specified for measure level. These criteria are not applied to all measures but only to specific measures. The table below gives an overview about criteria related to measures.

Obligatory criteria at measure level

PARTNERSHIP (applies to Measures 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2)

- the project involves partners of at least 3 different Partner States;
- at least 3 Partners from 3 different Partner States provide for national co-funding;

CONCRETE PROBLEMS (1.2)

- the project tackles an existing problem e.g. new developments of market, limited accessibility to transport systems, natural catastrophes, etc.

PILOT AREAS (applies to Measure 1.2)

- Project activities/results are implemented or tested in pilot area(s);
- pilot areas are listed;
- a justification of the relevance of the pilot areas for the entire area is given.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM (2.1)

- projects shall not only focus on sectoral issues: cross sectoral approach shall be adopted (e.g. link between transport and spatial development);
- projects shall propose solutions saving energy;

INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES (3.1)

Priority criteria at measure level

PARTNERSHIP (1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2)

- involve more than 3 partners coming from different levels (national, regional, local) or of different types (public, private) and different sectors;
- involve more than 3 partners from different Partner States;

CONTRIBUTION TO A JOINT ALPINE SPACE PERSPECTIVE (applies to Measure 1.1)

- have a wide and differentiated partnership and cover a wide territory;
- face widespread problems and ensure development of models that when applied would have a large territorial impact;
- tackle issues which are of common interest to all the States involved but which are treated according to different approaches in the single Countries.

TRANSFERIBILITY OF RESULTS (1.1, 1.2,2.1, 2.2, 3.2)

PARTNERSHIP AMONG DIFFERENT COUNTRIES (1.1, 3.2)

- involve countries of different languages or cultural background; The maximum score will be assigned to projects involving partners of all the 7 Partner States of the programme.

READY TO GO (1.2, 2.2)

- Priority will be given to projects which do not need a definition phase: implementation activities can be immediately started after approval.

PROMOTION OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (2.1, 2.2)

- involve both public and private partners;
- involve transport providers as project partners;
- set up permanent networks among public and private partners.

CONTRIBUTION TO SOLVE EU TRANSPORT PROBLEMS (2.1, 2.2)

- focus on a problem actually relevant at Alpine level;
- ensure comprehensive approach and coordination among decision makers of different sectors;
- contribute to the sustainable improvement of accessibility of peripheral areas.

DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS (2.1, 3.3)

- ensure a widespread dissemination of results to the relevant target groups.
- describe in detail the information strategy.

COOPERATION WITH NGOS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS (3.1)

- involve NGOs as project partners;
- involve environmental associations as project partners;
- set up a permanent network among these actors.

ASSISTANCE TO THE DECISION MAKING AUTHORITES (3.1, 3.3)

- Private companies in the domain of transport, public bodies (e.g. bus, ferry, rail, road, air or maritime transport).

PILOT PROJECT (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)

Source: Programme document; Applicants Manual for the second call for proposals form 11th June – 25th July 2003.

As we can see these criteria are especially adopted to the related measures. They demand for e.g. an extension of the partnership (3 partner states not only 2 partner states) in those measures were networking approaches and cooperation are most important. On the priority level the criteria aim especially to the specified goals of the measures e.g. to develop a joint Alpine Space perspective in Measure 1.1 or to strengthen cooperation with NGOs and environmental associations in Measure 3.1.

Also on measure level the criteria seems to be adequate.

Finally we can say that the criteria are very well developed and applied. But one question which arises we would like to ask: Is such a long catalogue of selection criteria really necessary and useful to decide for the best projects?

The danger we see is that the great number of criteria can lead to a somewhat mechanical selection procedure and criteria could become more important than the content and the main objectives of a project. We are not sure that this is the right way to get the best projects for the development of the Alpine Space. But on the other hand criteria are necessary for a good quality of project selection and help to make a rational and comprehensible decision.

We had not the possibility to analyze the rejected projects for inconsistencies in selection process and decision making. These would be a precondition to get a better insight in cases of rejection. In general it would be meaningful to make the process of project evaluation by JTS (and NCPs) and the selection process more transparent.

5. SETTING AND IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

The main source of the description within this chapter are the interviews conducted during the mid-term evaluation process. In sum 46 interviews were carried out whereof 24 were made with actors on programme level and 22 with people acting as project or lead partner of an approved Interreg IIIB Alpine Space project. The interviews were made with actors of all partner countries of the Alpine Space programme – in Austria: 10, France: 8; Germany: 8; Liechtenstein: 2; Slovenia: 5 and Switzerland: 5.

(a) A common understanding of the need for transnational cooperation in the Alpine Space

All persons involved in the programme implementation stressed in one way or the other that the Alpine Space is a compact, coherent and somehow homogenous area with shared problems and common issues and that the Alpine Space programme is an opportunity to promote this area. The Alpine Area is considered as a cohesive and functional planning area, probably more than it is the case in other programmes and an area with a common identity. This strengthens the willingness to cooperate, while the diversity of administrative systems and languages creates a challenge for mutual understanding and communication.

During the programming phase the programme management had to undergo some learning processes e.g. to define “what is the Alpine Space?”, “are the cities on the fringe part of it or not?”, ...

The priorities of the programme are generally considered as up-to-date and relevant: After sometimes controversial discussions in the committee dealing with programming it was possible to integrate both the aspects of environmental protection contained in the Alpine Convention and aspects related to sustainable economic development and mobility in core and fringe areas.

(b) Differences in the administrative structures and processes: Transnational cooperation as a learning process

The alpine space is a living space and has to be kept as such sound and attractive. There is a range of goals shared by member states and regions, but there are also differing interests – not only between the states involved but also between national and regional levels and different policy strands. This holds especially true for very sensitive policy fields like spatial planning and transport.

Dealing with sensitive policy fields needs some commitment from the programme management to overcome fears of incompatibility between different strands or levels of policies. Even if this is overcome in the programming and a common definition of priorities and measures is found, problems are encountered again in the implementation phase and it needs much information and communication on the content of potential projects, to make sure that they are aiming to find innovative solutions and not to deepen conflicts or misunderstandings.

Besides especially sensitive policy fields the programme meets obstacles in the implementation process caused by differences in the administrative cultures and by differences in the competencies of the persons involved.

Socio-cultural and linguistic differences do not seem to be particularly relevant in INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space, though some of the persons involved in the programme implementation stated that English as programme language is leading to additional misunderstandings and misinterpretations and that the possibility to speak in the mother-tongue and to rely on translation would be highly welcome.

The relative position of the programme on the national level varies considerably from partner state to partner state, leading to different impact of decisions of programme management (SC in particular). For example in Germany the attention of the national level is focused on other programmes that have more importance and larger funds. In France the regional authorities were not associated to the elaboration of the programme which leads partly to a weak relation to the content of the programme itself as well as to the political involvement of officials in the programme. In addition administrations with operational responsibilities in spatial planning and related sectoral policies are not as much interested in the programme as one would wish. Only the administrations involved in the programme management (financial management and international affairs) are giving the programme the necessary importance. By contrast, in Italy the INTERREG IIIB Programme Alpine Space is very important because national funding of regional development is connected with it.

The regions (cantons, Länder, provinces) are not equally involved in the programme – only for Germany the function of National Coordinator is occupied by a representative of the regional level (Bavaria), in all other states representatives of the national level fulfil this function. In some partner states the regions were not involved from the start, thus having restricted possibilities to participate in the definition of the programme.

As the number of members in the MC and SC has to be restricted for reasons of efficiency, there is only one representative of the involved regions per partner state. The way to chose this representative is very different between the member states: In most member states one representative is selected for the whole implementation period. France and Italy have a rotating

system. Therefore all regions involved take part in the programme implementation, but problems of continuity are arising. Committee members not always feel sufficiently informed.

Therefore the National Committees play an important role as in most cases, all regions can be involved. The National Committees have thus an important role in formulating the national / regional strategic focus for the programme. This is especially true for Austria and Switzerland. In Slovenia the regional level is represented by a member of the National Committee chosen among the Regional Development Agencies.

Italy and France supported the establishment of the Conference of the Regions. The importance of this Conference lies in raising awareness and in political commitment of the regions. The role of this Conference in the programme implementation process is not sufficiently well defined so far and should be envisaged in the future with more clearness. The competencies for the policy fields the programme is dealing with are assigned to different levels of government within the partner states. Taking spatial planning as an example, usually the main competence is held by the regions, but there is an overall competence for spatial planning on the national level in Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy, Slovenia and Liechtenstein, but not in Austria, where this competence lies with the Länder exclusively. Besides other differences in the planning cultures, this explains why Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and France expressed an great interest in projects dealing specifically with spatial planning issues, whereas other states had other priorities.

Last but not least there are substantial differences in national regulations and corresponding procedures of public finance.

The co-financing regime in Italy differs substantially from those of other partner states:

- The allocation of national funds is closely related to the programme
- If a project application is successful, national co-financing is automatically provided by the Italian government – therefore it is easy to find potential project partners in Italy
- Italy is not confiding first level control to other states (there are problems to accept invoices from other states and to transfer funds to other states)

In Austria the search for project partners is rather difficult, as it is not easy to find national co-financing beside the project priorities set by the Austrian national or regional governments themselves.

The implementation of the basic structures and procedures has been very demanding. This focus on the programme internal level puts some problems for the management of projects too.

On project level there is a lot of work needed for administration and organization which should have already been available for work on content.

In this respect it was also mentioned that the European Commission could provide better guidance. There are different interpretations possible on several issues of project implementation and clear guidelines are badly needed.

(c) Development of the implementation structure: Achievements reached

The implementation structure is defined by Managing Authority, Joint Technical Secretariat, National Contact Points to support potential project applicants, a Steering Committee deciding on project selection and a Monitoring Committee deciding on strategic issues of the programme.

The Steering Committee is built by one representative of the national level and one representative of the regional level of every State involved. This holds true also for the Monitoring Committee. The Steering Committee is deciding on project selection. It works on the principle of consensus.

For programming National Coordinators were named. Programme document and programme complement were written by the National Coordinators with the help of external experts.

In the preliminary stages of project selection opinions are formed on the national level between national and regional representatives of the individual programme member state in National Committees. In the programme implementation there is no explicit role for the national level, but the national interests are coordinated first in the National Committees.

The project selection process relies on technical project assessment by the JTS and national project assessment by National Contact Points. This is adding considerable transparency and quality to the process.

The MA has no voice in the SC. The role of the MA is focused on developing and guaranteeing the functioning of the implementation process and procedures.

The Monitoring Committee is dealing with the programme strategy. There is a clear division of tasks between SC and MC, but the functions are often fulfilled in personal unison. This blurs the differences somehow.

NGOs are integrated in the MC, but they do not seem to be very interested because of the limited influence there. They would like to be in the SC, but are not foreseen there, as there could be conflicts of interests.

In some states regions are now starting beginning to lose interest in participating in the SC and MC-meetings, thus causing some fluctuation of persons involved and leaving more and more responsibilities to the National Coordinators. It is considered, that this is a sign of trust in the competencies of the NCs, but also a sign that the lengthy process of establishing the basic administrative structures was too exhausting. Building of a transnational cooperation structure bases on detailed discussion of needs in these committees. This is a very lenghty process and experienced by most of the Committee members as very heavy administrative burden. Trying to shorten these processes on the other side can easily be identified as “unilateral” decision taking and narrowing down of the Committees powers.

The development of the organizational structure was characterized by a first phase of instability caused by problems with the contract of the JTS, understaffing and lack of experience. Meanwhile it is in a state of growing consolidation. The role of the JTS has been clarified: it comprises the evaluation of project proposals (evaluation on the national level is done by the NCP, focusing on technical aspects), following of the project implementation progress, secretariat for MA, SC and MC, and annual implementation report. When the JTS will be fully operative, the implementation bodies expect it to take over additional agenda:

- experts in spatial planning and transport are needed for the assessment of projects
- an information manager should be installed to give information on the programme for the broad public and to help animate the development of projects with specific issues
- transnational working groups should be installed to produce synergies between projects

The National Contact Points were envisaged from the very start, but needed some time to get staffed. Information of project applicants as well as the project selection process had thus not much support in the beginning by JTS and NCPs, but was very much improved later on. The second call already relied on project assessment by JTS and NCPs. Indicators were developed and a manual for project assessment produced.

The development of indicators (technical assessment by JTS and NCP) guarantees transparency and high quality of selection process. After some problems the procedure is working well now, the evaluation through JTS and NCP is an important improvement. The JTS is checking the formal, obligatory and priority criteria – what is missing in some respect is sufficient expert knowledge to assess the relevant impacts or consequences of projects. The national assessment by the NCP is added to the assessment by the JTS, in the beginning (first call, first submission) it was not integrated and not even cross-checked. For the 2nd submission a network between JTS and NCPs was established and a meeting among them took place in order to allow the JTS to integrate NCPs evaluation into their recommendations.

The lead partner principle, though indispensable, needs a half to one year addition time for project preparation and contracting, thus causing problems of prefinancing for successful projects. Private firms and organisations, especially small initiatives can have problems with the lead partner principle. Public authorities are better able to finance project development. But even they face financial restrictions, that are growing with cyclical problems.

Projects that were rejected in the first call, were proposed in an improved version at the second call. But it cannot be said in general, that the quality of projects has raised since the first call. The project selection procedure is better and it is better known, what the Steering Committee is expecting.

(d) Added value

The programme is a success as some outstanding sustainable and innovative projects were generated. This is achieved with great efforts in programme implementation and with heavy administrative and financial burden for project applicants, but there is corresponding added value:

Transnational cooperation is seen as necessary and the programme gives opportunities to develop this and also to raise awareness for these issues. It has to be realized that the programme INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space is only the first step in the development of transnational cooperation structures (the forerunner programmes were divided in an east and west zone – the learning effects of these forerunner programmes can be seen in that until today the states / regions of the east resp. west zone find it much easier to work together).

Added value comes also from the learning process the individual persons involved in programme implementation are undergoing and the exchange of know how and experiences .

For the project partners the added value lies in the exchange of know how and experiences, the broadening of perspectives and the networking of (local) actors. Partnerships are strengthened and will hold beyond the programme period. Less significant until now is the improvement and coordination of spatial planning and related sectoral policies at regional and national level.

The learning process already led to administrative innovations like subsidy contract or partnership agreement.

In a synopsis it can be said that there was an important progress made in understanding the differences in the expectations, the administrative cultures and individual competencies. In this respect the institutions involved in the programme implementation are beginning to speak a “common language”. An important step forward in the development of the project selection

procedure regarding transparency and quality has been made during the first years of programme implementation.

With growing experience information of project applicants is already very efficient and corresponds more and more to a one stop shop principle. This makes the access for potential project partners much easier.

(e) How the programme is experienced by project applicants

Most of the projects have public authorities as lead partners. Some of the projects are initiated and carried out by universities, only a small number is carried out by private firms. All projects examined are conceived as long-term cooperation initiatives, even if it is not clear to all lead partners in which context cooperation will be continued. Practically all projects had previous cooperation activities as origin. Former cooperation activities were carried out with a limited number of partners and more limited geographical scope. Enlargement took place thanks to the contacts of former partners or the help of NCP. Only in one case a completely new partnership was established with the support of national and regional authorities.

The information on the programme came from the proposer's networks. The information on the web site was then used for project preparation. This was only partly satisfactory, frequently additional information had to be requested from the NCP or the MA.

The support by NCP was mentioned as very good, the support by the JTS as satisfactory. In some cases lead partners were confronted with contradictory information from the side of NCP, JTS, web site and MA.

As the boxes for the description of project aims and activities were very small, they could not be described properly. Administrative conditions and criteria seemed much more important than the cooperation activities to be carried out and the content of the project.

This was annotated by most of the lead partners and some said that this left the impression that contents of the work are not that important. Some uttered the impression that the most important factor seemed to be the nationality of the lead partner. As a consequence some lead partners proposed a two stage application procedure, where administrative aspects are dealt with in the second stage. This would be more efficient and less frustrating. Some of the lead partners consider the procedure as transparent and the choices justified, others have the impression that transparency is lacking. Some advocate the publication of the assessment to ensure the transparency of the project selection process. Most of the project applications were only approved with additional conditions (to enlarge the number of partners and narrow down the budget) or need of improvements (refraining the project to the following call).

All projects are now in the starting phase, the contracts were recently signed or will be signed soon. There was a significant delay between the final approval of projects and the signature of the contract because of the preparation of the partnership agreement. Even though the lead partners adopted the model of the MA as basis for their partnership agreement, they had to adapt it for their special situation (this took a long time because the partners involved wanted to comment on the contract before signing them. After that the MA intervened often and asked again for changes in the formulation.

There is a major problem in the procedure of certification of expenditures (incompatibility between the Italian system and others). For one project this causes severe problems as the possibilities of pre-financing are exhausted.

The usefulness of the programme is not questioned by the interviewed lead partners, but a majority is in strongly favour of improvements and simplification in the administrative procedures. The administrative burden related to project application and implementation may be detrimental to further applications for a number of lead partners.

6. CURRENT STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The process of project selection has been organized until now in two calls. The first call was divided in two submission periods. The first one of these two was running at the very beginning of the programme from April 10th to May 15th 2002, the second submission period follows from November 11th to December 19th 2002. A second call was running from June 11th to July 25th 2003. The proposals of the last call are not approved until now and in so far the results of this call are not part of the interim evaluation.

An overview about the approved projects in the 1st call in the two submission periods give the table below:

		Projects first call – 1st submission	Projects first call – 2nd submission
P 1	Measure 1.1		E-MOTION MARS TUSEC-IP
	Measure 1.2	NEPROVALTER VIA CLAUDIA AUGUSTA	ALLPS ALPINETWORK CARA QUALIMA SENTDEALPS
P 2	Measure 2.1		
	Measure 2.2	ALPENCORS'	ALPS MOBILITY II
P 3	Measure 3.1		ALPENERGYWOOD ALPINWINDHARVEST LIVING SPACE NETWORK MONARPOP
	Measure 3.2	CRAFTS CULTURALP HABITALP VIA ALPINA	DYNALP
	Measure 3.3	CATCHRISK	DISALP METEORISK NAB RIVERBASIN SISMOVALP

(a) Funding and Absorption

Some important issues about the current status of implementation are visible in the table below.

Projects approved after 1st Call and Funding per Priority and Measure							
	Projects		**ERDF funding**		**Planned ERDF funding**		**absorption**
	No.	%	EURO	%	EURO	%	%
Priority 1	10	37,0	6.464.683	31,3	15.691.928	27,9	41,2
Priority 2	2	7,4	3.029.180	14,7	19.076.928	34,0	15,9
Priority 3	15	55,6	11.170.134	54,1	21.409.048	38,1	52,2
Measure 1.1	3	11,1	1.963.851	9,5	6.590.610	11,7	29,8
Measure 1.2	7	25,9	4.500.832	21,8	9.101.318	16,2	49,5
Measure 2.1	0	0,0	0	0,0	7.630.771	13,6	0,0
Measure 2.2	2	7,4	3.029.180	14,7	11.446.157	20,4	26,5
Measure 3.1	4	14,8	2.042.436	9,9	6.422.714	11,4	31,8
Measure 3.2	5	18,5	5.098.600	24,7	6.422.714	11,4	79,4
Measure 3.3	6	22,2	4.029.098	19,5	8.563.619	15,2	47,0
SUM	27	100,0	20.663.997	100,0	56.177.904	100,0	36,8

As the table shows more than half of the 27 projects selected under the first call fall under Priority 3 (Wise management of nature, landscape and cultural heritage, promotion of the environment and prevention of natural disasters). Whereas Priority 1 (Promotion of the Alpine Space as a competitive and attractive living and economic area in the framework of polycentric spatial development of the EU) is also demanded strongly the usage of Priority 2 (Development of sustainable transport systems with particular consideration of efficiency, intermodality and better accessibility) is very low so far. Only two projects were submitted in this Priority under the first call.

On measure-level the very high absorption of Measure 3.2 (Good management and promotion of landscapes and cultural heritage) is remarkable. Still 79 % of the funding capacity for this measure are already exhausted till now. In Priority 3 also measure 3 (Cooperation in the field of natural risk) with 47 % of absorption is well developed. Measure 3.1 (Nature and resources, in particular water) is the worst one in Priority 3 (with about one third of exhaustion) but in comparison to the other measures of Priority 1 and 2 still well developed. Similar developed as Measure 3.1 is also Measure 1.1 (Mutual knowledge and common perspective). Much better in Priority 1 is the utilization of measure 2 (Competitiveness and sustainable development), half of the funding potential is still occupied.

A real problem is Measure 2.1 (Perspectives and analyses in the field of sustainable transport systems) at the moment. Until now no project has been approved under this measure. This must be wondering because traffic and transport systems are one of the main tasks in European context becoming more and more important through future enlargement of the EU. It's a pity that there are no projects and there arisen the serious question whether there is a

realistic chance in the future to meet the aims of this measure. In comparison Measure 2.2 (Improvement of existing and promotion of future transport systems by large scale and small scale intelligent solutions such as intermodality) is much better used with a absorption of more than a quarter. But nevertheless we have to notice that there are still only two projects in this measure.

Summarizing the project implementation in Priority 1 and 3 is in line whereas the Priority 2 is seriously lacking behind. Especially for Measure 2.1 additional efforts and ideas are necessary in order to reach the full exhaustion of fund. Otherwise a shift of funds will be not avoidable.

The total absorption of funds is estimated with 37%. This is an acceptable value. But efforts to promote the programme and to propose projects must be kept in mind in any case.

A serious delay exists on the level of payments. Until now only approx. 500.000 EURO have been paid. 11 projects received payments so far, whereof only 3 projects have received two payments. That means that the majority of projects (60%) have not get any payments so far. An undesired consequence of this fact is the loss of funds through the n+2 rule. The EC has already reduced the effects of this rule in the way that reported expenditures by the Lead partners of projects are accepted as payments. But the n+2 rule problem is still existing.

(b) Funding of Projects on Priorities and Measures

Funding of EU (ERDF)								
	Mean	**Median**	**Minimum**	**Maximum**	**Sum**	**Sum in %**	**Number of projects**	**Number in %**
Priorities								
Priority 1	646.468	747.602	216.089	1.000.000	6.464.683	31,3	10	37,0
Priority 2	1.514.590	1.514.590	1.496.680	1.532.500	3.029.180	14,7	2	7,4
Priority 3	744.676	700.000	124.500	1.400.000	11.170.134	54,1	15	55,6
Measures								
Measure 1.1	654.617	794.800	312.500	856.551	1.963.851	9,5	3	11,1
Measure 1.2	642.976	700.403	216.089	1.000.000	4.500.832	21,8	7	25,9
Measure 2.2	1.514.590	1.514.590	1.496.680	1.532.500	3.029.180	14,7	2	7,4
Measure 3.1	510.609	533.468	124.500	851.000	2.042.436	9,9	4	14,8
Measure 3.2	805.820	767.500	688.500	948.598	4.029.098	19,5	5	18,5
Measure 3.3	849.767	785.750	380.000	1.400.000	5.098.600	24,7	6	22,2
SUM	765.333	767.500	124.500	1.532.500	20.663.997	100	27	100

The table above gives some additional information about the priorities and measures. As we can see the average project funding lies on 765.000 EURO. The funding in Priority 1 is in

tendency somewhat lower, in Priority 3 with exception of Measure 3.1 slightly higher. Because the median (this is the point, where 50 % of projects are more and 50% are fewer funded) is in general very similar – between 700.000 and 800.000 EURO – we can suppose that project costs and funding possibilities are also similar between measures. An exception is Measure 2.2, where the average becomes twice of the overall average. But we must notice that there are only two projects so far and those two projects are with 1.533.000 EURO and 1.497.000 EURO very well funded. Measure 3.1 makes also an exception in so far, as the average is much smaller with 511.000 EURO than the overall one. The big differences between maximum and minimum values of measures show us that the variance of funded projects with respect to costs is high. The range extends from 124.500 EURO to 1.532.500 EURO.

(c) National Aspects of Programme Implementation

In the following we take a closer look at the national side of programme implementation.

Projects and national Funding per Country								
	Number of Projects	**Number of Lead-Partner**	**Number of Project-Partner**	**Sum of Funding of projects**	**Average Funding**	**Funds total** operational programme	**Funds available**	**Exhaus-tion %**
Austria	24	9	68	5.816.190	242.341	8.835.000	3.018.810	65,8
France	15	4	30	2.433.557	162.237	16.435.000	14.001.443	14,8
Germany	18	4	29	3.628.677	201.593	8.008.700	4.380.023	45,3
Italy	27	8	106	10.039.175	371.821	22.899.204	12.860.029	43,8
Liechtenstein	2	0	2	86.029	43.015	0	-86.029	
Slovenia	18	0	23	1.062.704	59.039	0	-1.062.704	
Switzerland	24	2	39	5.059.795	210.825	4.123.000	-936.795	122,7
SUM	27	27	297	28.126.127	1.041.708	60.300.904	32.174.777	46,6

As we can see in the table the most engaged countries in the programme are on EU-member-side Austria and Italy and on non-member-side Switzerland. These are the countries with the highest participation rate on projects (have a look to the number of projects of each country). Also most of the Lead-partners and project partners are coming from Austria and Italy (twice as Germany and France). Especially Italy is in terms of participation of project partners intensively engaged in the Alpine Space programme – about one third of all project partners (106 of 297) are Italians. Austria has with 68 project partners more than the twice as much as Germany and France, whose participation is with four Lead-partnerships at a time and about 30 project partnerships much fewer developed than the Austrian and Italian participation. The exhaustion of funds in Germany has reached an adequate value (45%) with respect to the financial implementation of the programme – on the other hand the French one is obviously not satisfactory. Only 15% of the total national funds of 16, 5 Mio EURO are allocated to projects so far. (We are working here with the values of national not ERDF funds, because we would also

involve in this view the non-member-states, where ERDF funding is not possible; the remarks and interpretations of national funding are evident also for ERDF funding). For France the exhaustion of funds might eventually become a critical issue. Big efforts and high professional promotion of the programme especially on regional level seem to be necessary to get an adequate result. One aspect of the low French absorption so far lies in the fact that most funds are allocated to Priority 2 (68% of French project budget), where until now as we have seen only two projects are on the way. Only 4% of funds are consumed by projects of priority 2, whereas the exhaustion rate of priority 1 amounts to 32% and of priority 3 to 24%. Another reason for this could be that the French average funding of projects lies with 162.000 EURO clearly below the overall average of 223.000 EURO. We do not know the intentions of this small funding rate in France, but an easy way to enhance the exhaustion of the French funds would be the enhancement of funding rates for projects. In Germany with similar preconditions as France (current status of Lead-partners, project partners, number of projects) the average funding amounts after all approximately 213.000 EURO.

The table shows also that the member-states have varying amounts of funding which can be allocated to the programme. The highest amount for the Alpine Space programme has been allocated by Italy with 23 Mio. EURO (38% of all funding means), followed by France (27%) and Austria and Germany with about 8-9 Mio. EURO (G 13%, A 15%). Switzerland has allocated 7% of the total national funding sum (4 Mio. EURO).

As we see also in the table the participation of the non-member-states Switzerland, Slovenia and Liechtenstein are also quite good. Switzerland and Slovenia are participating to more projects than Germany and France. There is only one project where no non-member-state is participating.

But there is an essential difference in the form of participation of Switzerland, Slovenia and Liechtenstein. In Switzerland the Federal Government has established unique funds for INTERREG IIIB programmes as the Alpine Space programme. This funds co-finances projects of Swiss project partners in a similar way as the ERDF funds do it for EU-member-states. So Swiss projects are in general double funded similar to member-states, on the one hand through the Federal Government (INTERREG IIIB funds) and on the other hand through regional or local authorities or private. This becomes obvious in a much higher average of funding of projects in Switzerland and in a very high exhaustion rate. At midterm are still 120% of planned funding adopted by projects, so the funds are more than fully exhausted if there is no increase in funding means. In Slovenia and also in Liechtenstein there are no such funds for co-funding projects. But especially Slovenia has a great interest to be partner in Alpine projects (18 project partnerships) even though the average national funding capabilities are only 56.000 EURO. Concerning Slovenia we must keep in mind that with 1st May 2004 it becomes the status of an EU-member-state and future projects could therefore be co-financed by ERDF (eligibility of costs is possible with 1st January).

(d) Some Aspects of Participation

If we have a closer look to the national participation on the projects we can state the following.

On projects which were approved at the second round of the first call in general more nations were participating as in projects from the first round of approval. In so far we can say that the transnational character of the projects increased between the two rounds (for detailed information have a look in the tables of the Annex).

Also we can see that in tendency the rate of national participation in Priority 3 is higher than in the other priorities. Priority 3 has until now not only most of the projects but also the highest number of project partners (146; Priority 1: 119, Priority 2: 32). In average 10 partners cooperate within the Priority 3 projects. It is interesting that the estimate participation of partners is in Priority 2 with 16 partners and in Priority 1 with 12 partners higher than in Priority 3. In Priority 1 especially Measure 1.1 with 18 partners as average has a very high cooperation rate. This is in line with the main aim of this measure to foster networking and cooperation activities in Alpine Space. The highest degree of participation we find in almost all measures in Italy. In average four Italian project partners are involved in projects (A: 3, all other countries: 1-2)

In conclusion we can say that the national participation in the programme and the number of project partners is varying in a wide range between the states and the priorities and measures. Very well developed is the Italian participation, in comparison with Italy all other nations decline. The reason for high Italian progress could be found mainly in assurance of national co-financing for INTERREG IIIB programmes through specific national public funds (Fondo di Rotazione per l'attuazione delle politiche comunitarie (Delibera CIPE n. 67/2000)). This makes it less complicate for Italians to participate on Alpine Space programme.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space programme is an important instrument for strengthening transnational cooperation within this cohesive and functional area with a strong identity. The question is whether and to which degree the INTERREG IIIB programme attains the goals envisaged in the programme itself, but also the aims mentioned in the ESDP, CEMAT-guidelines, Alpine Convention, etc. This for sure cannot be answered broadly by the mid-term evaluation, but it can try to analyze and describe to what degree the programme management is contributing to achieving their objectives.

Referring to this we have to bear in mind the very high challenges to work under the encountered conditions – with multitude actors working in very different administrative fields, a variety of different interests not only existing between different states, but also between national level and regional level etc.

It is also worth mentioning the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space is for the first time dealing with the whole Alpine Space within INTERREG IIIB. (In the previous period the Alpine Space was only treated under Article 10 ERDF Eastern Alps).

(a) Conclusions

Programme characteristics, objectives and measures

The Alpine Space is viewed in general as a compact, coherent and homogenous area with shared problems and common issues. Therefore a unique programme for this area is highly desired and considered as very useful and worth to be promoted. There also exists a fairly strong common identity, which facilitates cooperation and mutual understanding. In comparison with other programme regions it is considered as a very adequate cohesive and functional planning area. It was mentioned as positive that the programme is not limited to environmental aspects and Alpine core region, but also noted as a deficit that spatial planning aspects do not play a more important role.

The programme features some clear added values. The development of transnational and sustainable cooperation, raising understanding of and knowledge about each other and development of common identity and perspective must be pointed out. A particular area concerns the exchange and transfer of practices in the field of administrative and financial management. This field of activity (where projects partners have had great difficulties) was on the other side considered as an important learning experience for everyone.

As we have pointed out the objectives of the programme could be elaborated more clearly and logically. More visionary elements on the level of general programme objectives facilitating identification and engagement on programme level and greater concretization of the objectives on measure level would have been useful and feasible. We suppose that the punch of the programme would have been strengthen in that way and that one source of discussion of strategic projects lies in deficits concerning the systematics of the objectives and of the measures. In comparison to measure level, priority level objectives seem to be more adequate. The question arises why measures are not more deduced from priorities, it partly seems that the main objectives of the priorities would be better suited for programme measures as the specified ones. But regarding the very high complexity of the programme areas, the diverging interests between actors but also different spatial scales (regional, national, transnational) and the limited time the involved actors had to discuss content and to develop a common strategy, these shortcomings in internal coherence of the programme are understandable.

The external coherence is given to a high degree. The Alpine Space programme has its roots in the ESDP and the INTERREG IIIB guidelines. The Alpine Convention and CEMAT guidelines are also observed and were an important source for programme elaboration. Especially the links to Alpine Convention could be marked more clearly. It is certainly too simple to regard the Alpine Space programme as a mere implementation instrument of the Alpine Convention, as some interviewpartners suggested, but the relationship between both initiatives should be strengthened.

Indicators for monitoring of the programme are established on all levels. What is missing is a clear goal orientation of indicators and their quantification. Only few aggregate indicators are specified and quantified to measure programme progress. This is surely not the best way to measure outputs, results and impacts but for a rough specification of implementation status it should suffice.

For project selection the programme management has developed a very broad catalogue of evaluation criteria with appr. more than 40 items. After some difficulties at the first project evaluation cycle in 2002 the JTS has completed this catalogue through definition of sub-criteria, which made the criteria more applicable for project assessment. This new catalogue seems to be very professional indeed. Most members of Steering Committee are in the meantime satisfied with the professional quality of the evaluation of the projects by JTS. The only danger could lie in the large number of criteria which can lead to a somewhat mechanical selection procedure and criteria could become more important than the content and the main objectives of a project. This should be avoided through a maximum of transparency of the selection process.

Programme perception and visibility from outside could be improved because the programme is hardly known in the public at the moment. There exist also great differences in knowledge of the

programme between regions and within nations. The image of the programme is not very good – because it is often considered as too bureaucratic and cumbersome and complex in administrative structure. More information and promotion activities about the aims and content of the projects might help to improve the image of the programme.

Programme implementation and management

The Alpine Space Programme has a relatively small budget (total: 124 Mio. EURO) and complex content. It is of great political potential for the Alpine Space but it seems politicians have not take adequate interest in it. To some extent this might have to do with the complexity of content and implementation procedures but also with the small financial volume.

The initial phase of the programme was dominated by building the basic implementation structures and the necessity to establish a viable working relation between Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat, which proved difficult and time consuming. In the meantime cooperation between implementation bodies functions well, but the functions and tasks of MA in relation to JTS and Steering Committee in relation to Monitoring Committee should be further clarified and better defined. Also the role of the National Contact Points should be enhanced in project selection process.

The diversity of national legislations, administrative structures, and procedures is one of the major challenges for programme implementation. Apart from this there are some other important issues too:

- lack of resources (especially on JTS and partly NCP level),
- some countries take little interest in projects not originating from themselves,
- different working approaches of actors (fund managers, coordinators, spatial planners…),
- rigidity and unclearness of some programme-regulations,
- difficulties to get the certification of expenditure,
- lack of networking and coordination with other Alpine initiatives (Alpine Convention, CIPRA, Arge Alp, COTRAO etc.)

A quality check of the “transnationality” of cooperation projects would help to improve the projects running under this programme. E.g. the cooperation areas should not only cover the neighbouring regions but also larger areas and the content treated within a project should be of transnational relevance. Long-term networks of actors within the regions for mutual information and exchange of experience should be established or improved.

Spatial visions should be elaborated, because it is a necessity to define problems, challenges and opportunities for the programme area commonly and to define the common mission; so that "where to go" or "what to reach" within the programme becomes clearer for everyone. This could lead to a clear definition of the aim for the Alpine Space before budgets are distributed. Discussions concerning this already started during the programming phase but were somehow interrupted in order to find consensus on the minimum requirements for the programme. The definition of strategic projects by the working group of National Co-ordinators shows a promising way to advance these ambitious goals. Maybe external experts could help to structure this discussion process in order to produce satisfying results.

Another important issue which could be included in the strategic project discussion is how to integrate the transnational co-operations into the planning platforms existing on national and regional level. E.g. in Switzerland this problem is caused by the division of tasks between departments for regional policy (competence for the budget) and spatial planning (implementing the programme but having to ask for budgets). Switzerland would like to see a network of "Landesplaner" in the Alpine Space to use synergy effects in implementation and exchange of experiences on transnational level.

The monitoring of the whole programme is carried out until now with excel-sheets. It must be said that a data base solution is necessary as soon as possible, because the number of projects and the volume of data keeps growing and the importance of monitoring is increasing with the progress of the programme.

Project implementation

The lead partners play the most important role for project implementation. They are responsible for the implementation towards the MA and have to bear the main risk. Lead partnership is in general seen as necessary for the implementation of transnational projects.

Many of the projects endorsed so far have previous cooperation activities as their origin. Partners are mostly found by existing networks and partnerships and only rarely with support from NCPs or regional and national authorities. Some of the projects claim that they have been established independent from the Alpine Space Programme, but without support from INTERREG funding they would run on a smaller scale.

The uncertainties of procedural character and, consequently, by the demand of time for the operational activation of the partnerships (signature of contracts) almost always played a dominating role. It is necessary to highlight that during the starting-up phase specific indications were lacking both from the part of the Technical Secretariat and the Managing Authority. In this field the project partners played the role of pioneers and, probably, now this experience, with the mediation of NCP, is useful to support the start up of new projects. Since the NCPs have

been activated for technical support to project partners it has notably improved. But most NCPs would need additional resources to satisfy the needs of support adequately.

In general the projects are not linked with projects of other programmes or co-operation initiatives. In the future synergies should be fostered in this field, which is only possible through pro-active support of MA, NCP and JTS.

Absorption of funds

Presently there exists an imbalance in achieving resource absorption between different objectives and priorities. Implementation of projects in Priority 1 and 3 are in line with budgets and some measures are very well demanded. This is the case especially for Measure 3.2 with an exhaustion of almost 80% of all the money allocated to it in the budget.

On the other hand there is a lack of projects and cooperation activities in the transports sector, which (besides being one of the priorities of the program) probably represents one of the main issues for the development of the Alpine area. One of the important challenges of the near future is to foster projects within this sector.

The causes for the lagging of priority 2 are seen in

- the need for a lengthy preparation process
- financial means for projects on transportation issues are rather small
- high complexity of the relevant issues combined with strong and diverse political influences

(b) Recommendations INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space

Regarding these recommendations we have to have in mind that this SF programme was launched for the first time as INTERREG IIIB programme for the Alpine Space. In the starting phase the priority was to establish the basic system for managing the Funds and to spend the money. The pressures of understanding and accommodating a new type of policy in a short time allow only limited opportunity for adding value in areas such as strategic thinking, integrated programme management, partnership, project selection, monitoring, etc. Much time was needed to deal with unrealistic expectations among partner organisations and with addressing misunderstandings. In so far the implementation of the programme is, to a large extent, learning by doing and a learning field for all parties. The mid-term evaluation is one important instrument to reflect on what has happened so far and to help to maximize the added value for the whole programme area.

The following recommendations are divided into short- and long-term recommendations. Short-term recommendations refer to the remaining programme period of Interreg IIIB Alpine Space and include suggestions how to deal with specific problems in the near future. Furthermore we think it is important not only to focus on the current programme period – which is important from the programme implementation point of view – but also to look beyond in terms of content and development of the Alpine Space. Therefore we also formulated some long-term oriented recommendations which should as far as possible already taken into account during the current programme period.

Short-term recommendations

- Cooperations and synergies

The experiences with previous programmes (Art. 10 Pilot Action Programme for the Eastern Alps), current Interreg IIIB programme areas and other Alpine organisations (as Arge Alp, Alpine Convention, Arge Alpe Adria, Cotrao) should be better integrated in the Alpine Space programme. Especially synergy effects of projects in initiatives running in the different programmes should be used. Therefore we suggest that the MA should arrange a seminar or conference inviting all transnational Alpine institutions and organisations in order to discuss progress and best practices in different fields of common interest.

In previous programming periods thematic transnational working groups have proved to be a successful tool for enlarging and deepening cooperation at project level and therefore this tool should also be used within the Alpine Space programme. It is understandable that there is no such initiative so far in the Alpine Space (because of programme delay,...) but we think for the second half of the programme period more emphasis must be given to this issue. The establishment of transnational working groups should be one of the main tasks for the operative programme agents in the second half of the programme period (especially for JTS supported by MA, NCPs and also SC). In the future, their importance and involvement in the programme structure should be stressed more explicitly and the financing of working groups should be guaranteed.

- Implementation

The Alpine Space programme faces a problem with the n+2 rule which must be solved in near future. Under current conditions a de-commitment of funds in the Alpine Space programme is very likely (but was defused by the Commission which accepts now also reported expenditures by the Lead Partner which must be confirmed later on). There are many reasons why there is a problem with this rule already coming from the delay in the programming phase and later on from the difficulties in programme implementation. The demanding requirements cocerning mutual coordination, the time-consuming processes of calls for and assessments of projects,

the complexity of implementation procedure and transnational financial management need much more time for establishment as in national EU-programmes

Considering the project level we have pointed out some difficulties in the cooperation between project partners which are caused by differences in national contracting and funding. Especially cooperation with Italian partners is referred to as unsatisfactory because Italy refuses to delegate the first level control to other Alpine Space partner states This complication should be overcome as soon as possible because some project partners got serious financing problems of projects. The whole Alpine Space programme risks to lose its credits and programme acceptance suffers under such problems. Therefore we suggest to organise a task force meeting organised by the MA with all relevant actors and decision makers in this field in order to get this problem solved as soon as possible.

Budget absorption is – beside priority 2 – quite good within the programme. For all priorities with good budget absorption time should be used to make fewer calls and to invest more time in networking and using synergy effects e.g. through the constitution of transnational working groups, more cooperation and coordination with other Alpine networks and so on. In general the absorption is well developed and it seems to us that there is time enough to make a time-out for calls and to focus energies and efforts on other topics e.g. the discussion of strategic projects. In our view it also makes sense to focus especially on priority 2 where absorption is not satisfactory. A restricted call for this priority or a special call for tender should be seriously envisaged together with investments in project development.

In general the possibilities of prefinancing project development for NGOs or small companies during the application process should be improved. They usually do not have the resources and capacities, which are necessary to elaborate a high quality proposal for a project. The risk of rejection the application is very high. As a consequence many good ideas for Alpine projects do not get a chance of realisation and important Alpine groups are not reached by the programme. Therefore it is necessary to create the possibility of financing project development (see example INTERREG IIIB Baltic Sea). It would be also meaningful to make resources available already for preparatory actions to initiate projects – for the purpose of establishing trans-national partnerships.

Shortcomings exist in the field of monitoring and assessment of the programme. An integrated Managing and Monitoring System provided by Italy was viewed but is not implemented yet. Monitoring is currently based on the application of excel-sheets. We must stress the point that with increasing number and duration of projects the need for a professional monitoring and assessment arise. CIP and also Programme Complement are very weak with regard to professional monitoring and assessment of the programme and the projects. Its not enough to collect data through activity reports. The question is what is made with this data, how data are aggregated in order to give a realistic picture of the status of implementation etc. We

consider it necessary that JTS with support of MA develop an appropriate monitoring strategy which allows to assess continuously the quality and progress of the programme on the level of project, measure, priority and on the programme as a whole.

- Communication and Marketing

Marketing activities should be intensified in future in order to promote the publicity of the programme. A clear communication strategy should be established, not only among the programme partners but also to the wider audience and the public. As soon as possible a PR-Manager for the JTS should be recruited as it is planned. He or she should organize transnational Public Relations for the programme and projects and support the national information and publicity activities. The Alpine Space web site was and is the most important source of information for (potential) project applicants and interested parties. Therefore it is important that the existing information is always correct and up to date.

- Division of Task – Functions

There is an obvious lack of resources at JTS and partly at NCPs. Especially the JTS should have as soon as possible a complete team because they work on the limit at the moment. Furthermore the number of projects increases and so work for JTS becomes even more.

Presently the members of MC are to a great extent SC-Members and MC is an enlargement of the SC. This is partly a duplication of structures and not useful in the sense of a clear division of tasks between the two bodies. The advantage of at least better informed MC-Members cannot compensate the disadvantage of unclear implementation structures. The responsibilities of the SC and the MC have to be clearly defined and better coordinated, expanding the human resources for both committees (not the same persons in both Committees) should be envisaged. A clear leadership within the SC also spreading enthusiasm would be important because it motivates actors involved and for marketing issues to a wider audience. Precondition for a effective cooperation between programme management bodies is the continuity of personal contacts, therefore successors of leaving persons in SC and MC should be introduced in time.

The Conference of Regions is a big chance to involve actors and politicians at the regional level. It is regarded as an important platform for the regions also to foster better identification and political linking for the regions. A long-term vision for the Conference could be to define a clear role and function within the programme as a supporting body (e.g. to organise competitions and initiate pilot-actions and exchange of best practices).

Long-term recommendations

The question of identification and development of strategic projects seems to be an important one for the Alpine Space programme and its further implementation. It is dominating the present discussion of the Alpine Space programme and was already an important topic of some meetings of the National Coordinators. This discussion is partly a result of some shortcomings in the logic and coherence of the programme structure (see chapter 4). The programme document and the internal logic of programme objectives, priorities and measures are a product of consensus between the joint parties and nationalities. Different views between actors seemed to be discussed and solved in the course of programming, but was not the case thouroghly enough in many topics. Therefore these issues turn up again during programme implementation. With regard to programme progress we are sceptical wether strategic projects can be elaborated within this period but we do see the essential necessity to start a discussion about strategic projects already now with regard to the future development in the Alpine Space.

The discussion on strategic projects seems very important and should be enforced. It can give an essential background for the main topics of an Alpine Space programme of the next generation. The long-term goal of such a process is a transnational spatial vision for the Alpine Space which is of vital importance. External experts could support on the one hand strategic discussion process by clarifying positions and guiding the discussion and on the other hand the development of strategic projects, which deals with the implementation of strategic topics on project level.

With a view to the low absorption of priority 2 it could make sense to develop strategic projects in the field of mobility and sustainable transport systems in the Alps. We also want to suggest to widen the discussion platform on strategic topics besides the circle of National Coordinators. Participation of other Alpine organisations could to be useful. Another possibility to strengthen the focus on strategic issues is to make the development of such projects or development strategies eligible for funding, national or by ERDF.

In a next programme period financing of projects should be established through one common pot, in which all national co-funding means should be allocated (like in ESPON programme). With it the problem of national co-funding, influences of national interests in general and the continuous peering on national absorption quotas would be reduced and transnationality, the key factor of INTERREG B strand, supported. Further positive effects of such a structure is that cooperation difficulties at project level due to differences in the national contracting and funding can be reduced and implementation procedures should be slimed.

The role and function of the main implementation bodies on the operative level, MA and JTS, should be clarified in the future. Localising these bodies on different places (in running programme MA – Salzburg, JTS – Garmisch-Partenkirchen, shifting nowadays to Rosenheim)

and the formal independance of JTS from MA did not work out that well. MA is primarily responsible for the adequate administration of the programme. Insofar it relies on support of JTS and well developed communication and cooperation with JTS. To work hand in glove is much easier at a single location

For the next programming period we recommend, that an opportunity to support small budget transnational projects (similar to disposition funds in Euregios) will be foreseen. These projects should be assessed and implemented by a simplified procedure and should enhance the visibility and tangibility of the Alpine Space programme. Furthermore this facilitates the accessibility to the programme for small organisations, NGOs etc.

We are convinced that the programme is very reasonable and important and should be prolonged in a next period. The Alpine region as programme area is generally seen as a rather homogeneous region with similar problems and efforts in the future. In so far a transnational programme like the B strand of INTERREG seems to be very adequate for the Alpine region. The Alpine Space as a common geographical programme area should be maintained therefore in a next programming period.

ANNEX

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http://www.alpinespace.org/index.php?pid=2
http://www.salzburg.gv.at/themen/wt/regional/eu/interreg/interreg3b.htm
http://interreg3b.oerok.gv.at/channels/alpinespace/informationen/index.php
http://www.umweltministerium.bayern.de/bereiche/entwick/bereiche/instrume/alpenrau.htm
http://interreg.gov.si/indexen.html
http://www.interreg.ch/ir3_d.html
http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/index_fr.htm
http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/working/sf2000_en.htm
http://www.alpenkonvention.org
http://www.cipra.org/datenbankseiten/willkommen.asp?n_LID=1
http://www.alpmedia.net/index1.html
http://www.alp-info.net/
http://www.abis.int/preAC/home.de.htm
http://www.alpenforum.org/index.html
http://www.alparc.org/deu/index.phtml
http://www.argealp.org/index.shtml
http://www.alpinestudies.unibe.ch/wiko.html

List of approved Projects in the 1st Call

Following an overview is given of the projects within the different measures, its aims/content and partnerships, which were approved in the first call.

		Projects first call – 1st submission	Projects first call – 2nd submission
P 1	Measure 1.1		E-MOTION MARS TUSEC-IP
	Measure 1.2	NEPROVALTER VIA CLAUDIA AUGUSTA	ALLPS ALPINETWORK CARA QUALIMA SENTDEALPS
P 2	Measure 2.1		
	Measure 2.2	ALPENCORS'	ALPS MOBILITY II
P 3	Measure 3.1		ALPENERGYWOOD ALPINWINDHARVEST LIVING SPACE NETWORK MONARPOP
	Measure 3.2	CRAFTS CULTURALP HABITALP VIA ALPINA	DYNALP
	Measure 3.3	CATCHRISK	DISALP METEORISK NAB RIVERBASIN SISMOVALP

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

Measure 1.1: Mutual knowledge and common perspectives

This Measure promotes 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 the 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 provide partners with relevant information and to spread information and knowledge on social and spatial phenomena within the Alpine Space. This Measure encourages the development of a strong partnership between territories at all levels.

With the first call three projects have been approved under Measure 1.1. Those three projects are E-MOTION, MARS and TUSEC-IP. The approved ERDF-funding is in sum 1.963.851 € which corresponds to 30% of the capacity utilization.

E-MOTION

Partners: This project involves partners coming from France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

Aim: E-MOTION emphasizes a common construction of training contents, in order to facilitate mobility within Europe and a shared diploma reference system, including the validation of experience gained. Through distance learning and information technologies, considered as vectors for regional development within the Alpine space, E-MOTION proposes the implementation of economic, scientific and technical cooperation, as well as transfer of competencies around e-Learning and the share of knowledge, in order to improve the mobility of targeted population segments and to fight against unequal access to knowledge.

Funding: approved ERDF funding – 794.800 €.

MARS

Partners: MARS involves partners coming form Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: The aim of the project is to develop a database with indicators for monitoring sustainable development of the Alpine Space and all its regions, to analyze the results as a basis for the formulation of policy recommendation with respect to the promotion of the Alpine Space as a competitive and attractive living and economic space in the scope of a polycentric spatial development.

Funding: Approved for an ERDF co-funding of 312.500 €.

TUSEC-IP

Partners: TUSEC IP involves partners coming from Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: This project intends to contribute to a balanced and sustainable spatial development in the Alpine Space where soil and land are highly restricted resources. Partners from various countries will set up a tool for a better management of urban soils in planning procedures.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 856.551 €.

Measure 1.2: Competitiveness and sustainable development

This Measure is 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 cooperations among enterprises and institutions for technology transfer and to make disadvantaged regions attractive to potential investors.

In Measure 1.2 seven projects have been approved with the first call: ALLPS, ALPINETWORK, CARA, NEPROVALTER, QUALIMA, SENTEDALPS and VIA CLAUDIA AUGUSTA. With the total budget of 4.500.832 of ERDF funding, already 49,5 % of the funds are used.

ALLPS

Partners: are coming from France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

Aim: The ALPPS project wants to implement solutions to improve the access of SMEs to public contracts within the Alpine Space. For that purpose, the main activities will be the electronic dissemination of tenders to a panel of pilot SMEs, the development of an electronic guide summarizing all the useful legal information about public procurement in the Alpine Space, the organization of workshops about public procurement in all participating regions, and finally a SWOT analysis of the public procurement situation in the Alpine Space.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 412 390 €

ALPINETWORK

Partners: are coming form Austria, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: ANT coaches innovative IT pilot projects and implements transnational and intraregional networking, know-how transfer and education of "local innovators". The project activities are experimented within pilot telecentres. A socio-economic analysis will be conducted pre and post project. The projects also wants to raise awareness regarding the opportunities through ICT among the regional participants, SMEs, and in particular those re-entering the job market.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 700.403 €

CARA

Partners: are coming from Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: The objectives of the project are the improvement of cross-boarder participation of innovative SMEs in the 6th Framework programme. Stimulating technology and innovation cooperation between European SMEs through their participation in EU research and development programmes. Strategic analysis of the R&D policies and management of a SME to include short to medium term strategic development in the region. Integration and participation in other EU, national and regional programmes and projects.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 216.089 €

NEPROVALTER

Partners: are coming from Austria, Italy and Slovenia.

Aim: The project NEPROVALTER aims at developing of a network involving public institutions and farmers in the Alpine Space at a transnational level, to enhance the social and economical conditions of local populations, to preserve the environment of marginal mountain lands and to valorize Alpine cultural heritage and traditions with sustainable models. The results should help to increase the farmers income, the creation of new job opportunities, the application and diffusion of economic models compatible with the environmental quality and Alpine traditions, the dissemination of the rural and environmental culture especially to young people, the training of new operators.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 877.700 €

QUALIMA

Partners: are coming from Austria, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: The project proposes to carry out coordinated area systems which strengthen the existing structural and infra-structural networks matching them with human resources and territorial potentials – this because goods and services available for inhabitants are decreasing in mountain areas. These results will be based on the creation of polyfunctional centers/movable services where activities will be coordinated even through the use of ICT (tele booking, e-commerce, and e-government).

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 945.000 €

SENTEDALPS

Partners: are coming from Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: This Project aims to encourage the transfer of knowledge in the field of sport events management in the Alpine Space in order to promote an economic and tourist sustainable development in this space. Project will also try to catalyze the specific Alpine Space know-how in this domain within a network. This will help to develop this vast region in a coordinated polycentric and sustainable manner.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 349.250 €

VIA CLAUDIA AUGUSTA

Partners: coming from Italy, Austria and Germany.

Aim: Territorial promotion based on cultural heritage in the transnational area alongside the ancient roman road Via Claudia. The project aim to define a common strategy and best practices for the promotion of this transnational territory; its most important aspect is to create a network among all the actors involved The project is open to the contribution of the local partners as well as to the collaboration with other similar initiatives and envisage instruments, as a territorial brand, in order to ensure vitality of the initiative in the future.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 1.174.997 €

Priority 2: Development of sustainable transport systems with particular consideration of efficiency, intermodality and better accessibility

Measure 2.1: Perspectives and analyses

This Measure promotes the development of common perspectives and analysis in order to raise common issues and to propose common solutions for transport problems. The Measure intends to support the different actors of mobility by drawing their attention on long-range issues concerning sustainable transport. Traffic evolution, environmental and spatial concerns, technical regulations or improved connections are some of the issues that can be addressed through this Measure. The general objectives of this Measure are to develop strategies and instruments for sustainable transport systems taking into account the Alpine Convention, to increase the knowledge about the possibilities of, the acceptance for and the use of modern information technology for all social, labor and cultural groups of the Alpine Space and to improve the accessibility of public services and institutions to modern information technology.

Measure 2.1 is the only Measure where there is no project approved so far.

Measure 2.2: Improvement of existing and promotion of future transport systems by large scale and small scale intelligent solutions such as intermodality

Measure 2.2 promotes the development of intelligent solutions to upgrade existing transport systems or to develop future ones. The scope of Measures embraces all the aspects of mobility on different scales and fields of action. Passenger or good transport, infrastructure or mobility management, local or European concerns can thus be considered. This should lead to improve functionality and inter-modality of existing transport systems, to preserve the existing public transport systems and to improve their interconnectivity and to improve the accessibility of public services and institutions to modern information technology.

Measure 2.2 has two approved projects from the first call: ALPENCORS' and ALPS MOBILITY II. This projects claim 3.029.180 € of ERDF funding, which means 26,5 % use of the funds.

ALPENCORS'

Partners: coming from Austria, Italy and Slovenia.

Aim: The aim of ALPENCORS is to clarify what kind of problems are under laying the definition of Pan European Corridor N 5, of which we consider the central segment from West Mediterranean to Danube basin, southward of the Alpine chain.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 1.532.500 €

ALPS MOBILITY II

Partners: are coming from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland

Aim: ALPS MOBILITY II focuses on transnational and trans-sectoral cooperation to promote sustainable development in the Alpine Region by providing a combination of transalpine Measures for eco-tourism and eco-mobility. The project centers on an innovative eco-tourism and eco-mobility package called „Alpine Pearls", by linking the protection of the ecologically sensitive Alpine Space, the creation of environmentally sustainable transport for tourism and of new eco-tourism packages in the sense of win-win-strategies.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 1.496.680 €

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

Measure 3.1: Nature and resources, in particular water

Because Alpine ecosystems are very sensitive and at the same time unique they require common perspectives and management strategies, this Measure promotes the conservation and the valorization of the natural resources in particular water. The general objectives of this Measure are to reduce emission of pollutants to sensitive ecosystems such as mountain forests and all drinking water resources, to avoid uncontrolled exploitation of water resources and to promote its wise management in various fields (energy production, irrigation, drinking water, etc.).

Four projects are running in Measure 3.1 coming out of the first call: ALPENERGYWOOD, ALPINWINDHARVEST, LIVING SPACE NETWORK, MONARPOP. With the total budget of 2.042.436 ERDF funding, already 31,8 % of the funds are used.

ALPENERGYWOOD

Partners: are coming from Austria, France, Italy and Slovenia.

Aim: The aim is to gather and share knowledge and practices of professionals, local communities, and citizens of nine Alpine Space regions in the promotion of a natural local resource: wood-fuel. Therefore networking and knowledge-transfer, marketing campaign, trainings but also feasibility studies of industrial structures of wood fuels production should be fostered.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 851.000 €

ALPINWINDHARVEST

Partners: are coming from Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: Chief objective of this project is to develop and pull together knowledge and experience essential for developing, regulating and implementing wind power – one of the most promising new sources of renewable energy in the Alps. Transnational cooperation between scientists and practitioners will produce synergy effects and cross-fertilization with regard to problem awareness, data sets, new approaches and solutions for government and private actors. A common approach by states and regions concerned will encourage a harmonized European approach and a common interregional strategy to implement wind power in the Alpine Space.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 389.000 €

LIVING SPACE NETWORK

Partners: are coming from Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

Aim: The current project intends to establish the scientific fundamentals in terms of nature conservation, and to carry out pilot projects to gain experience for practical use. This implies above all close cooperation with those affected locally (communities, associations and property owners). This is accompanied by communicating the results obtained and the experience gained to interested circles (from the entire Alpine region and from countries acceding to the EU) by means of multimedia events, seminars etc.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 124.500 €

MONARPOP

Partners: are coming from Austria, Germany, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: MONARPOP will assess for the first time the load of the Alps with highly toxic and accumulating organic pollutants (POPs) and establish – on basis of the results – conclusions (e.g. a common declaration) and implementation steps to reduce this load. Target groups for the dissemination of conclusions, for awareness rising and for implementation steps will be local to national authorities, environmental, industrial and agricultural NGOs and international fora under the UN and the EU.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 676.715 €

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

Promoting the good management of natural and cultural landscapes and the cultural heritage through transnational cooperation in conservation and creative further development is the aim of Measure 3.2. The general objectives of this Measure are to improve connectivity, conservation and management of ecosystems and traditionally used cultural landscapes, to support landscape conservation and the use of traditional regional products and their manufacturing to stop land abandonment, to protect and improve the cultural heritage, to maintain and develop the regional diversity of cultural assets and to promote an active exchange, to maintain and manage typical landscape features and implementing the European Landscape Convention;

In Measure 3.2 five projects have been approved with the first call: CRAFTS, CULTURALP, DYNALP, HABITALP and VIA ALPINA.

With the total budget of 5.098.600 ERDF funding, already 79,4 % of the funds are used

CRAFTS

Partners: coming from Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: The project aims at bringing out the arts & crafts through the creation of synergies with tourism in order to lead to a new profession that of an arts & crafts tour operator. After a careful analysis of the traditional activities, rules and regulations will be worked out concerning how to award the title of “Shop of Excellence” and methodologies for the development of synergies between the different sectors will be developed.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 924.500 €

CULTURALP

Partners: are coming form Austria, France, Italy and Switzerland.

Aim: The historical pattern and socio- economic system of towns and villages in Alpine space are important both for local culture and European identity. The aims of the project are to protect and enhance that common heritage, improving the knowledge on characteristic features of historical alpine settlements and promoting integrated sustainable policies for interventions, taking into account different aspects of cultural, historical, social, economical and environmental identity, according to the spatial and economic context.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 725.000 €

DYNALP

Partners: are coming from Austria, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland

Aim: DYNALP serves the implementation of the Alpine Convention. App. 50 communities from the entire Alpine Space form an operational network to provide a dynamic stimulus for the rural Alpine Space. Objectives: 1. Implementation of projects for the protocols “tourism”, “environmental protection and landscape management”, “mountain farming”, “sustainable development and regional planning”. 2. Visualizing possibilities and developing positions with regards to European regional policies. 3. Increasing competence for sustainable development in small municipalities and regions.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 700.000 €

HABITALP

Partners: coming from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

Aim: The European Network NATURA 2000 demands the long term surveillance of natural habitats. As established in Berchtesgaden National Park, aerial photographs provide replicable and standardized methods for landscape surveillance on a scale of 1: 10.000. Main objective of

the project is to develop a transnational spatial database, which supports the analysis of alpine landscape, its structures, diversity and long term changes, particularly for NATURA 2000 habitats.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 688.500 €

VIA ALPINA

Partners: are coming from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: The project consists in establishing Via Alpine as the first identified hiking route linking the eight Alpine countries: Italy, Austria, France, Switzerland, Germany, Slovenia, Liechtenstein and Monaco. The trail network links sites of high natural and cultural value throughout the Alps and emphasizes the common Alpine identity. Multilingual tools are developed to insure its efficient promotion and provide the international public with an entry to each of the Alpine regions. Pilot projects are carried out to look into possible developments of sustainable tourism offers.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 948.598 €

Measure 3.3: Cooperation in the field of natural risks

This Measure aims to promote transnational cooperation to reach a common and clear understanding of the natural risk phenomena. Therefore land use, vegetation, water regime and climate changes have to be taken into account. Issues dealing with flooding will take into account the results and recommendations of respective projects in the previous Interreg IIC programme. General objectives are to avoid damages of lives and settlements through extreme natural hazards, to strengthen and conserve mountain forests and to analyze risks.

Six projects are running under Measure 3.3 coming out of the first call: CATCHRISK, DISALP, METEORISK, NAB, RIVERBASIN and SISMOVALP.

With the total budget of 4.029.098 ERDF funding, already 47 % of the funds are used

CATCHRISK

Partners: coming from Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

Aim: The first objective of this project is to create a shared approach for the definition of hydro-geological risk scenarios in Alpine catchments and on alluvial fans. Furthermore an evaluation of hazard and risk both in the catchments and on the alluvial fans will be examined and guidelines addressed to professionals and administrators to support decisions for improving water management, land use and protection Measures planning, and risk management will be developed.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 1.187.500 €

DISALP

Partners: are coming from Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: DIS-ALP will focus on the solution of the documentation of a broad and accessible information basis about former disasters in mountainous environment and the existing information gap about natural disasters: with the refinement and standardization of existing methods for the documentation of disasters and the implementation on a GIS-based web platform, with instruction materials and training of persons involved in event documentation and with new and innovative technological tools for the data collection in the field (integrating GPS, PDA and online maps).

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 380.000 €

METEORISK

Partners: are coming from Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: The object of METEORISK is to establish a network of online automatic meteorological stations densifying the existing station network, the improved interpretation of different regional models and radar data of the area, the optimized communication, common training and networking between the forecasters, the improvement of the interaction with the civil protection authorities and the public through adequate instruction material and a statistical analysis to quantify the occurrence of extreme events in the different part of the Alps.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 906.850 €

NAB

Partners: are coming from Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: The project will produce a transnational procedure combining the different sectoral risk assessment methods in place in the various regions. A general area assessment of the effects of site, vegetation cover, and land use on protection against flooding, erosion and mudslides will serve to develop harmonized handbooks and maps for transnational action in support of the protection-based management. An Internet-supported information system will provide general access to project data and will also serve as the basis for a transnational knowledge network. Application of the resulting process by public administrations will constitute practical implementation of the project results for the authorities.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 643.500 €

RIVER BASIN

Partners: are coming from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: The Alpine River Basin Agenda thereby makes innovative contributions in 10 selected river basins: from working focussed on the riverbed to planning and working in the whole river basin; from end of pipe Measures in the riverbed to the reduction of damage potential in the risk zones; from sectoral planning to integrated River Basin Management; new communication strategies to promote the bottom up approach to reach more acceptance. The River Basin Agenda aims to transfer innovative methods experimented on a small scale to larger areas.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 1.390.200 €

SISMOVALP

Partners: are coming from France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Aim: The project SISMOVALP will build a transnational database which can be used in the whole alpine space for seismic hazard studies. Representative alpine valleys shapes and earthquake scenarios will be defined and the associated vibrations will be calculated. Generic alpine spectra and accelerograms will be proposed and compared with the level of protection currently pursued at a national or European (EC8) scale. The improved seismic risk knowledge will be disseminated to civil engineers and local authorities in order to reduce our vulnerability to earthquakes in the alpine space.

Funding: approved for an ERDF co-funding of 559.600 €

List of Interviewees

Name	Institution	Function	Country	Programm management (a)/ project (b) level
Dafarra, Dr. Elisabeth; Mangiez, Sarah; Rothfuss, Rainer	JTS, c/o Alpenforschungsinstitut	employees of the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)	AT	a
Salletmaier, Dr. Christian	Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung, Abteilung 15	Head of MA, SC, MC	AT	a
Pesendorfer, Dr. Peter	Universität Salzburg, Institut für Politikwissenschaften (University of Salzburg, Dept. of Political Science)	LP of the project ALPINWINDHARVEST	AT	b
Holzer, Dr. Veronika	Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Economy	LP of the project ALPS MOBILITY II	AT	b
Staudinger, Dr. Michael	Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik, Regionalstelle für Salzburg und Oberösterreich	LP of the project METEORISK	AT	b
Rakowitsch, Dr.	EU-Programmgeschäftsstelle des Landes Kärntens	MC	AT	a
Wiederwald, Doris	Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz	NCP	AT	a
Kollarits, Dr. Stefan	Austrian Federal of Agriculture, Forestry	Projekt manager of the project DISALP	AT	b
Hilger, Mag. Sigrid	Amt der Tiroler Landesregierung, Abteilung Ic	SC, MC	AT	a
Moll, Jutta	Bundeskanzleramt Abteilung IV/4	SC, MC, NC	AT	a
Koellreuter, Christoph	Justizdepartement des Kantons Basel-Stadt/Schweiz Abteilung grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit und Außenbeziehungen	LP of the project MARS	CH	b
Jost, Silvia	Bundesamt für Raumentwicklung Bundeshaus Nord	NCP	CH	a
Brighenti, Olivier	Institut de Hautes Etudes en Administration Publique (IDHEAP)	PP of the project SENTEDALPS	CH	b
Semadeni, Cla	Amt für Raumplanung Graubünden	SC, MC	CH	a
Monney, Armand	Bundesamt für Raumentwicklung Bundeshaus Nord	SC, MC, NC	CH	a

Name	Institution	Function	Country	Programm management (a)/ project (b) level
Greim, Bertold	Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Landesentwicklung und Umweltfragen	LP of project RIVER BASIN	DE	b
Wegrampf, Dr. Günter; Honrich, Mr.; Gruban, Mr.	Stadt München, Referat für Umwelt und Gesundheit (RGU)	LP of the project TUSEC-IP	DE	b
Eggensberger, Dr.	National Contact Point (NCP), Markt Oberstaufen	NCP	DE	a
Plecher, Mr.	Auftragsberatungszentrum Bayern	PP of the project ALLPS	DE	b
d'Oleire-Oltmanns, Dr. Werner	Zukunft Biosphäre GmbH	PP of the project ALPS MOBILITY II	DE	b
Pössinger, Dr.	Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Landesentwicklung und Umweltfragen	SC, MC, NC	DE	a
Petrat, Mrs.; Wollte, Mr.	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Infrastruktur, Verkehr und Technologie, Referat IC2	Sub MC	DE	a
Dosch, Dr. Fabian	Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung (BBR)	Sub SC	DE	a
Adamski, Dolores	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Grenoble	LP of the project ALLPS	FR	b
Gérard, Marie-Maud	Institut Technique Européen du Bois	LP of the project ALPENENERGYWOOD	FR	b
Leroy, Francis; Eschenlohr, Elisabeth	GIP – Formation continue et insertion professionnelle d'Alsace	LP of the project E-MOTION	FR	b
Cotton, Prof. Fabrice	University Joseph Fourier of Grenoble	LP of the project SISMOVALP	FR	b
Lyard, Jean-Pierre; Morelle, Nathalie	Association "La Grande Traversée des Alpes"	LP of the project VIA ALPINA	FR	b
Peyrony, Jean	DATAR	MC	FR	a
Boissac, Francois	Direction of Coordinated Programmes at the Regional Council of Rhône Alpes	NCP	FR	a
Vincent, Jacques	Director of Coordinated Programmes at the Regional Council of Rhône Alpes	SC	FR	a

Name	Institution	Function	Country	Programm management (a)/ project (b) level
Migliorini, Franco	Veneto Region, executive of the Complex Unit – Regional Transport Plan	LP of the project ALPENCORS	IT	b
Pedrazzini, Luisa	Lombardia Region , Direction "Cultures, identity and autonomies of the Lombardia"	LP of the project CULTURALP	IT	b
Zuccon, Flavia	Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport, Direction of Community Programmes	MC	IT	a
Palamini, Cristina; Santarossa, Luca	Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport, Direction of Community Programmes	NCP	IT	a
Ottino, Michele	Parco Nazionale del Gran Paradiso	PP of the project HABITALP	IT	b
Debrando, Vito; Caligaris, Paolo	Region Piemonte	PP of the project VIA ALPINA	IT	b
Girotto, Fabio	Lombardia Region – Departement of Territory and Town-planning	SC	IT	a
Crocolo, Fabio	Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport	SC, MC, NC	IT	a
Looser, Remo	Stabsstelle für Landesplanung	NCP	LI	a
Walch, Walter	Stabsstelle für Landesplanung	SC, MC, NC	LI	a
Mansour, Asa	Ministy of Environment and Spatial Plannung	NCP	SI	a
Horvat; Ales	PUH d.d.	PP of the project DISALP	SI	b
Gulic, Peter	Ministy of Environment, Spatial Plannung and Energy, National Office for Spatial Planning	PP of the project MARS	SI	b
Krmelj, Dr. Vesta	Municipality of Maribor, Environmental protection agency	PP of the project TUSEC-IP	SI	b
Jancic, Magaritha	Ministy of Environment and Spatial Plannung Councellor to the Government	SC, MC, NC	SI	a

LP ... Lead Partner, PP ... Project Partner, MC ... Monitoring Committee, SC ... Steering Committee, NCP ... National Contact Point, NC ... National Coordinator

Questionnaires

INTERREG IIIB „Alpine Space“ – Programme

[questionnaire]
interviews of project partners

Questions on Process

I. Information about the programme

1. How did you get information on “Alpine Space” – programme? Who gave it?
2. Has the information been sufficient? If not, what was missing?

II. Application Procedure

3. Have you been satisfied with the information on the application procedure?
   Has it been easy for you to get the information? Who gave it? Did you get all the information you needed or was something missing?
4. Was it your first application or did you submit the application for the second time?
   If for the second time: For what reason was the application rejected for the first time?
5. Have you been satisfied with the application procedure? (application form, deadlines/ suggestions for improvement)
6. What is your opinion on the textual requirements concerning the application? (adequate, too high)
   - Selection criteria
   - lead partner principle
   - major difficulties (suggestions for improvement)
7. Have you been satisfied with the assessment and adoption procedures?
   Were the decisions comprehensible? Transparent?
8. Have you been satisfied with the advice and support by the JTS and NCP? (suggestions for improvement)
9. How does the co-operation work between JTS, NCP and National Committees regarding application procedure? Are there any inconsistency in information or double burden?
10. Did any problems occur as regards contracting? Did you receive your contract in time?

III. Payment

11. Have you got paid so far?
12. Have you been satisfied with the payment procedures?

Questions on Project

IV. Development of the Project

13. What has been at the beginning of the project
    ⇨ project idea
    ⇨ co-operation partners or contacts
    ⇨ information on funding opportunities
    [number all the way through]
14. Was it difficult to orientate the project towards the given priorities and measures of the programme?
15. How did you find your project-partners? (previous co-operation, help of JTS or NCP, other)
16. Would the project been implemented without INTERREG financing as well?
17. Has it been difficult to ensure the national co-financing?
    Who supported your search? (suggestions for improvement)
    Who co-finances your project?
18. What is the aim of your project? (short description)

V. Status of the Project

19. When did you start your project?
20. How far is your project preceded? Is it on target?
21. Does the project come up to your expectations so far? (experiences, results, learn-effects,….)
22. How successful does the co-operation with your partners pass off? Are there any difficulties? (communication, etc.)
23. Are there any synergies with other projects (, which are EU-co-funded)?

VI. Outlook

24. Will co-operation continue after the end of the project? (future plans)
25. Will you continue the work on the project task after the INTERREG funding?

General Impressions

26. Do you consider the “Alpine Space” – Programme as meaningful? Why (not)? (suggestions for improvement)
27. Do you find it possible to apply funding for a new project from INTERREG IIIB again?

Concluding: annotations, suggestions for improvement

Interviewing Guide for INTERREG III B Alpine Space Programme

Programme-Management-Level

I. Programme (in depth MA, National Coordinators)

1. To what extend you were involved in the Programming Process? (what was your function, role)
2. What is your general impression about the Alpine Space Programme? (strengths/weaknesses …)
3. Do you think there was a change in the basic conditions of the programme since the programming process? (e.g. conditions of national co-financing …)
4. What is your impression: How the programme is experienced by potential project applicants and by participating Nations and regions generally.
5. Are the coordination and the delimitation to other EU-programmes a problem? (INTERREG III A, other INTERREG III B programmes, Objective 2-Programme ….)
6. Can the general programme objectives be reached? (support of transnational cooperation, establishing Alpine Space as a powerful area in the European network of regions, initialising and support of sustainable development initiatives, fortification of the relationship between the alpine core region and the fringes of the Alps, improvements of accessibility and transport, protection and development of natural and cultural heritage)
7. Do you see any community added value of the programme? (e.g. permanent transnational cooperations ...)
8. Is there a need for change in consideration of programming? (e.g. another weighting of priorities and measures, the full membership of Slovenia in the EU, ….)

II. Implementation structure

<u>Organisation structure in general</u>

1. The organisation structure is very complex (MA, PA, JTS, NCP, SC, MC, National Coordinators, National Committees, Conference of Regions …)
   How well do these elements play together (weaknesses, lack of elements, suggestions for improvement)
2. Are the functions, tasks, responsibilities and competences of those elements clearly defined?
3. Are the procedures and processes clear and transparent?

4. How do you experience the collaboration in this structure? (frictions, weaknesses)

5. How relevant for cooperation are the differences in the administrative structure and processes of participating nations?

6. How relevant are sociocultural and linguistical differences?

7. How well does work the cooperation between transnational and national level of this structure? Are the responsibilities well-defined

8. How has the organisation structure in chronological respect developed? (phases of stability / instability, consolidation ...)

9. To what extend the implementation structure takes into account the horizontal themes Gendermainstreaming and sustainable development? (participation of environmental organisations and of equal opportunities, participation of men and women in decision making bodies ...)

10. Besides this formal structure are there informal structure and contacts, which add to programme implementation?

Working area of interview-partner *(for functions of the interview-partner please have a look in the address-list)*

11. What are your main functions and tasks within the scope of programme implementation?
if one has more functions/roles: Are these functions/roles always compatible or sometimes in conflict?

12. Which resources do you have available for the Alpine Space Programme? (time budget, Financing, staff member) Is it adequate?

13. Do you advise another EU-programmes?

14. How complex was the constitution of this implanting structure in your working area?

15. With which actors of implementing structure do you cooperate predominantly? How satisfied you are with this cooperation?

16. Where do you see the biggest problems in your working area for the programme?

Project selection (in depth NCP, JTS)

17. To what extend are you involved in project selection process?

18. What's your opinion about project selection procedure? (to complex, adequate; selection criteria …)

19. How do you consider the Lead-Partner-Principle?

20. Are there political influences on project selection?

21. Which role plays the national co-funding in project preparation phase?

22. Are there synergies between projects? (e.g. transnational working groups ...)

23. Has the quality of projects be increased until the second Call?

Monitoring and assessment *(in depth JTS, NCP)*

24. To what extend are you involved in monitoring and assessment of the programme?

25. How well works the Monitoring system? (status at the time, EDV-support, problems, suggestions for improvement)

Information and publicity (in depth JTS, NCP)

26. Which activities are carried out?

27. Are these activities effective and sufficient? (suggestions for improvement)

III. Status of implementation

Please inform you for this point on national and transnational website!

Programme as a whole (in depth MA, MC, SC, JTS)

1. For what reason there are under /over exhaustion in priorities and measures?

2. What you can do at programme-level against it? (specified calls for proposals, shifting of funds, programme changes ...)

National (in depth NCP, NC)

3. Are the implementation on the national side in plan?

4. If not: What are the reasons therefore? (problems of cofunding, ...)

To the end: Annotations, suggestions for improvement

Table A1: Ground table Alpine Space programme - Projects

	Projects	Funds			Submis-sion periode	Priority	Mea-sure	Lead-partner	Number of Projectpartner						
		ERDF	National	Total					A	F	G	I	LI	SLO	CH
1	E-Motion	794.800	1.293.400	2.088.200	2	1	11	F	0	6	3	6	0	0	7
2	Mars	312.500	1.032.500	1.345.000	2	1	11	CH	12	1	2	5	0	1	1
3	Tusec IP	856.551	1.142.331	1.998.882	2	1	11	G	3	0	3	2	0	1	1
4	Alpinetwork	700.403	1.004.023	1.704.426	2	1	12	A	3	0	0	2	0	1	1
5	Alpps	412.390	712.834	1.125.224	2	1	12	I	0	2	2	2	0	0	1
6	Cara	216.089	290.661	506.750	2	1	12	A	4	1	0	2	0	1	1
7	Neprovalter	877.700	913.700	1.791.400	1	1	12	I	2	0	0	5	0	1	0
8	Qualima	945.000	1.400.781	2.345.781	2	1	12	I	1	0	0	6	0	1	3
9	Sentedalps	349.250	652.250	1.001.500	2	1	12	CH	2	4	0	5	0	1	4
10	Via Claudia Augusta	1.000.000	1.000.000	2.000.000	1	1	12	I	1	0	1	5	0	0	0
11	Alpencors	1.532.500	1.602.500	3.135.000	1	2	22	I	4	0	0	9	0	1	0
12	Alps Mobility	1.496.680	1.720.280	3.216.960	2	2	22	A	6	3	2	4	0	0	3
13	Alpenergywood	851.000	1.158.300	2.009.300	2	3	31	F	2	1	0	4	0	1	0
14	Alpine Windharvest	389.000	609.000	998.000	2	3	31	A	2	1	0	1	0	1	1
15	Living Space Network	124.500	175.500	300.000	2	3	31	G	3	0	4	2	0	0	3
16	Monarpop	677.936	1.168.784	1.846.720	2	3	31	A	2	0	2	0	0	1	2
17	Catch Risk	1.187.500	1.308.300	2.495.800	1	3	33	I	2	0	1	6	0	0	1
18	Dis-Alp	380.000	605.000	985.000	2	3	33	A	3	0	1	2	0	1	1
19	Meteorisk	928.000	973.684	1.901.684	2	3	33	A	4	0	1	6	0	1	1
20	NAB	643.500	806.900	1.450.400	2	3	33	A	3	0	2	1	0	1	1
21	River Basin Agenda	1.400.000	1.938.600	3.338.600	2	3	33	G	4	1	1	2	0	1	1
22	Sismovalp	559.600	1.066.600	1.626.200	2	3	33	F	0	3	1	6	0	1	1
23	Crafts	924.500	1.004.500	1.929.000	1	3	32	I	1	1	0	5	0	4	1
24	Culturalp	767.500	897.500	1.665.000	1	3	32	I	1	1	0	4	0	0	1
25	Dynalp	700.000	1.441.932	2.141.932	2	3	32	A	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
26	Habitalp	688.500	796.500	1.485.000	1	3	32	G	1	3	1	5	0	0	1
27	Via Alpina	948.598	1.409.767	2.358.365	1	3	32	F	1	1	1	8	1	1	1
SUM		20.663.997	28.126.127	48.790.124					68	30	29	106	2	23	39

Table A1: Ground table Alpine Space programme - Projects

	Projects	joint nations	joint member states	Sum PP	Sum PP members	national funds						
						A	F	G	I	LI	SLO	CH
1	E-Motion	4	3	22	15	0	457.800	99.775	237.225	0	0	498.600
2	Mars	6	4	22	20	150.000	10.000	40.000	112.500	0	40.000	680.000
3	Tusec IP	5	3	10	8	155.060	0	549.616	151.875	0	20.000	265.780
4	Alpinetwork	4	2	7	5	348.714	0	0	351.689	0	27.020	276.600
5	Alpps	4	3	7	6	0	170.166	140.541	101.685	0	0	300.442
6	Cara	5	3	9	7	114.039	39.050	0	63.000	0	63.200	11.372
7	Neprovalter	3	2	8	7	222.150	0	0	655.550	0	36.000	0
8	Qualima	4	2	11	7	140.000	0	0	805.000	0	15.000	440.781
9	Sentedalps	5	3	16	11	15.000	150.000	0	184.250	0	0	303.000
10	Via Claudia Augusta	3	3	7	7	130.699	0	130.700	738.601	0	0	0
11	Alpencors	3	2	14	13	330.000	175.000	0	1.087.500	0	10.000	0
12	Alps Mobility	5	4	18	15	446.680	150.000	400.000	500.000	0	0	223.600
13	Alpenergywood	4	3	8	7	141.000	379.700	40.000	320.000	0	242.600	35.000
14	Alpine Windharvest	5	3	6	4	264.000	75.000	0	50.000	0	80.000	140.000
15	Living Space Network	4	3	12	9	37.500	0	63.000	24.000	0	0	51.000
16	Monarpop	4	2	7	4	426.936	0	251.000	90.000	0	370.000	30.848
17	Catch Risk	4	3	10	9	205.000	0	170.000	812.500	0	0	120.800
18	Dis-Alp	5	3	8	6	280.000	0	150.000	110.000	0	15.000	50.000
19	Meteorisk	5	3	13	11	462.000	0	10.000	463.500	0	5.184	33.000
20	NAB	5	3	8	6	361.200	0	152.500	250.200	0	33.000	10.000
21	River Basin Agenda	6	4	10	8	765.000	100.000	765.000	280.000	0	21.600	7.000
22	Sismovalp	5	3	12	10	0	180.000	50.000	329.600	0	40.000	467.000
23	Crafts	5	3	12	7	125.000	67.000	0	732.500	0	0	80.000
24	Culturalp	4	3	7	6	85.000	81.000	0	601.500	0	0	130.000
25	Dynalp	7	4	8	4	336.000	0	320.000	300.000	40.000	17.600	428.332
26	Habitalp	5	4	11	10	108.000	189.000	225.000	166.500	0	0	108.000
27	Via Alpina	7	4	14	11	167.212	209.841	71.545	520.000	46.029	26.500	368.640
SUM				297	233	5.816.190	2.433.557	3.628.677	10.039.175	86.029	1.062.704	5.059.795

Table A1: Ground table Alpine Space programme - Projects

		ERDF				
	Projects	A	F	G	I	total
1	E-Motion	0	457.800	99.775	237.225	1.293.400
2	Mars	150.000	10.000	40.000	112.500	1.032.500
3	Tusec IP	155.060	0	549.616	151.875	1.142.331
4	Alpinetwork	348.714	0	0	351.689	1.004.023
5	Alpps	0	170.167	140.540	101.683	712.834
6	Cara	114.039	39.050	0	63.000	290.661
7	Neprovalter	222.150	0	0	655.550	913.700
8	Qualima	140.000	0	0	805.000	1.400.781
9	Sentedalps	15.000	150.000	0	184.250	652.250
10	Via Claudia Augusta	130.699	0	130.700	738.601	1.000.000
11	Alpencors	330.000	170.000	0	1.032.500	1.602.500
12	Alps Mobility	446.680	150.000	400.000	500.000	1.720.280
13	Alpenergywood	136.300	354.700	40.000	320.000	1.158.300
14	Alpine Windharvest	264.000	75.000	0	50.000	609.000
15	Living Space Network	37.500	0	63.000	24.000	175.500
16	Monarpop	336.936	0	251.000	90.000	1.168.784
17	Catch Risk	205.000	0	170.000	812.500	1.308.300
18	Dis-Alp	120.000	0	150.000	110.000	605.000
19	Meteorisk	462.000	0	10.000	456.000	973.684
20	NAB	240.800	0	152.500	250.200	806.900
21	River Basin Agenda	510.000	100.000	510.000	280.000	1.938.600
22	Sismovalp	0	180.000	50.000	329.600	1.066.600
23	Crafts	125.000	67.000	0	732.500	1.004.500
24	Culturalp	85.000	81.000	0	601.500	897.500
25	Dynalp	245.000	0	234.500	220.500	1.441.932
26	Habitalp	108.000	189.000	225.000	166.500	796.500
27	Via Alpina	16.721.214	20.984.056	7.154.558	50.000.003	1.409.767
SUM		21.649.092	23.177.773	10.371.189	59.377.176	28.126.127

Table A2

National and total Project partizipation after Priorities and Measures

	A			F			G			I			LI			SLO			SWISS			total				
	p	pp	mpp	p	pp	mpp	p	pp	mpp	p	pp	mpp	p	pp	mpp	p	pp	mpp	p	pp	mpp	p	pp	mpp	ppa	mppa
	Priority																									
Priority 1	8	28	3,5	5	14	2,8	5	11	2,2	10	40	4,0	0	0	0,0	6	7	1,2	8	19	2,4	10	119	11,9	42	2,8
Priority 2	2	10	5	2	3	1,5	1	2	2,0	2	13	6,5	0	0	0,0	1	1	1,0	1	3	3,0	2	32	16,0	9	3,6
Priority 3	14	30	2,1	8	13	1,6	12	16	1,3	15	53	3,5	2	2	1,0	10	15	1,5	15	17	1,1	15	146	9,7	76	1,9
	Measure																									
Measure 1.1	2	15	7,5	2	7	3,5	3	8	2,7	3	13	4,3	0	0	0,0	2	2	1,0	3	9	3,0	3	54	18,0	15	3,6
Measure 1.2	6	13	2,2	3	7	2,3	2	3	1,5	7	27	3,9	0	0	0,0	4	5	1,3	5	10	2,0	7	65	9,3	27	2,4
Measure 2.2	2	10	5	2	3	1,5	1	2	2,0	2	13	6,5	0	0	0,0	1	1	1,0	1	3	3,0	2	32	16,0	9	3,6
Measure 3.1	4	9	2,3	2	2	1,0	3	6	2,0	4	7	1,8	0	0	0,0	3	3	1,0	4	6	1,5	4	33	8,3	20	1,7
Measure 3.2	5	5	1	4	7	1,8	3	3	1,0	5	23	4,6	2	2	1,0	3	7	2,3	5	5	1,0	5	52	10,4	27	1,9
Measure 3.3	5	16	3,2	2	4	2,0	6	7	1,2	6	23	3,8	0	0	0,0	5	5	1,0	6	6	1,0	6	61	10,2	30	2,0
SUM	24	68	2,8	15	30	2,0	18	29	1,6	27	106	3,9	2	2	1,0	18	23	1,3	24	39	1,6	27	297	11,0	128	2,3

p ..... number of projects
pp ..... number of project partner
mpp.... mean of project partner
ppa... number of projectpartizipation
mppa.. mean of project partizipation