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“CARPATHIAN PROJECT”

Workpackage 2.9

Lessons learned

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Index:

Lessons learned and information on transnational and cross-border- cooperation for the Carpathian Project and Process	5
Introduction:.....	5
Basic development challenges of the Carpathian Area in the past and in the present	5
Major government programmes initiated in the last century in the Carpathian Area	6
Description of the Cases	7
EU-Structural Fund Programmes in the Carpathian Area	16
Cross-border-cooperation programmes	16
Poland-Slovakia.....	16
The Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Neighbourhood Programme.....	17
Czech Republic – Slovakia cross-border programmes.....	18
Hungary - (Romania) - Slovakia- Ukraine Neighbourhood Programme.....	18
Transnational cooperation in the framework of INTERREG IIIB CADSES Neighbourhood Programme	19
PLANET- CENSE.....	20
ED-C III and EU-CORe III	20
Mister and READY	20
Shining Mountains and ITER.....	21
CHIRON and HERITOUR.....	21
Parks&Economy, ITACA and CULTURAL LANDSCAPE.....	21
RIMADIMA.....	21
FLOODMED, MOSES	21
Experiences from the Alpine Space	22
Tradition in Cooperation:.....	22
Governmental and Non-Governmental Working communities, Networks and Associations	22
ARGE ALP.....	22
COTRAO	22
ALPE ADRIA.....	23
CIPRA:	23
Association - Alpine Town of the Year.....	24
Community Network - Alliance in the Alps	24
Alpine Network of Protected Areas	25
ForumAlpinum and ISCAR – research platform.....	25
Future in the Alps	26

Transnational cooperation in the Alps in the framework of structural fund programmes:.....	27
Pilot Action Programmes - Eastern Alps and INTERREG IIC for the Western Mediterranean and Latin Alps	27
INTERREG IIB Alpine Space	28
Delineation:	28
Overall statistics	29
Projects on economic and spatial development.....	30
AlpCity	30
Diamont.....	30
Know For Alps.....	30
MARS:.....	31
Via Alpina/Via Adventure	32
AlpsHealthComp.....	33
Nena	33
PUSEMOR	34
RegioMarket.....	34
Sentedalps.....	35
Projects on sustainable mobility and transport systems.....	36
Alps Mobility II.....	36
Alpine Awareness	36
Mobilalp.....	37
Projects on Natural Heritage	37
Dynalp	37
Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:	38
Alpencom.....	38
AlpNaTour	39
Habitalp.....	39
Projects on sustainable energy	39
AlpEnergyWood.....	39
Projects on climate issues and natural hazard mitigation:	40
Meteorisk	40
ForAlps.....	40
DIS-ALPS	41
NAB	41
River Basin Agenda	42
Climchalp.....	42
INTERREG - IIC	43
Euromountains.....	43
Destilink	44
Tourismpartners Europe	44
EUROREGIONS IN CARPATHIAN AREA.....	46
Overview:.....	46
Case studies from Romania:.....	48
Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisza Euroregion	48
Euroregion Danube 21 st Century	50
The Middle Danube - Iron Gate Euroregion.....	52
Upper Prut Euroregion	52
Bihar-Hajdú-Bihar Euroregion	53
The Carpathian Euroregion	54

2008. 03. 28.

Case studies – Projects in Romania or with Romanian participation:.....	55
Forest Development Project (FDP)	55
General Cadastre & Land Registration Project	56
Donauregionen –	58
READY –	60
Mine Closure, Environmental and Socio-Economic Regeneration Project	62
Mine Closure and Social Mitigation Project effects report.....	66
Conclusions and Outlook	71
Government programmes and Carpathian Euroregion:.....	71
Deduced recommendations for an envisaged future EU-Carpathian Programme:.....	71
Lessons Learnt from EU-Programmes and –Projects and Euregions.....	72
Outlook on the new EU-Programming Period (2007-2013)	74
Recommendations	76

Lessons learned and information on transnational and cross-border-cooperation for the Carpathian Project and Process

Introduction:

The aim of the 2.9 action is to collect and analyze those experiences and information which may help and support the preparation of the strategic documents of the Carpathian project (VASICA, Working Groups), and contribute to project development in the framework of the follow-up platform.

This document summarizes:

- Description and evaluation of major government programmes, initiated by the respective governments in the last century and in the Carpathian area. Their experiences are of special importance for the formulation of the main policy proposals in the Carpathian area.
- The main features of cross-border Structural Funds Programmes in the Carpathian Space, their eligible areas, their priorities and measures, their financial conditions; and project examples.
- The relevant projects of the INTERREG IIIB Programmes CADSES and Alpine Space, which dealt with topics and generated experiences of importance for the Carpathian Space.
- Institutional solutions and experiences from the Alpine Space of interest for the Carpathian area.
- Overview on established Euroregions in the Carpathian area with specific focus on the Romanian experience.
- Case studies on projects carried out in or with the participation of Romania

Basic development challenges of the Carpathian Area in the past and in the present

1. The Carpathian area belongs to the less developed areas, even in Central European context. Mountain areas are less suitable for agriculture; arable areas cannot reach to areas higher than 600-700 metres. The mountains of younger geological origin, like the Carpathian, are not rich in mineral resources. Some oil and other resources were found rather at the foot of the mountains, where the plains and mountainous areas meet. In addition, mountain ranges made the whole area less accessible.

2. Despite of these unfavourable conditions, population density was relatively high, surpassing the carrying capacity of the area. The result was poverty and high emigration from the area in the last hundred – hundred fifty years. The Carpathian area was one of the regions with the highest emigration in Europe in this period. But agricultural overpopulation caused also other unfavourable developments in the area. Areas unsuitable for agricultural production were cultivated causing serious erosion and loss of fertile soil. Pastures were overgrazed, causing again intensive erosion.
3. In addition to unfavourable natural conditions and demographic situation, political conditions were also unfavourable in the area. For centuries, the large part of the Carpathians was peripheral and neglected border area. One part of it (between Slovakia and Poland) is still border area. The other parts are now inside the countries of the Ukraine and Romania, but the new situation caused other problems. In the Ukraine, Transcarpathia the area, isolated by the mountain range from the other parts of the country, became even more peripheral than before. In Romania, the country is divided into two parts by the Carpathians and the mountain range remained in some sense – an obstacle of full national integration.
4. The promotion of the development of the Carpathian area was not enhanced by the circumstance that in most countries it was not inhabited by the titular nation, but by ethnic minorities. In the pre-World War I Hungary Carpathians were inhabited by Slovaks, Rusyns and Romanians. In post-World War I Poland and Czechoslovakia a large part of the Carpathians was inhabited by Ukrainians and Rusyns, in Romania some parts by Hungarians.
5. Nearly forty years of communist centrally planned economy caused substantial damage to the Carpathian area. The system of central planning did not consider the specificities of the mountainous areas, they applied uniform methods by setting planning targets as in other parts of the respective countries. Serious deforestation took place in the Ukraine and Romania in this period. Collective farms were organised in areas, where conditions are unfavourable for large scale farming. In some mountainous areas in Romania, collectivising was not carried out, but agriculture in these areas did not enjoy any state supports. Industrialisation was implemented in the Slovak Carpathians and in some parts of the Romanian Carpathians (Brasov), but a large part of it represented arms industries. The mountainous areas could offer opportunities for tourism, but tourism was not a preferred sector in the socialist economy. International tourism was rather restricted in some countries hermetically isolated from the outside world.

Major government programmes initiated in the last century in the Carpathian Area

In the framework of the “Lessons learned” action socio-economic development programmes of the past, prepared for some parts of the Carpathian area and implemented there fully or partly, were analysed. The implementation, success or

failure of these programmes can provide many lessons for the present and future, by analyzing following questions:

- What were (are) the basic socio-economic challenges in the Carpathian area and how tried the relevant governments to face these challenges in the last century?
- What were the objectives set for the programmes?
- What were the instruments applied to implement the programmes? What was the scale and scope of the programmes?
- What were the main successes achieved, and what were the main mistakes committed during the implementation of the programmes?
- How are to be evaluated these programmes, and what are the lessons for the future?
- What transnational cooperation schemes were created so far to cope with the development problems of the Carpathians and how can be assessed these initiatives?
- What conclusions can be drawn from these earlier initiatives for the present Carpathian project?

This part of the study consists of two sub-chapters: In the first part, examined cases from the past are shortly described. In the third part some more general conclusions and lessons are drawn from the cases described.

Description of the Cases

In the following pages five cases will be examined and shortly described. The cases are spread over a rather long period of time: from the end of the 19th century to the present. The geographical spread covers Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and the Ukraine.

Four of the cases refer to some national development programmes in the Carpathian area. The last one refers to a transnational cooperation initiative covering all of the mentioned countries: the Carpathian Euroregion. The table below summarises the basic indicators of the cases:

No.	Name of the programme	Implementing country	Period of implementation	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus
1.	Government actions to revitalize alpine agriculture	Hungary	1892-1911	North-Eastern and Eastern Carpathians	Agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry
2.	Central Industrial Region	Poland	1936-1939	Northern and North-Eastern Carpathians	Infrastructure, heavy industries
3.	Industrialisation of Carpathian Slovakia	Slovakia	1950-1980	Western and Northern Carpathians	Arms and other engineering industries
4.	Jiu Valley Region Development Plan	Romania	1991-	Southern Carpathians	Coal mining

5.	Carpathian Euroregion	HU, PL, SK, RO, UA	1992-	North-Eastern Carpathians	Transnational spatial development cooperation
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1. The Hungarian programme to revitalize Alpine agriculture in the North-Eastern and Eastern Carpathians 1892-1911

Before World War I, a large part of the Carpathians belonged to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and within it the larger part to Hungary. The North-Eastern and the Eastern Carpathians were the poorest, most underdeveloped part of the then Hungary. The Hungarian government of the time was committed to economic liberalism, but the situation was so severe in the North-Eastern Carpathians that the government decided to take “government actions” in this area in the 1890’s. It is interesting also from the point of view that it was one of first targeted state regional development programmes in Europe. The initiator and organiser of the programme was the Minister of Agriculture of the Hungarian government, Ignác Darányi.

The first “action programme” was targeted to the Rusyn and Romanian rural population of the counties Ung, Bereg, Maramures and Bistrita-Nasaud. The primary aim of the action programme was to improve the conditions of alpine agriculture and animal husbandry as well as reforestation of the area. Through these measures the conditions of existence of the population should have been improved. The situation was especially critical in Bistrița-Nasaud-county, where municipal forests timber trade fell into the hands of entrepreneurs, who pursued ruthless exploitation of the forests and the villages were deprived of their basis of existence, from the forests and from wood-working industry. Here, forest have been re-nationalised in the 1890s, areas were reforested and municipalities were relieved of their accumulated debt. The state constructed, furthermore, several logging railroads and their ownership was transferred to the municipalities with the condition, the profit should be utilised for cultural purposes.

Another action in the Ruthenian area proved to be less successful. The government selected some farmers to become model farmers. They received state support and it was hoped that their farm and their activity will have a demonstration effect on other farmers in the village.

But this act aroused rather envy, suspicion of corruption, internal tension and discord in the respective communities.

The second Carpathian action of the government started in 1902. In contrast to the earlier action, it was targeted on the ethnic Hungarian population, the Székler, inhabiting the Eastern Carpathians. In 1902, a congress was organised in Tușnad, devoted to the Székler population. Transylvania and especially the Szekler-land belonged to the less developed and poorest areas of Hungary at the beginning of the 20th century. The liberal economic policy of the then Hungarian government offered some – regionally not differentiated – support and allowances to further industrial development, but in the Szeklerland other serious problems neutralized this support. For small- and medium industrial entrepreneurs the Hungarian core area was far away, their main market was in Old-Romania

2008. 03. 28.

(Regat). But at the beginning of the 20th century a “tariff war” began between Romania and Austria-Hungary and small and medium industrial entrepreneurs and craftsmen in Transylvania and Szekler-land were the main loser of this war. Therefore the Tuşnad congress declared that without state support, the decline of economic activity and living standard in the Eastern Carpathian could not be halted. The government accepted this challenge. The Szekler-programme included the following measures:

- government subsidy to loans to farmers wanting to modernize and enlarge their farms,
- government support to farmers without land to land purchase
- free courses and training for farmers in modern agricultural methods;
- support to young people to learn and acquire an industrial skill (unfortunately, in absence of industrial plants in the Szekler-land, skills could be learned only in other parts of the country and, after acquiring the skills ,many young men did not return to their homeland).
- Incentives to migrate to other parts of the country (especially Budapest) where there was a labour shortage.

Initially, in 1902, the action programme was restricted to the Szekler counties (Csík, Háromszék, Udvarhely). In 1905 it was extended to some counties of mixed population (Torda-Aranyos, Kis-Küküllő). In 1909, it was extended to three counties Kolozs (Cluj), Alsó-Fehér (Alba) and Szilágy (Salaj). Before World War I, the government offered to extend the programme to all Transylvanian counties if the Romanian M.P.-s abandon the boycott of the Budapest parliament. The outbreak of the war crossed this plan.

2. The Polish programme to establish a Central Industrial Region (Centralny Okręg Przemysłowy, COP) in the foreland of the Carpathians, 1936-39

The Central Industrial Region (Centralny Okręg Przemysłowy - COP) was one of the biggest economic projects of the Second Polish Republic. The 4-year long project was initiated by the deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski. Its goal was to create a heavy industrial centre in the middle of the country as far as possible from the German and Soviet borders (from the south they did not expect any invasion), to strengthen the Polish economy and to reduce unemployment. The 4-5 year plan of development of the COP was scheduled from 1 September 1936 until 30 July 1940 and was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. Nonetheless, the COP project has succeeded in vastly expanding Polish industry, and after the end of the war COP was rebuilt and expanded.

Since 1928, there were recurring attempts in Poland to create a “triangle of security”, an industrial region in the middle of the country, secured from any invasion by Germany or Soviet Russia. By April 1938 the plan was set in motion and expanded to territories beyond the early plan for the most secure “triangle”. COP was localised on the territories of the following former voivodships: Eastern parts of Kielce and Kraków voivodship, southern part of Lublin voivodship and western part of Lwów voivodship. Though it was said to be the middle of the country, it coincides more or less to the foreground of the present Polish

2008. 03. 28.

Carpathians. The reason for it is that invasion or attack was expected from the East and from the West and not from the South. In other terms it included 46 powiats, constituting 15.4 % of the territory of Poland and inhabited by 17 % of the population. It was less urbanized and poorer than the Polish average. The arguments for such location of the COP were:

- a. military: relatively long distance from Western border, protected from south by the Carpathian Mountains
- b. demographic: fairly high density of population (11 per square km) with high unemployment (400-700 thousand)
- c. economic: strengthening the market for the agricultural products of Eastern Poland, for the industrial products of Western Poland and energy supply for Southern Polans. In addition, this region had some undeveloped natural resources (stone, iron, clay, plus some energy resources)
- d. social: reducing high unemployment in this mostly agricultural region.

The COP required gigantic financial investment – only the cost of the development of the infrastructure and of the arms industry was estimated at 3 billion złoty. As there were growing expectations for a European war, private investors in Europe were rather unwilling to invest in Poland, thus the Polish government carried most of the burden of financing the project in the years 1937-39. COP had absorbed approximately 60 percent of all Polish investment funds.

The following industrial projects were part of the plan. Steel mill and electric power plant in Stalowa Wola, rubber factory in Dębica, aircraft factory in Mielec aircraft engine and artillery factory in Rzeszów, hydroelectric power plants in Rożnów and Myszkowice, expansion of the Zakłady Azotowe in Mościce. Most of these investments were located in regions with high unemployment, their construction contributed to the mitigation of social tensions and to the strengthening of the Polish economy.

However, as the date for completion of the plan was set for the end of July 1940, and Poland did not have sufficient capital to carry out the entire plan from the means of its own, few of the planned projects were completely operational before the war broke out, and many others were not yet started at all. After the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia, German forces were able to attack Poland also from the south, so the COP region failed in being the secure haven for Polish industry. During the German occupation a part of the factories became destroyed, others were converted to contribute to the German war effort. After the war, the COP-initiated industrial enterprises were reconstructed, further expanded and for the most part continue to function until today.

3. The industrialisation programme of Carpathian Slovakia 1950-1980

At the beginning of the 20th century the northern part of present Slovakia suffered from the same problems as all Carpathian regions: bad agricultural endowments, agricultural overpopulation, high natural increase, strong emigration. Nevertheless, it was a relatively more developed part of Hungary, and especially small and medium size firms in chemical -, paper-, leather-, wood-working-, glass- and porcelain- (china) industries represented a fairly large share in Hungarian industry. Approximately 20 percent of Hungarian industrial production

2008. 03. 28.

(and 40 percent of production outside of Budapest) was located in the area of present Slovakia. Naturally, it was only a very small fraction of the Czech industry which represented 70-80 percent of the production in the industrially more developed Austrian part of the Dual Monarchy.

Nevertheless, the first decade after the foundation of Czechoslovakia was very disadvantageous if not disastrous for Slovak industry. It has not only lost its Hungarian market, but it became the "last resort" for selling the surpluses of Czech industry which – through the dismemberment of the Monarchy – also lost its tariff free and monopolised market of 50 million within the Austro-Hungarian state. The nascent Slovak industry could not cope with the Czech competition, in the first years many firms stepped out of the market.

From the point of view of infrastructure development, transport, educational, cultural, social and health services the common state of Czechoslovakia contributed very significantly to the modernisation and development of Hungary. In respect to industry – at least in the first decades – it was not the case. In the 1930s, however, and during World War II, Slovak industry started to develop quite dynamically.

After World War II, the situation changed radically. Slovakia became the main focus of Czechoslovak industrial development. The reasons were the stronger lobbying potential of the Slovak leadership in this respect, the mechanic imitation and servile following of the Soviet practice, where defence industries (within a much different spatial dimension) were located in the Eastern part of the country. But, a certain role has been played also by the sincere intention, to implement the requirement and idea of convergence in regional development.

New plants were located mostly in the Northern – Carpathian – half of Slovakia, especially in the valleys of the rivers Vah and Hron. The majority of the new plants belonged to the heavy industries and within it, to arms industries. The huge concentration of these industries in Northern and North-Western Slovakia – in Martin, Dubnica, Detva, Považská Bistrica- was significant even in European context. By the 1980s, the degree of Slovak industrialisation matched the Czech level, in respect to defence industries even surpassed it substantially.

After 1989, it became just one of the main problems of Slovakia. The arms markets of the former Warsaw Treaty countries had disappeared and for democratic European countries it became not "comme il faut" to sell armament to Third World dictators or to tribal armies, fighting each other. Arms sales of the Slovak plants had to be reduced radically. and also the president of Czechoslovak state, Vacláv Havel, advocated the total ban on arms sales in this situation.

Unemployment augmented suddenly and substantially in these Carpathian regions. The only regional development fund of Slovakia, the Development Fund for the Považie and Kysuce, was allocated to this region. The situation was dramatic because these regions – at least some of them – used to be the favourite and wealthier regions of Slovakia. The crisis of these regions lasted until the end of the nineties. By 2003, through restructuring and privatisation, the crisis was overcome. Anyway, the Northern and North-Western regions of Slovakia belong to the more successful Carpathian regions in All-Carpathian context.

4. The crisis and rehabilitation plan of the Jiu Valley Region, Southern Carpathians, Romania, 1991-

In the recent decades several programmes of the restructuring of energy production and consumption have been implemented in Europe, also in the Carpathian countries. In this framework, several closures of coal mines took place as well. Obviously, the implementation of these programmes entailed tensions and problems everywhere. The Jiu Valley restructuring programme, however, is unique in the sense that after 20 years of efforts and bailing out operations the solution is not yet in the horizon. Bad management and political intervention resulted in this dramatic situation, in that sense there are several lessons which are to learn from this case.

The Jiu Valley represents a geographically self-contained area of approximate 1000 km², with a total population of 147.735 and an urban area formed by a cluster of six cities. The Jiu Valley is an economically and socially distressed area, which has been almost entirely dependent on hard coal mining for its historic growth and economic viability. The economy and the living conditions of its inhabitants have been severely affected by reforms undertaken in Romania after 1990, transforming the population of Jiu Valley from one of the richest into a below-average one. Restructuring of the coal mining industry further aggravated the economic dislocation caused by the country's ongoing transition to a market economy. The Jiu Valley is characterized by degraded and high density housing; craterlike industrial landscape and rock piles; rundown pit workings; aged and ugly industrial structures, mostly abandoned; corroded plant and machinery, voluminous metal scrap; and highly polluted river and water sources.

While the area represents a small portion of Romania's territory and population, the numerous and sometimes violent miners' marches to Bucharest (called "mineriade"), resulted in significant political costs for the Romanian government, including, among other consequences, (1) the fall of the government in place in 1991 and suspension of the negotiations for European Union accession, and (2) the general political instability in the country arising as recently as in 1999.

For decades, the main economic driver in the Jiu Valley region was hard coal mining industry, which still accounts for somewhat less than half of total labour wages and for one third of the value added creation. Directly and indirectly 75 to 80 percent of the income in the region depends upon the evolution of the coal extracting sector. The lagging economic performance of coal mining and the political consequences wrought by miners' fears and growing social discontent among the region's populace, led the government to undertake support policies that have proved to be increasingly unsustainable. These policies sustained an unprofitable industry and created an environment of higher-than-average levels of pay. This paternalistic approach eliminated local community involvement in the development process. Education and retraining remained unadjusted to the economic needs of the region. The labour market is highly inflexible, with high wages as compared with national standards and extremely high share of non-wage forms of labour payment (free electricity, heating, etc.). A well-developed culture of professional management, as well as the desire to embrace technological innovation and change is altogether lacking from the region. Additionally, income disparities between the rich and poor in the Valley have increased, in large part resulting from labour retrenchment of the Coal Mining Company.

Further retrenchments of the Coal Mining Company, within the foreseen overall coal industry restructuring, will have further spillover effects. These include, among others, the energy sector, machinery and heavy equipment suppliers, the food industry, and the construction materials industry.

The business environment in the region is fairly inhospitable. Barriers to entry include weak legal and regulatory environment, weak local institutions, administrative barriers, poor land management and use, low levels of trade with the rest of the country and the rest of the world, also because of poor road and telecommunication systems; low levels of investment-

Utility infrastructure is in poor shape and requires repair/upgrading, yet resources are scarce, also due to the consumers' capability and willingness to pay for services. In energy distribution, for example, no charge is associated with some older facilities, as miners and ex-miners expect such services as benefits. Hence, over-consumption has become the norm.

The majority of land available for economic development is currently occupied – often for housing or unproductive industrial use, or has questionable ownership or legal status, hindering its transfer to new investors. The housing stock quantitatively fulfills population demands, but includes abandoned or half-constructed structures. The quality is generally poor, due primarily to a lack of resources for providing access to amenities and for properly managing the housing stock. The quality of public services and public spaces is poor and deteriorating, contributing to the inhabitant's negative attitudes and worries for the future. Lack of resources and capabilities are compounded by a lack of coordination among various service developments.

Priorities of the restructuring and rehabilitation programme:

The current priorities can be subsumed into a four-part staged approach, grounded in the core objectives of removing barriers to growth and establish, or re-establish institutions and resources necessary for growth. These are:

Reform of public structure management to

- ensure strong leadership for a complex coordinated, multi-sector strategy;
- guide public relations to drive intra-regional support for the development agenda and to improve the image of the Jiu Valley Region outside the region;
- improve spatial development and land use through effective urban planning and management;
- alleviate poverty and offer social assistance during this time of significant transition.

Strengthening of the business environment to

- endure the restructuring of the existing hard coal industry;
- identify and encourage growth among new industries;
- remove current barriers to entry for new firms;
- mobilize human capital towards new industries.

Restoration of the natural environment for

- the promotion of potential growth in tourism;
- the limitation of liability to encourage investment by private enterprise;
- improve quality of life.

Investing in infrastructure to

- foster the growth of new industries;
- open the JiuValley Region to outside regions and economies;
- demonstrate immediate improvements in order to bolster support for the development programme.

5. Carpathian Euroregion and Carpathian Foundation - Their birth and their activities 1992 – till now

After the democratic change in Central and Eastern Europe, enthusiasm for transnational and cross-border cooperation increased both within the respective countries and outside the region. A New York based institute, the Institute for East-West Studies, took the initiative in 1991, and proposed to establish cooperation in the area where the borders of 5 counties meet: it is the North-Eastern Carpathians, where the borders of Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and of the Ukraine meet in a 30 km radius circle. The family of the director of the Institute, Mr. John Edwin Mroz, stemmed from this area. That was one reason for his and his institute's commitment to the cause of transnational cooperation in the region.

But, after the first months of general enthusiasm, already the first steps of organisation met some difficulties. Initially, in 1992, counties and districts from all 5 counties applied for membership in the cooperation scheme. But the governments of Slovakia and Romania vetoed their application with the argument: their regions had not the competence to enter into international contractual relationship without the permission of the central government. Formally, the argument was correct, but there were some political considerations behind the refusal of both the Mečiar government in Slovakia and the Nastase government in Romania.

So, the Slovak and Romanian regions became not members, only observers in the new Euroregion.

The foundation meeting of the Carpathian Euroregion took place on the 14th of February 1993 in the Hungarian city of Debrecen. Among the personalities, present at the meeting were: Madame Catherine Lalumière, the General Secretary of the Council of Europe, the Ukrainian, the Polish and the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs. Slovakia and Romania was not represented originally. Their regions became members only 4 years later, in 1997, following the government change in both countries.

In the first years, after the foundation, the Institute for East-West Studies persuaded one Japanese Foundation, the Sasakawa Foundation, to support financially the Carpathian Euroregion. The Council of Europe included into several publications their contribution to the foundation of the Carpathian Euroregion, but, as a matter of fact, after the foundation they never contacted the region any more. Concerning the European Union, the Carpathian Euroregion was not eligible for EU support since none of the founding countries was – by the time of founding – none of the cooperating countries was member of the EU, not even candidate in the year 1993. It was a strange situation: a European region on a very critical point of the continent could be established and could operate only

2008. 03. 28.

with the organisational help of an American institute and with the financial help of a Japanese foundation.

Somewhat later the relations between the Carpathian Euroregion and the Institute of East-West Studies became less cordial. The Institute established a separate Carpathian Foundation which is financed by the American Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. It meant that the Carpathian Euroregion lost one of its most important external financing sources. The only substantial financing source remained the membership fee of the participating regions. But the Ukrainian regions were unable, from the beginning, to pay any membership fees, and the same applies to the Romanian and Slovak regions which joined later. Only the Hungarian and Polish regions paid the membership fee, but under these circumstances, it became quite high. Some Hungarian members found the costs of membership higher than its benefits and left the Euroregion, which step raised the fee of the remaining members even higher.

Beyond the financial problems, there were organisational and logistic problems as well. The first seat of the common secretariat was located – as a symbolic act – to the Ukraine, to the city of Uzhgorod, in Transcarpathia region. It turned out soon that this choice entails a lot of logistic difficulties. Phone contact to the Ukraine was extremely difficult, electronic (e-mail, internet) contact was impossible. The city of Uzhgorod is 23 km from the Hungarian and 6 km from the Slovak border but border crossing required several hours because of the slow and bureaucratic procedures. Consequently, secretariat had to be transferred to Hungary, to Debrecen, later to Nyíregyháza. The seat of the Carpathian Foundation was initially Košice in Slovakia, later it was also relocated to Eger, Hungary.

Difficulties have arisen also from the fact that the roles, competencies and the autonomy of regions in the participating countries were quite different. In Slovakia and Poland fundamental territorial-administrative reform took place in the meantime, member regions disappeared and quite new regions stepped into their place. But even if there was no administrative reform, representatives of the regions might change every four years after local elections. Members of the Council of the Euroregion were exclusively heads or leading officials of regional governments, no representatives of the business or scientific community, no NGOs.

The experts of the Euroregion prepared an excellent strategic document for the development of the area, a good operational programme and several project proposals. Unfortunately, with the exception of some conferences and study tours (and the cooperation of the respective universities) nothing was implemented from these strategies, programmes and projects during the 15 years existence of the Euroregion. The main reason for it was the lack of financial resources, but the inability of taking decisions and the lack of connections to the business community played also a role in this failure. Important factor was also the lack of an effective neighbourhood policy of the EU in these years.

Now, from 2007, there are possibilities for the efficient support of transnational cooperation in this area. The institutions, instruments, legal regulations and resources are in place. Unfortunately, in the meantime the Carpathian Euroregion has lost its dynamics, enthusiasm, and also a large part of its membership. Perhaps it has been established too early.

EU-Structural Fund Programmes in the Carpathian Area

A large part of the Carpathians constitutes borders between countries of the region. INTERREG, PHARE-CBC, and TACIS CBC programmes and projects are therefore important elements of the Carpathian development process. Thus it is an indispensable part of the analysis of experiences to review the relevant EU programmes and projects.

Cross-border-cooperation programmes

Poland-Slovakia

The first EU support cross-border programmes were the PHARE CBC programmes. Initially, EU PHARE support could be utilised only on the borders to the EU member states. The Poland-Slovakia cross-border programme was initiated in 1999. From 2000 to 2003, 16 million € was sent on this programme which was 2.98 percent of all Polish and Slovak cross-border programme allocations.

In 2004 both countries became EU member states and the Poland-Slovakia INTERREG III A cross border programme for 2004-2006 was launched. Its priorities and measures were the following:

Priority 1: Infrastructure development

Measure 1.1. Technical and Communication Infrastructure

Measure 1.2. Environment Protection Infrastructure

Priority 2. Socio-economic Development

Measure 2.1. Development of human resources and the promotion of entrepreneurship

Measure 2.2. Protection of the natural and cultural heritage

Measure 2.3. Support for local initiatives (Small Project Fund)

55% of the support was assigned to Priority 1. and 38 % to priority 2. The remainder went to Technical Assistance budget.

The ERDF allocation to the programme was 21 million €. Together 369 project applications were registered: 182 from Poland and 187 from Slovakia. 43 Polish and 76 Slovak (larger) projects were approved, with 8.71 million and 7.89 million ERDF support respectively. 112 Polish and 84 Slovak small (under 20000 €) projects were supported.

A new programme has been prepared for the period 2007-2013.

The eligible areas are the following:

2008. 03. 28.

- In Poland the NUTS3 regions Bielsko-Bialski, Nowosądecki and Krośnieński-Przemyski and the powiats (NUTS4 regions) Oświęcimski, Pszczyński, Rzeszowski and Rzeszów.
- In Slovakia: Žilinsky and Prešovsky regions.

The priorities and measures of the project are more or less the same as in the preceding period:

Priority 1. Development of cross-border infrastructure

Measure 1.1. Communication and transportation infrastructure

Measure 1.2. Environmental infrastructure

Priority 2. Social and economic development background situation

Measure 2.1. Development of cross-border cooperation in tourism

Measure 2.2. Protection of cultural and natural heritage

Measure 2.3. Networking

Priority 3. Supporting local initiatives (small projects)

The total budget of the programme is 185.2 million €, the ERDF contribution is 157.4 million €, 85 percent of the total budget.

The Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Neighbourhood Programme

This Neighbourhood programme started in 2004. Only a part of the eligible programme area belongs to the Carpathian region. The priorities and measures were the following:

Priority 1. Modernisation and development of the cross-border infrastructure

Measure 1.1. Transport

Measure 1.2. Natural and environmental protection

Measure 1.3. Tourism, business and infrastructure.

Priority 2. Development of human capital and the institutions of cross-border cooperation

Measure 2.1. Strengthening of cross-border institutions of cooperation and the quality of human capital.

Measure 2.2. Support for local communities (small project fund).

The programme was supported by 37.8 million € ERDF and 8 million TACIS CBC contribution. 570 Polish, 28 Ukrainian and 5 Belorussian project applications were registered, but only 65 Polish and 5 TACIS projects were approved.

For the new programming period of 2007-2013 a cross-border ENPI programme has been launched for the same area. The eligible regions (only in the Carpathian area) are:

In Poland: the krosniensko-przemyski NUTS3 region; adjoining area is the rzeszowski-tarnobrzeski region.

2008. 03. 28.

In the Ukraine: Lvivska and Zakarpatska oblast. Adjoining area is the Ivano-Frankivska oblast.

The indicative allocation for the programme is 186.2 million €.

Czech Republic – Slovakia cross-border programmes

The Czech-Slovak border was not a state border and a peripheral area 15 years ago. Therefore its problems are different from other border areas. The first INTERREG III A programme was prepared for the 2004-2006 period. The eligible areas were:

In Slovakia: the Žilinský, the Trenčianský and the Trnavský region.

In the Czech Republic: the Moravskoslezsky, the Zlínský and the Jihomoravský region.

The priorities and measures

Priority 1. Social and cultural development and establishment of networks

Measure 1.1. Human resources, social and cultural development

Measure 1.2. Conservation and improvement of the natural resources and of the living conditions and the promotion of tourism.

Priority 2. Landscape maintenance and the development of tourism

Measure 2.1. Constructing and developing the infrastructure of tourism

Measure 2. 2. Rural development with special regard to the environment

The budget of the programme was 18,2 million €, of which 13,7 million was the ERDF contribution. Two third of the programme would be implemented by the Czech Republic, one third by the Slovak Republic.

In 2007-2013, the programmes will be continued in the framework of territorial cooperation. The budget of the Czech-Slovak cross-border cooperation will be increased to 109.1 million €, of which 92,7 million € will be the ERDF contribution.

Hungary - (Romania) - Slovakia- Ukraine Neighbourhood Programme

The 2004-2006 programme started rather late, the first call was made in 2005. The eligible area of the programme is about 83182 sqcm, its population is 10.8 million.

The total budget of the programme is 31.7 million €, of which 23.8 million is EU (ERDF and TACIS) contribution. The priorities and measures are the following:

Priority 1. Cross-border social and economic cooperation

Measure 1.1. Support to cross-border business cooperation

Measure 1.2. Cooperation of institutions

Priority 2. Cross-border environment and transport

2008. 03. 28.

Measure 2.1. Cross border cooperation of environmental policies and related minor investments

Measure 2.2. Cross-border cooperation in the field of nature conservation

Measure 2.3. Minor infrastructure measures in the field of transport and telecommunication.

The ERDF resources are already committed, but the utilisation of TACIS resources in the Ukraine is in a serious delay.

From 2007, the programme area is enlarged. The former Romanian-Ukrainian Neighbourhood Programme will be integrated into this programme, and there will be four participating countries in the programme.

The eligible regions of the programme area:

- In Hungary: Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Borsod-Abauj-Zemplén counties
- In Slovakia: Kosice and Prešov regions
- In Romania: Satu Mare, Maramures and Suceava counties
- In the Ukraine: Zakarpatska, Ivano Frankivska and Chernivetska regions

The priorities and measures of the new programme are the following:

Priority 1. Economic and social development

Measure 1.1. Harmonized development of tourism

Measure 1.2. Create better conditions for SMEs and business development

Measure 1.3. Institutional cooperation

Measure 1.4. "People to people" cooperation

Priority 2. Enhance environmental qualities

Measure 2.1. Environmental protection, sustainable use and management of natural resources

Measure 2.2. Emergency Preparedness

Priority 3 Increase border efficiency

Measure 3.1, Improvement of border management operations and custom procedures

Measure 3.2. Improvement of border crossing transport infrastructure and equipment at border controls

The proposed budget of the programme is 68.6 million €.

Transnational cooperation in the framework of INTERREG IIB CADSES Neighbourhood Programme

The "Carpathian Project" is an INTERREG IIB-CADSES Neighbourhood Programme project. In the programming period 2000-2006 the CADSES Programme area covered the whole Carpathian region. Therefore several lessons

2008. 03. 28.

can be learned and information can be collected from other INTERREG IIIB - projects, implemented in the CADSES area.

Obviously, those projects deserve more attention in the CADSES area dealing with the problems of the Carpathians, or the lead partners or partners of which are located in the Carpathian area. Unfortunately, there are only a few CADSES projects which fulfil these requirements. Out of the 1600 project partners of the CADSES projects, only 70 (4.3 %) are located in the Carpathian area. Out of the 134 lead project partners, only 4 (3 %) are located in the Carpathian area (Kraków, Vsetin, Karviná, Miskolc). And even out of these four, only one is engaged in the problems of mountainous areas (Shining Mountains, Miskolc). Nevertheless, there are some projects, the results of which might be important for the Carpathian area. Unfortunately, only a few final reports are available for the time being, but even the themes of some projects seem to be promising for the Carpathian project. 15 projects are worth of mentioning in this context:

PLANET- CENSE

This was the comprehensive, strategic project of the CADSES area in the 2000-2006 programming period, covering the whole CADSES area. Among its deliverables is a strategic document, sketching the economic development opportunities and scenarios of the area. One of its pilot studies tried to define the urban development strategy and network of the area. The other pilot study includes feasibility studies of three potential North-South transport corridors in the CADSES area. Two of these corridors would cross the Carpathians, therefore they are of importance for the Carpathian region.

More information on the project:

<http://www.planet-cense.net/index.php5/>

ED-C III and EU-CORE III

These projects deal with the 3rd Pan-European Transport Corridor, running from Dresden, through Wrocław, Kraków and Lviv to Kiev and its impacts on the respective regions. This corridor is running through the Northern fore-lands of the Carpathians, therefore it has immense importance for the development of the area.

More information on the projects:

<http://www.edc-viaregia.eu/>

<http://www.eu-core3.pl/>

Mister and READY

The projects deal with the conversion and utilisation of former military, industrial and mining sites. There are a lot of such sites in the Carpathian area, therefore the results of these projects are of significance for the Carpathian project as well.

More information on the projects:

<http://www.mister-cadses.org/en/index.htm>

<http://www.minec.org/website/startseiteready.asp>

Shining Mountains and ITER

Two projects in the frame of CADSES-Programme are dealing with tourism utilisation of thermal baths, historic spas and wellness facilities in the CADSES area. Many of the historic spas and thermal baths dealt with are located in the Carpathian area, therefore the results of these projects might be useful also for the Carpathian project.

More information on the projects:

<http://www.shiningmountains.eu/>
<http://www.iter-cadses.it/en/index.html>

CHIRON and HERITOUR

The projects deal with the thematic organisation and promotion of local cultural heritage in remote, mountainous and border areas and with the establishment of cultural routes in order to promote tourism. Their results might be of interest for the Carpathian project.

More information on the projects:

<http://www.chiron-project.net/cgi-bin/pages/index.pl>
<http://www.heritour.com/>

Parks&Economy, ITACA and CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The theme of the projects is the natural heritage and its utilisation for sustainable tourism. A significant part of the project partners of these projects are from the Carpathian area, therefore their practices can be perhaps applied also in other parts of the Carpathians.

More information on the projects:

<http://www.parks-economy.eu/>
<http://itacaproject.eu/>

Several CADSES projects dealt with the prevention of floods and other natural hazards:

RIMADIMA

The project addressed the general risk prevention problems of mountainous and forested regions (storms, floods, forest fires, droughts, landslides, avalanches, rock-slides, mudslides). Based on Romanian experiences in Brasov, they initiate the establishment of Crisis Management Centres, integrated into existing national, regional and local institutions, authorities.

More information on the project:

<http://www.rimadima.org/>

FLOODMED, MOSES

These projects deal specifically with flood prevention problems.

More information on the projects:

<http://floodmed.chi.civil.ntua.gr/project.html>

Experiences from the Alpine Space

Tradition in Cooperation:

The Alpine Space has a long tradition of cross-border and transnational cooperation on different levels (local, regional, national) – starting already in the 50s. In the following an overview on cooperation structures, organisations, NGOs and networks shall be given.

Governmental and Non-Governmental Working communities, Networks and Associations

ARGE ALP

The ARGE ALP (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Alpenländer – working group alpine regions) was established in 1972 and comprises 10 regions, provinces and cantons of Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

Arge Alp deals with problems and challenges in the field of ecology, culture, social issues and economy on a cross-border level, foster mutual understanding and strengthen consciousness and responsibility for the alpine living space. Notably the Arge Alp deals with safeguarding and development of the Alpine area, especially concerning ecological balance; the coordination of spatial planning methods, coordination in the field of traffic and transit, intensification of economic cooperation, protection of health and support of the family and as well the promotion of the European Integration

Source and further information: www.argealp.org

COTRAO

COTRAO (Communauté de travail des alpes occidentales – Western Alps Working Community) was established in 1982 and comprises 7 regions and cantons in Italy, Switzerland and France. The main working field is the exchange of information and coordination of solution and problems regarding interests of the member regions. COTRAO worked on several political initiatives (e.g. European Charter of Mountain Regions, Alpine Convention) and produced several guides (e.g. the guide of documentation centres) and worked in various networks (e.g. grants for post-doctorate students). Further planned activities are the creation of an electronic gateway to the Western Alps, works on natural dangers as well as the launch of youth games in summer and winter.

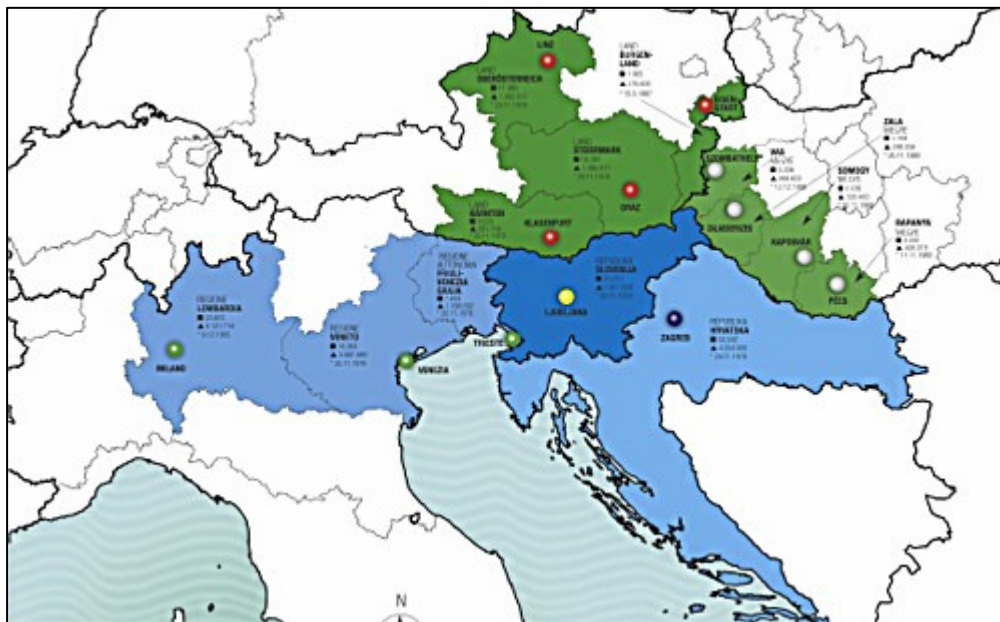
Source and further information:

www.are-regions-europe.org/INTERREGIONAL/GB-COTRAO.html

ALPE ADRIA

The Alps-Adriatic Working Community was founded in 1978. In 2007 it counts 13 members: Baranya, Burgenland, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Carinthia, Croatia, Lombardy, Upper Austria, Slovenia, Somogy, Styria, Vas, Veneto, Zala.

The reason for formation of this Working Community was to come together on a focal point of European Integration and to use the shared history and the past for future oriented projects. The focus of work is to bridge linguistic, political and social differences and between regions of the member states of the European Union and accession countries through project-oriented cooperation.



Source and further information www.alpeadria.org

CIPRA:

The CIPRA (Commission Internationale pour la protection des Alpes) exists since 1952 and is an umbrella organisation of different environmental organisations. In each country of the Alpine Space a national CIPRA is established as well. CIPRA International contributed/s to the development and implementation of the Alpine Convention, constitutes a multi-lingual information platform for different aspects of sustainable development in the Alpes and works in and with networks in the Alpes. As well CIPRA holds a Project "Future in the Alpes" which will be further outlined below. With the information campaign "Climalp" CIPRA promotes energy efficient building and renovation using regional timber in the Alpine Space.

Source and further information www.cipra.org



Association - Alpine Town of the Year

Since 1997 an international Jury, composed by representatives of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft Alpenstädte", CIPRA and "Pro Vita Alpina", awards every year the "Alpine town of the Year". Every town within the delineation of the Alpine Convention, that intends to put the Alpine Convention into practice and that looks for a sustainable, sensible and future oriented approach for that can be awarded with this title. Beside the concrete action for the implementation of the Alpine Convention, the Alpine Town of the year shall strengthen the Alpine awareness by developing its natural and cultural heritage, involve the population, enhance the relationship with the surrounding regions and exchange experience with other towns in and outside of the Alpine area and develop/define common interests.

The holders of the title form the "Alpine Town of the Year Association", managed by CIPRA International

Source and further information: www.alpenstaedte.org, www.cipra.org.

Community Network - Alliance in the Alps

The Alliance in the Alps community network was formed in 1997 and comprises in 2007 230 local authorities located in different Alpine region, from France to Slovenia. It is co-ordinated by CIPRA and the chair of the Alliance.

The member communities support the goals of the Alpine Convention for sustainable development in the Alps. For that they work in close contact with the local population to improve the ecological, social and economic situation in their

2008. 03. 28.

communities. In addition they share knowledge and experiences with other members of the network, in meetings, conferences, excursions and good-practice data-base.

Until the middle of 2006, the community network ran the Interreg IIIB Alpine Space project: "DYNALP, which focussed on rural tourism and landscape development. A follow-up project – DYNALP2 - was established in cooperation with CIPRA and launched in May 2006.

Source and further information: www.cipra.org , www.alpenallianz.org

Alpine Network of Protected Areas

The Alpine Network of Protected Area comprises all protected areas within the limits of or associated with the Alpine Convention greater than 100 hectares and which have a team of field workers. The Alpine Network encompasses around 800 protected areas in 2007.

The focus of the work is to pool expertise, tools and methods applied by Alpine protected areas managers in the field of conservation and management, to develop tourism in connection with local heritage conservation and the regional economic programme, support mountain agriculture and forestry in the frame of maintaining biodiversity and to raise awareness of the general public and the local population on natural and cultural heritage. European funds (e.g. INTERREG IIIB AlpineSpace) are used for enhancing cooperation e.g. on communication. The activities of the Alpine Network are outlined in the Alpine Convention and its protocol on "Nature conservation and landscape management".

The Alpine Network works also in partnerships outside the Alps. The Network supported to create a network of protected areas in the Carpathian mountains as part of the Carpathian Convention. A similar process is underway in the Pyrenees. The three massifs form a macroscopic ecological continuum and are increasingly involved in partnership activities. Another international cooperation takes place with scientific experts (e.g. in 2000 a database was set up to record information on research in or on protected areas in Europe)

Source and further information: www.alparc.org

ForumAlpinum and ISCAR – research platform

The Alpine Convention lists, among others, the task for research cooperation among all Alpine States. Therefore in 1994 the first ForumAlpinum took place to bring together scientists from all disciplines and other stakeholders from society, policy and economy and resulted in an action plan for alpine research. In the years after, a bi-annual ForumAlpinum was organised in all alpine states. As well in the organising states, national cooperations and organisations for alpine or mountain reasearch were formed.

ISCAR – the International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps – was founded in 1999, mainly by national research organisations and as a result of cooperations developed in the frame of the organising committee of the the Forum Alpinum.

2008. 03. 28.

The main objectives are to stimulate scientific research relevant for the Alpes and its implementation, interdisciplinary research on the Alpes and the transfer of it to target groups, to ensure the continuity and scientific quality of the ForumAlpinum and promote international cooperation in Alpine research as well as to deal with research topics in the interest of the Alpine Convention. Several activities were carried out since 2000, e.g. the extension of the ForumAlpinum to an AlpWeek together with CIPRA, the community network "Alliance in the Alpes" and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas". A follow-up takes place in 2008 in France. As well the multi-annual working programme (2005-2010) for the Alpine Convention was analysed and a research agenda developed.

Source and further information: <http://www.alpinestudies.ch/iscar/>

Future in the Alps

Future in the Alps is a broad-based knowledge management project with the aim to promote sustainable development in the Alps. The objective of the project – run by CIPRA - is to encourage people, businesses and institutions to network in order to share and implement know-how and information and thus stimulate sustainable development in the Alps.

Six key issues provide the theme-related foundations of "Future in the Alps". These issues were identified and defined jointly with experts and players from the Alpine regions as part of a preliminary project.

- Governance Capacity
- Regional Value Added
- Protected Areas
- Leisure, Tourism and Commuter Mobility
- New Forms of Decision Making
- Impact and further development of policies and instruments

One pillar of the project is the *alpKnowhow*: 40 experts in the Alps identified findings from research and other publications as well as good-practice examples from the whole Alpine Space – for each thematic field now 20-40 most relevant publications and 20-30 best-practice examples are available on the website. Another pillar of the project was a competition for which CIPRA awarded prizes with a total of 160.000 Euro to eight outstanding projects on sustainable development in the Alps.

A series of workshops took place dealing with the main topics of the Future in the Alps-project. Stakeholders were informed on project results, discussed them and could exchange their experiences there. Additionally to the workshops in the Alps, 2 workshops also took place in Eastern Europe – one in Hungary and one in Ukraine.

The project "Future in the Alps" is financed by Switzerland's MAVA Foundation for Nature Conservation.

(Source and more information:

http://www.cipra.org/en/future-in-the-alps/zukunft?set_language=en&cl=en)

2008. 03. 28.

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

The outputs of the projects could be used

- for the Working Groups on
 - Sustainable Tourism
 - Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
 - Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
 - Spatial Planning
- Follow-up platform - a project should be developed within INTERREG IVC that supports the transfer of the project findings into the Carpathians and also to exchange relevant experience between different regions of the Carpathians and Alps

Transnational cooperation in the Alps in the framework of structural fund programmes:

Pilot Action Programmes - Eastern Alps and INTERREG IIC for the Western Mediterranean and Latin Alps

With growing economic and social integration within Europe, borders increasingly lost their separating character and more intensive relationships and interdependencies between cities and regions and a stronger awareness regarding the challenge and the need for transnational cooperation in the field of spatial development emerged in the 1990s.

Together with the process of the elaboration the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) - which was adopted 1999 - the European Commission set into force an approach to integrated spatial development policy on transnational level: the Community Initiative INTERREG IIC and the Pilot Action Programme under Art.10 ERDF.

Austria (with the federal provinces of Upper Austria, Carinthia, Salzburg, Tyrol and Vorarlberg), Germany (represented by Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg), and Italy (regions of Lombardy, South Tyrol, Trentino, Venetia and Friuli-Venezia Giulia) have developed the Joint Pilot Action Programme under Art. 10 ERDF - "Eastern Alps" in early 1997 in order to realise various transnational projects relevant to problems of a sustainable spatial planning.

The programme comprised measures in the fields of spatial development and planning, regional planning, environmentally sound travel logistics, public and private services, information systems, settlement typologies in small alpine centres and water resources in the Alps.

The area of co-operation referred to the alpine parts of these regions as defined by the Alpine Convention.

Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland were invited to participate.

2008. 03. 28.

Within this framework, in the project “Regionalp” political and private circles from participating countries and regions laid down their ideas in the following five specific areas of concern:

- strategies and perspectives of spatial development
- access to infrastructure and knowledge
- sustainable exploitation and development of the natural and cultural heritage as well as of resources
- safeguarding from natural dangers
- consolidation of the Alpine co-operation network

Regionalp created a platform for communication and information. It coordinated all Alpine-related Internet activities and gave access to information everyone participating in this project.

Simultaneously to the Pilot Action programme "Eastern Alps", the Community Initiative INTERREG II C (1997-99) for the Western Mediterranean and Latin Alps was launched. It aimed to encourage interregional co-operation between Spain, France, Greece and Italy and to strengthen Mediterranean co-operation, most notably in the fields of culture, improvement of local transport networks and promotion of sustainable development. .

INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space

Delineation:

Within the community initiative programme INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space (2000-2006) as well as in the Objective 3, transnational-cooperation Programme Alpine Space (2007-2013) the Alpine Space is not limited to the mountainous areas (i.e. the Alpine Convention delineation) but also comprises foothills, lowland as well as important urban centres – thus the peri-alpine belt. It was defined like that considering that the mountain range and many of the challenges to be tackled are inseparably connected with this peri-alpine belt – e.g. in terms of traffic, tourism, economic development and strategic actors.

This delineation can be considered as an input to the discussion on the “Carpathian Space” and/or a “Carpathian Space Programme” (see graphic below).



Overall statistics

In the INTERREG IIB Programme Alpine Space five Calls for Projects were carried with approving in total 58 projects with 666 partners from the 7 partner states of the programme. On the average 55 partners from 5 countries participated in a project.

Most projects dealt with the 2 priorities on spatial planning and competitiveness as well as on environment and cultural heritage. Only 9 projects worked on accessibility and transport.

In the following a selection of projects is made considering what could be interesting for the current Carpathian Project, the Working-Groups therein and for the follow-up platform.

Projects on economic and spatial development

AlpCity

The project aimed at exchanging best practice between small alpine towns that have to deal with the same challenges as socio-economic decline, inadequate public and private services, quality of life and built environment, a mainly aged population with limited access to culture and decision making. The outputs of the project are a best-practice data-base, 20 model cases from the project studies, the development of common strategies and practice and policy guidelines. Partners in the project are from regional as well as local level (communities)

Source and further information: www.alpcity.it

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

The outputs of this project could be used

- within the Carpathian Project for activities in Work Package 4
- for the Working group on spatial planning
- a working group on small and medium towns in the Carpathians might be interesting
- the follow-up platform should consider the findings of this projects for transfer e.g. if an "INTERRG IV" project is being developed. A separate project on small and medium towns in the Carpathians could be considered.

Diamont

The Alpine Convention aims at creating an Alpine wide information system (SOIA). The project DIAMONT aimed at giving an impulse to SOIA by giving advice on the selection of adequate indicators, relevant data available on community level and tools describing and steering the development of alpine regions.

An initial study contributed answers to the question how cultural differences in the Alpine regions influence regional policy and development. Key questions on the common visions of the Alpine Space were formulated and a set of indicators was determined to monitor the most relevant drivers of regional development and the availability, applicability and validity of alpine-wide data is tested. The Alps were clustered in similar development regions and tools were developed to steer sustainable development in those regions.

Partners in this project are from universities and research institutes.

Source and further information: www.diamont.uibk.ac.at

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Carpathian project already works on data harmonisation – this could be a starting point for an integrated observation and information system for the Carpathians.

Know For Alps

The main aim of this project was the development of innovative measures and instruments for a transnational knowledge transfer in forestry. A strengthening of

2008. 03. 28.

the autonomy and problem solving capacities of decision makers in the field of forest ecosystem management as well as an enhancement of the operating efficiency of forest enterprises and the forest sector was worked on.

The project outcomes are a collection of “best practices in knowledge transfer” in the Alpine Space, a transnational survey on user demands in knowledge transfer, a transnational platform and a multitude of information and training services for experts (private forest owners, forest practitioners, scientists, members of forest owning communities or state forest services).

Partners in this project were from regional level, ministries, forestry organisations, and research institutes.

Source and further information: www.knowforalp.net

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

The output of this project could be interesting for

- the working group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry
- the follow-up platform – on one hand the methodologies for knowledge-transfer should be screened for further project development and on the other hand a project on forestry might be wanted by the Working group.

MARS:

The main aim of MARS-Project was the development of indicators for monitoring sustainable development of the Alpine Space and all its regions at the NUTS2 level. The results were analyzed 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. A communication platform during the project phase was established during project implementation with meetings (between partners coming from public administration and research institutes), presentations and homepage with a view to a permanent platform for regional sustainability.

The project outcomes comprise the following:

Databases have been elaborated and the results published. The following indicators have been finally chosen and calculated:

Economy:

Economic Performance (Real GDP, Real GDP per capita), Labour Market participation (Employment-to-population ratio, Working time, Gender-specific employment, Gender-specific employment-to-population ratio), Productivity and Competitiveness (Real hourly productivity of labour), Economic Structure (Value added in the five driver sectors, Employment in the five driver sectors, Productivity in the five driver sectors)

Environment:

Domestic extraction, Physical trade balance, Domestic material consumption, Domestic resource dependency, Domestic processed output, Final Energy consumption, Total primary energy consumption, CO2 equivalent emissions, Water extraction, Case study: Ecological Footprint

Society:

2008. 03. 28.

Demography (Demographic structure, Migration, Foreigners), Unemployment (Standardised unemployment rate, Long-term unemployment, Youth unemployment, Gender-specific unemployment), Poverty/Income distribution (Poverty rate, Income distribution), Health (Life expectancy at birth, Years of potential life lost, Life expectancy at the age of 65), Safety (Criminal offences), Participation/social capital (Local agenda 21 processes, Voter turnout, Political participation, Social participation, Social contacts, Family network), Education (Qualification of employment / of population, Patent applications)

Partners from MARS project came mainly from regional authorities throughout the Alpine Space. Research institutes were mainly involved as external experts.

Source and further information:

www.alpinespace.org/temp-results127.html

www.bakbasel.com/wEnglisch/benchmarking/interreg/indexW3DnavidW26105.shtml

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Carpathian project already works on data collection and harmonisation – a project like this could be considered as an integrated step in a later stage.

Via Alpina/Via Adventure

The project VIA ALPINA consisted in establishing Via Alpina 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 emphasises the common Alpine identity. Multilingual tools were developed to insure its efficient promotion and provide the international public with an entry to each of the Alpine regions. Pilot projects were carried out to look into possible developments of sustainable tourism offers and trail management with a trans-national perspective.

VIA ADVENTURE was based on the results of the VIA ALPINA project. It has established the Via Alpina "product", a network of hiking trails throughout the Alps, complete with basic information documents, an on-line database and specific marking and information panels along the trails. Also, it produced an international Quality Guide dealing with all aspects of the tourism chain. In order to put the outputs into use and to obtain concrete benefits in the Alpine regions a territorial animation initiative was implemented to inform and involve public and private stakeholders. A focus was put on working with many local partners to develop marketing and promotion and especially to create special offers basing on the local resources. Special attention was given to the young public and to the integration of environmental education.

Partners in the project consisted of a great number of regional public authorities and institutions responsible for hiking trails.

Source and further information:

<http://www.alpinespace.org/via-alpina.html>

<http://www.alpinespace.org/viadventure.html>

<http://www.via-alpina.org/site/default.asp?VersionID=2>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

The Carpathian Space offers a wide variety of hiking possibilities that could also stretch beyond borders or the whole Carpathian Space. In a possible ETC-project a small and easy manageable partnership should be sought for with key partners involved for implementation. Also the advisory board should be manageable in size.

AlpsHealthComp

The project aimed at strengthening competitiveness of Alpine wellness offers by

- defining, developing and managing an alpine quality standard of health and wellness services;
- strengthening the regional and transnational cooperation of players;
- developing and adapting offers to the market trends;
- making use of the typical alpine resources in a sustainable way;
- informing and consulting the publicity about the competences and services;
- setting-up a job fair and standardized education and training in the field of health services.

Partners were from regional tourism organisations, one community, research centres and universities.

Source and further information:

<http://www.alpshealthcomp.org/>

<http://www.alpinspace.org/alpshealthcomp.html>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

The starting point in the Carpathian Space is different but cooperation to strengthen competitiveness in Wellness offers by using Carpathian resources could be very interesting.

Nena

NENA project focussed on supporting enterprises and clusters of alpine core economic sectors to be more competitive especially by making use of the innovation potentials. More networking, a better market orientation, good strategies and the mobilisation of co-operation synergies within and between the different economic sectors are the main objectives NENA works on. Furthermore all three aspects of sustainable development are taken into consideration.

NENA concentrated on two core fields:

- „Renewable Resources“ with the clusters “Value added chain of wood”; “Energy from renewable resources”; “Saving energy – passive house”
Crossing Functions “Innovation and Technology”: Innovation management; Education and training; Process optimisation and certification; Interface management
- Pilot projects were implemented on regional level, most of them were complementary or similar to each other, e.g. the establishment of an “Innovation Assistant”, native resource certificate and raising energy efficiency.

2008. 03. 28.

By strengthening clusters and co-operations between urban and rural areas NENA helped to attenuate the increasing polarisation between strong urban areas and less favoured regions.

Partners in the project are regions, chambers of commerce, Regional innovation agencies, regional development institutions.

Source and further information:

<http://www.nena-network.net/>

<http://www.alpinespace.org/nena.html>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Wood is an important natural resource in the Carpathians while at the same time needs for renewable energy resources, energy-efficient building and strengthening innovation increase. Some activities in this field are already in place in the Carpathians, several regions would have potential for working on that. By putting it onto a transnational scale experiences can be shared and possibly even clusters formed.

PUSEMOR

The project "PUSEMOR" aimed at developing sustainable strategies and innovative solutions for improving the provision of sparsely populated mountain regions with public services. This with the ambition to up-grade these regions both as economic place and as place of residence. The project had both an analytical/scientific and a strategic/political dimension. The analysis aimed at gathering existing knowledge from the various regions involved, combining it in a methodical way and expanding it in specific areas. The strategic dimension was concerned with the formulation of implementation-ready concepts and pilot projects to improve provision of public services in sparsely populated areas. Furthermore, an important goal of the project was the elaboration of recommendations for public authorities / policy makers in this field of spatial development.

Partners of the project of Regions, Researchs Institutes, regional development organisations and a business support center as well as an LAG (Local Action Group in the Framework of LEADER+)

Source and further information:

<http://www.alpinespace.org/pusemor.html>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

In the Carpathian Space similar or even graver situations as in the Alps are given. Depopulation is tightly connected with the decrease in the provision in public services. Thus results of this project are very interesting to be taken into consideration for know-how exchange as well as further protocol development. The setting-up of such a project could be also considered in the future.

RegioMarket

The project RegioMarket aimed to develop and implement a corporate sustainable branding and marketing strategy for the Alpine Space focused on

2008. 03. 28.

three core economic sectors: agricultural food products, services (tourism and gastronomy) and renewable energies.

RegioMarket was focused to contribute to the promotion of top-quality products and services inside and outside the Alpine Space and to the establishment of a Unique Selling Proposition which shall furthermore increase the competitiveness and promotion of SMEs and new business investments within the Alpine Space.

New networks and a permanent Knowledge Management System were implemented to support the possibility of exchanging knowledge. Finally RegioMarket provided guidance to public authorities / policy makers and other economists working in marketing and branding.

Source and further information:

<http://www.alpinespace.org/regiomarket.html>

<http://www.regiomarket.org/>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

There is a high potential and some experience for marketing of regional products and interlinkage with tourism in the Carpathians. The issue is partly (for rare-species) also addressed by ELBARN-Project. Common exchange between regions marketing such products or pilot projects on organisation and capacity-building for setting-up a marketing of regional products shall be set up.

Development of regional marketing strategies for renewable energy could also be an interesting point for Carpathian „pilot regions” in the framework of „Bioenergy CC”-project proposal as well as the „Mountain ABC”-project development.

Sentedalps

The project fostered transfer of knowledge in the field of sports events management in the Alpine Space through establishment of a network, the objective of which was to promote economic development and tourism policies in the frame of sustainable development.

The main outputs of the project comprise:

- A Candidature Guide for sports events in the Alpine Space, taking into account the best practices in this field. It focuses mainly on two aspects i.e. why should a region/city bid for an event and what are the basic elements to take into account for a successful bid by organizers as well as by the region.
- An Organization Guide for sports events in the Alpine Space, fostering on the best cases so far. The guide focusses on the specificity of the Alpine Space in order to ensure sustainable sports events and infrastructures, as well as economic and tourism impact.
- A training for trainers guide for sport events in the Alpine Space, that gives the best tools to develop specific human capital in the field of sports events management, in particular volunteers who are the cornerstone and the "concrete face" of all events.

Source and further information:

<http://www.alpinespace.org/sentedalps.html?&L=60770>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Sport events are organised in the Carpathian Space, there is strong pressure on the development of tourism resorts that could further lead to more applications for big sport events. This guide can help in professional organisation that takes all 3 dimensions of sustainable development into consideration.

Projects on sustainable mobility and transport systems

Alps Mobility II

The focus of the project „Alps Mobility II - ALPINE PEARLS“ was the creation of innovative eco-tourism offers „Alpine Pearls“, combining the tourist points of interest with the advantages of Sustainable Mobility with environmentally sound transport means.

The eco-tourism package „Alpine Pearls“ links tourism and mobility, but also links the participating model regions with each other in a transalpine sense.

A travel package through the Alps was realized, using only environmentally sound transport means, like railway, busses, bicycles, zero-emission-vehicles, and horses or walking.

Each partner region is considered as „Pearl“, thus fulfilling certain mobility and tourism standards in the sense of sustainability according to a fixed criteria catalogue.

For reaching this, the project worked on:

- a feasibility study, fixing the details for transalpine implementation,
- the planning of a sustainable travel chain to the Alps and between the regions and their partner regions (the "string of pearls") as well as the
- development and improvement of mobility services and infrastructural conditions for the environmentally sound travel chain between the resorts („Pearls“) and their surrounding regions
- implementation of transalpine pilot actions
- development and implementation of a common PR and marketing concept

Source and further information:

<http://www.alpsmobility.net/>

<http://www.alpinespace.org/alpsmobility2.html?&L=60770>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Individual traffic to, between and within tourism resorts and/or national park areas is strongly increasing in the Carpathians, carrying with it problems of land use, pollutions and detrimental emissions. Therefore a similar project in the Carpathian Space could deal with these problems and also mitigate some “right from the beginning”.

Alpine Awareness

The project Alpine Awareness dealt with the provision and dissemination of information for awareness-raising on sustainable development in the transport and mobility sector with a target group-specific approach.

Young people were made aware of sustainable multimodal mobility options other than the mere use of a car. By using a peer-group approach they became directly concerned and motivated to find solutions for their needs.

Another group for awareness-raising measures were also employees and operators in transport in tourism.

2008. 03. 28.

Additionally for the general public (especially families, employees and students) PR and marketing campaigns were used to increase the sensibilization for sustainable mobility.

Project partners were ministries, communities, transport providers and scientific institutes.

Source and further information:

<http://www.alpinespace.org/alpineawareness.html?&L=60770>

<http://www.alpineawareness.net/>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

In the light of increasing individual traffic, extended motorway and road infrastructure an awareness building campaign and other measures for an increased sensitivity towards sustainable modes of transport could be very important for the Carpathian Space.

Mobilalp

In the framework of a lacking coherence and missing adaptation to target groups of mobility offers, the project Mobilalp worked on an increase in using clean, soft and collective transports and to reduce individual motorized mobility through improved information and services to transport users as well as innovative transport offers and improved access to collective mobility.

In experimentations and pilot actions sustainable and innovative transport offers were developed for specific scales (local, inter-urban) and given given groups (e.g. young people, workers, tourists, etc.). Additionally good practise examples were exchanged.

Partners of the project were ministries, regions, cities and and communities and a transport provider.

Source and further information:

<http://www.mobilalp.eu/en/>

<http://www.alpinespace.org/mobilalp.html?&L=60770>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

In the frame of different or lacking mobility services and an increasing pressure by individual car traffic a comprehensive mobility management, adapted to scales and user-groups, showing gaps and provide best-possible solutions could contribute to easen motorized traffic impacts.

Projects on Natural Heritage

Dynalp

The project Dynalp aimed at the implementation of projects for the Alpine Convention protocols "tourism", "environmental protection and landscape management", "mountain farming", "sustainable development and regional planning" on local level.

As well it aimed at the increasing of competence for sustainable development in small municipalities and regions. Further it worked on the visualization of possibilities and developing positions with regard to European regional policies. To achieve these goals a transnational exchange of experiences, a linking of local

2008. 03. 28.

competence with international expertise and the application of the methodology „Autodidactic learning for sustainability“ were carried out. The amount of investment triggered by pilot actions were estimated at 20 million Euro. The project structure built on an extension of the Alliance in the Alps, which did not have a specifically implementation-oriented character before. Partners of this project were communities in different Alpine countries.

Source and further information:

<http://www.dynalp.org/d/dynalp.htm>

<http://www.alpinespace.org/dynalp.html>

With the support of MAVA Foundation the project DYNALP2 is implemented. It continues works started within DYNALP and implements results of the project „Future in the Alps“. Project in communities that provide a clear contribution to sustainable development and the implementation of the Alpine Convention are supported. A focus is put on topics as regional added value, social sustainability, protected areas, mobility, new forms of decisions making, policies and instruments. Common events as workshops, excursions and international conferences shall further strengthen the community network in the Alps.

Source and further information:

<http://dynalp.alpenallianz.org/de>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Within the different administrative frameworks and political history and background the strengthening of local and regional capacities for the implementation of Carpathian Convention objectives is very important. Results and approaches of this project should also be integrated in „Mountain ABC“-project development.

Alpencom

This project was an integrated approach for protected areas managers for setting-up a regular exchange, training and common planning on environmental management and to strengthen the networking between public institutions responsible for management of natural resources and the building of public awareness in environmental issues.

The project based on exchange of experience and evaluation of management measures. Furthermore the development of common communication tools based on an interactive approach of public information in protected areas to strengthen public awareness of mountain ecological systems. The included data exchange platform was developed for data and know-how exchange between protected area managers. Common media activities were set up for a higher transparency of alpine environmental management strategies and by international professional training programmes.

Project partners were national parks of the Alps.

Source and further information:

<http://www.alpinespace.org/alpencom.html?&L=08411>

www.alpencom.org

2008. 03. 28.

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

With the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas a structure is available to set up such a common internal and external communication platform for improving management measures, exchange data and inform policy level and the public on protected areas.

AlpNaTour

This project dealt with the integration of recreation and tourism concerns in Natura 2000 management planning processes.

It developed a management framework specific for sites with intensive tourism use and tested it in several sites. This framework relies on comparative and standardised visitor monitoring methods, and appropriate forms of public participation that take the unique situations of tourist businesses into consideration. The project initiated also a network of Natura 2000 sites and tourism destinations to share experiences and management options.

The project partnership consisted of scientific institutes and regions.

Source and further information:

<http://www.alpinspace.org/alpnatour.html?&L=08411>

<http://www.alpnatour.info/>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Results of this project should be taken into consideration by Carpathian countries when setting up (additional) natura 2000 sites. They also should be integrated into a project dealing with protected areas in the Carpathians.

HabitAlp

The HABITALP project dealt with the diversity of alpine habitats with the goal to monitor in a standardized way long term environmental changes in these habitats. This was performed with the help of colour infrared aerial photographs. Special focus was given to the identification and long term survey (monitoring) of NATURA 2000 sites, in particular of habitats cited in annex I of the Habitat Directive, which are detectable by aerial photographs.

Project partners were protected areas in the Alps.

Source and further information:

<http://www.habit alp.de/>

<http://www.alpinspace.org/temp-results122.html?&L=87857>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

A standardized way for monitoring environmental changes in protected areas in the Carpathians is not in place. When developing a project with that goal, the approach of HabitAlp should certainly be considered.

Projects on sustainable energy

AlpEnergyWood

This project aimed at gathering and sharing knowledge and practices of professionals, local communities and citizens in the promotion of wood-fuel.

2008. 03. 28.

A network of professionals was developed, supported with a web-server as knowledge hub as well as the public was informed with marketing campaigns. The feasibility of industrial structures of wood fuels production (firewood logs, chips and pellets) was examined and were promoted to deal with the demand of great national fuel distributors. Furthermore bases of professional trainings about this sustainable energy by using ICT was set up.

Source and more information:

<http://www.alpenergywood.org>

<http://www.alpinespace.org/alpenergywo-results.html?&L=47193>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

With the extensive forest cover the Carpathians are rich in resources for wood fuels. Feasibility studies, knowledge transfer and training on this issue can be valuable modules of future projects in the field of sustainable energy.

Projects on climate issues and natural hazard mitigation:

Meteorisk

The objectives Meteo-risk project worked on:

- 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
- 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
- A statistical analysis to quantify the occurrence of extreme events in the different part of the Alps.

The common website of the project www.meteorisk.info is the primary and most visible platform for the project results. 24 h/365 days the actual warnings are displayed and updated according to the necessities of the meteorological situation.

Source and further information:

<http://www.meteorisk.info/>

<http://www.alpinespace.org/meteorisk.html>

ForAlps

The project ForAlps aimed at improving and integrating instruments to support the management of environmental resources in alpine areas, in particular water.

The activities comprised the adoption of innovative techniques for monitoring and reconstruction of the time evolution of meteo-hydrological processes.

Climatic databases of variables relevant for water resources availability were collected and analyzed. Pilot activities at selected target areas were performed, such as use of micro-radars and numerical modeling of meteorological and rainfall-runoff processes. To stimulate the adoption of best practices of

2008. 03. 28.

sustainable planning social and financial impact of improved meteo-hydrological information were evaluated.

Source and further information:

<http://www.foralps.net>

<http://www.alpinespace.org/foralps.html>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Harmonized meteorological data and services in the Carpathians could contribute to an overall picture of possibilities of hazards as well as the mitigation of natural hazard impacts and support informed decisions for civil protection and environmental management.

DIS-ALPS

As the management of natural risks in a mountainous environment and the prevention of disasters the project DIS-ALPS worked on a broad and accessible information basis, taking into consideration the needs of spatial planning, risk prevention, civil protection and catastrophe management, and the need for structured data.

This information basis:

- increases disaster information availability and access (GIS-based internet-information system, based on homogenised disaster “thesaurus”) and thus improves modelling of risk probability,
- knowledge-transfer about disasters and their documentation,
- contributes to the improvement of field-documentation processes via new tools and integration of disaster documentation into spatial planning and risk management.

Project partners were mainly national ministries and regional authorities.

Source and further information:

<http://www.alpinespace.org/dis-alp.html>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Natural risk prevention needs cross-sectoral approaches and co-operation. A similar project in the Carpathians could build on the results of DIS-ALPS project.

NAB

The goal of NAB-project was to achieve intensive cooperation between the relevant various disciplines and administrative levels in order to develop an innovative land use management regime targeted at sustainable risk mitigation for natural hazards.

The project worked on an optimisation of standardised and transnationally harmonised assessment procedures for slope and channel processes as well as transport processes in catchments at the regional and local levels which were tested in pilot areas. Further an exchange of experience and information was a continuous process. GIS-based site modeling (development of a forest site map and a working manual for the process-oriented management of protection forests) was elaborated together with maps and manuals.

2008. 03. 28.

For a process-oriented management of protection forests using standardised analysis and planning tools target types were elaborated. Project Partners were ministries, regions and public institutes working in this field.

Source and more information:

<http://www.alpinespace.org/nab.html>

<http://www.nab-project.org/>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Analogue to the results of DIS-Alps project the results of this project should be integrated in possible projects on this matter in the Carpathian Space.

River Basin Agenda

The project River Basin Agenda worked on

- the development of new methods to recognise future risk scenarios and effects of floods (early detection of and reaction to risks) with particular consideration of climatic change
- the harmonization and integration of existing sectoral methodologies
- implementation of integrated river basin management as a new, efficient planning tool;
- the integration of the main environmental impacts and aspects of resource management;
- the investment planning through programmes that are directly involved in practical decision-making of local and regional authorities;
- showing added value of river basin management for both, the awareness raising of the public and for local stake holders through new marketing and communication mechanisms.

Project partners were mainly regional authorities and a ministry as well as science institutes.

Source and more information:

<http://www.alpinespace.org/riverbasinagenda.html>

<http://www.flussraumagenda.de/>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

The Carpathian Space is source and area of many river systems. An integrated approach can mitigate flood impacts and support resource management.

Climchalp

The project aimed at giving concrete input to a future Alpine Space Programme based on conclusions about the type of climate changes in the Alpine Space and its potential effects.

By a general assessment of historical climate changes and its impacts as well as by climate models, future scenarios and their effects on natural hazards, spatial development and key economic sectors (e.g. tourism, mobility, agriculture, forestry, settlements and industries) were ascertained.

Within four thematic Work Packages the project will covered different aspects of climate change in the Alpine Space and its surrounding lowlands. Strategic

2008. 03. 28.

recommendations were laid down in a synthesis work package as an input to a follow up programme as well as to policy and administration level.

The partnership comprised ministries, regional authorities and agencies as well as scientific institutes.

Source and further information:

<http://www.alpinespace.org/climchalp.html>

<http://www.climchalp.org/>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Climate change and its impacts on different sectors are also relevant to the Carpathian Space. A similar project could be very important for the Carpathian Space.

INTERREG - IIIC

The Community Initiative Programme INTERREG III-C ran from 2004 and 2007. The overall aim was to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and instruments through large-scale information exchange and sharing of experience in a structured way.

Euromountains

The project aimed at identifying and collecting innovative solutions for ways of dealing with specific challenges in mountain regions, to identify their transferable success factors and to methodologically work together to find further new strategies.

The specific challenges and themes addressed in this project were:

- Improving the public and private services in mountains (infrastructures, culture and free time, health and social services, etc.)
- The role of local and regional authorities in the development and promotion of quality of mountain resources and products
- Defense and Management of the fragile rural areas, mountain landscape and natural resources.

Source and further information: www.euromountains.net

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

As well information and key findings of the project with proposals on how experiences can be transferred or used in follow-up projects could be provided to

- working group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
- working group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
- working group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry

The project finding should also be integrated in "Mountain ABC"-project proposal.

Destilink

DestiLink was a network-project of rural regions and research institutions in Europe working on sustainable tourism destination development through the exchange of information and best practices

The project worked on following issues:

- Development of a network of sustainable tourism destination stakeholders in European rural regions to exchange experience and knowledge on best practice examples and to develop efficient destination management tools. Furthermore the network aimed at bridging the gap between planners, managers, other change agents and researchers to enhance the innovation potential in the regions.
- Facilitation of capacity building in rural regions via interregional exchange. In order to develop the relevant competencies the project was dealing with a comprehensive set of topics, all of which are relevant to the development of sustainable tourism destinations. By focusing on these know how areas and fields of action it was possible to identify key problems in different types of destinations, in different contexts, and by using the pool of expertise within the project to develop relevant, realistic and innovative planning and management methods and tools to be used in the participating regions.

Source and further information:

<http://www.destilink.net/goodpractices.html>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Sustainable tourism development is a key issue in the Carpathians for maintaining natural and cultural diversity and values. Results of this projects could provide helpful contribution to regions and/or projects related to this topic.

Tourismpartners Europe

The project aimed at developing tourism in five European border regions. Together they developed common strategies, innovative tourist products and sustainable cross border partnerships in traditional tourist destinations of Central- and Eastern Europe. Tourism companies were provided with information about markets, trends and products and supported by business supporting organisations in the generation of new business ideas and concepts small and medium tourist enterprises.

Different projects in Eastern Europe were realized:

- Project in Carpathian mountains: The creation of an integral mountainous border area was the main goal of the cooperation between Slovak Tourism Board from Banska Bystrica in Slovakia and Carpathian Tourist Board from Ivano Frankivsk in Ukraine. The main idea of cooperation of this Carpathian Working Group consisted mainly of the creation of Carpathian Tourist Passport which enables many discounts and favorable conditions for the tourists. As well it is a network of cooperation for entrepreneurs from the Slovak-Ukrainian borderland.
- Lower Silesia / Upper Lusitia: Basing on common history and traditions the route of traditional handicrafts and the support to local cultural heritage was elaborated with the aim to promote the cross border tourism.

2008. 03. 28.

- Beskids: Basing on the potential for the development of active sport centres and spas resorts basing on the natural and cultural values of the region, the main focus of the project in Beskids was to integrate tourist facilities and to create a common tourist area in the borderland of Poland and Slovakia.

Source and further information:

<http://www.tourismpartners.net/>

Interesting points for the Carpathian Space:

Cross-border measures for tourism development are very important. Gaps could be analyzed and results of tourism partner-project integrated in a transnational project.

EUROREGIONS IN CARPATHIAN AREA

Overview:

The main types of bottom-up cross-border regional cooperations in the Carpathian area are the Euregions or Euroregions. The prototype of these regions was established as early as the 1970s on the German-Dutch border. Its organisational structures served as a model for all later established similar regions at least formally. They emerged first along the Western borders of Germany. After the political change in 1990, they appeared also along the Eastern borders of Germany and later there was diffusion to other Eastern borders. Now, the German-Polish, the German-Czech, the Polish-Czech, the Polish-Slovak, the Slovak-Hungarian, the Austria-Hungarian, the Bulgarian-Romania and the Bulgarian-Greek borders are fully covered by Euroregions.

The similarity to the model of the Dutch-German Euregion is, however, only the appearance, being the competencies and powers of Carpathian Euroregions radically different from the original model. Their established common boards do not dispose over any genuine decision-making competencies; they can adopt only recommendations. Even these recommendations are mostly of rather general and vague character. The partner regions are able to pay a very modest membership fee which is hardly enough to pay one or two employees in a secretariat, and to host the rotating meetings of the board. The Euroregions and its members can submit, as any other juristic or natural person an application for INTERREG and PHARE-CBC project support. Of course, the organisational framework of the Euroregion facilitates some coordination of these project proposals and applications, and it is an advantage of this organisations. But, for the time being, establishing a Euroregion is rather of political significance, signalling the intention to cooperate. There are very few Euroregions which can boast with tangible results.

At present, there are 20 Euroregions or "Euroregion type" organisations in the Carpathian area (see Table No. 2). It is more than 20 percent of all such organisations in Europe.

Organisational consolidation, however, did not follow the quantitative increase. In many cases, even the organisational form is not yet cleared. Are they associations, or corporations or interest groups? Sometimes national governments do not know how many Euroregions are on their borders, because Euroregions are subjects neither to Association Law, nor to Corporation Law and there is no obligation of establishing a Euroregions. The list below, can be therefore only of tentative character. The recent regulations of "European Groupings of territorial co-operation" might facilitate and promote the activities of Euroregions also in the Carpathian area.

Table No. 1

Number	Name of the Euroregion	Countries	NUTS2 level regions, where the cooperation takes place
1.	Euroregion „Tatry”	PL, SK	Podkarpackie, Východné

			Slovensko
2.	Euroregion „Beskidy”	PL, SK	Malopolskie, Stredné Slovensko
3.	Euroregion „Tešínské Slezsko – Śląsk Cieszinsky”	PL, CZ	Śląskie, Moravskoslezsko
4.	Euroregion „Pradęd – Pradziad”	PL, CZ	Opolskie, Severovýchod
5.	Euroregion „Silesia”	PL, CZ	Śląskie, Moravskoslezsko
6.	Euroregion „Neisse – Nysa - Nisa	PL, CZ, D	Dolnośląskie, Severovýchod, Dresden
7.	Waldviertel – Pomoravie - Zahorie	CZ, A, SK	Jihovýchod, Niederösterreich, Západné Slovensko
8.	Bilé – Biele Karpaty	CZ, SK	Střední Morava, Západné Slovensko
9.	Euroregion Ister-Granum	SK, HU	Közép Dunántúl, Západné Slovensko, Stredné Slovensko
10.	Váh – Danube - Ipoly	SK, HU	Észak Magyarország, Západné Slovensko, Stredné Slovensko
11.	Ipoly – Ipeľ	SK, HU	Észak Magyarország, Západné Slovensko, Stredné Slovensko
12.	Euroregion „Neogradensis”	SK, HU	Észak Magyarország, Stredné Slovensko
13.	Euroregion „Sajó-Rima – Slaná-Rimava”	SK, HU	Észak Magyarország, Stredné Slovensko, Východné Slovensko
14.	Euroregion „Košice – Miskolc”	SK, HU	Észak Magyarország, Východné Slovensko
15.	Euroregion „Kras”	SK, HU	Észak Magyarország, Východné Slovensko
16.	Euroregion „West Pannonia”	A, HU	Burgenland, Nyugat Dunántúl
17.	Euroregion „Bihar-Bihor”	RO, HU	Nord-Vest, Észak Alföld
18.	Euroregion „Upper Prut”	MD, RO, UA	Moldova, Nord-Est, Chernivtsi
19.	Euroregion „Danube-Maros-Tisa-Kris”	HU, RO, YU	Dél-Alföld, Vest, Vojvodina
20.	Euroregion „Danube 21st Century” (Iron Gate)	BG, RO, YU	Sud, Sud-Vest, Severozapaden, East Serbia

Case studies from Romania:

Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisza Euroregion

The DKMT Regional Cooperation was born in 1997, the 21st of November as special cross-border cooperation in the larger district of Hungarian-Romanian-Yugoslavian borders.

The members of the self-government type organization coming from below are Bacs-Kiskun, Bekes, Csongrad, Jasz-Nagykun-Szolnok counties from Hungary, Arad, Caras-Severin, Hunedoara, Timis counties from Romania and the Yugoslavian Voivodine.

The cross-border euroregional co-operations can only be an area part of a complex international, interstate, administrative programme, which has to integrate greater European, Middle-European, state regulations, treaties and programmes.

Vertical partnership must be realized through the dimension of EU, national, regional, county and local levels and horizontal partnership through the communication and co-operation of the partners living on the sides of triple border.

This Euroregional endeavoring is about practice of tolerance, change of inner behavior, raising the interest towards neighbours forming the ways of behavior for respecting the other, opens to each other's natural, economic, cultural values, acknowledging mutually the values, respecting and enriching them.

At present DKMT Euroregion measures 77.600 km² and a population of 5.2 millions inhabitants.

Characteristics:

- Tradition in the domain of economic and cultural cooperation
- Intercultural particularities
- Actual cooperation between universities, scientific and religious centers:

Timisoara, Szeged and Novi Sad;

Cooperation domains:

- Trade, financial, entrepreneurial, agricultural, tourism, ecology;
- Transport and communication infrastructure;
- Science, culture, sports, civic relationship;
- Other domains depending on mutual necessities.

Goal: the development and enlargement of relations among local authorities and communities in the domains of economy, education, culture, health, science and sports and also collaboration for European integration

Specific objectives:

- Creation of an institutional structure for the Euroregion;
- Achieving EU compatibility and increasing in the Euroregion's capacity of using structural funds;
- Adjusting the regional development strategies and policies in order to reduce the gaps among regions;
- Strengthening the cross-border cooperation within DKMT at the level of civil society, economic players and administrative structures through creating a multilateral cross-border network;

2008. 03. 28.

- Achieving a multilateral cooperation by exploiting mutual advantages, by partnership, regional policies adjusting and a better use of common funds;
- Ensuring the stability of life quality based on multilateral relationship of the population in the region;
- Encouraging civil society, economic agents and administrative structures to take part in the development programs elaboration and implementation.

The strategy gives a definition on the basis of considering essential situations and necessity of co-operation and contributes to the realization of the common norm's system, practice and respective of the border population.

a, Short term: building out and functioning of interregional connection system according to institutionalized, selected aims, which are declared in orientating trilateral cross-border co-operating initiatives and treaties.

b, Middle term: the harmonized development of infrastructure, regional based realization of rural development, common, systematic realization of small and big co-operation projects, the strengthening the social-economic cohesion of partnering counties and regions can start with the further institutionalization and program like widening the connections along the determination of strategic partnership and co-operation programs.

c, Long term: interregional, communication and development, working out of common projects, their competing and realization can come true through everyday work and authentic self-arrangement which are helped and broadcasted by Western-European institutionalized connections suitable for Europe norms. The cooperation becomes an everyday activity based on the mutual confidence of different ethnic groups, states and administrative units and essentially helps the fortification of social stability and the improving living standard in the region.

Organs of DKMT cooperation:

- The Forum of Presidents consisting of presidents of the public administrations in member counties;
- The President-in-Office, chosen from the members of 'The Forum of Presidents';
- The permanent Secretary at Szeged;
- The work groups for activity domains: Group no.1: Economy, infrastructure and tourism, Group no.2: Urban Planning, protection of nature and environment, Group no.3: Culture, sports, NGOs and social issues, Group no.4: International relations, information, mass-media

Accomplished projects:

- realization of Timis - Csongrad cross-border point
- creation of a regional economic development strategy;
- publishing the common "Euroregio" magazine;
- "DKMT Days" organizing from May 1997
- coordination of tourism offers in all DKMT countries
- realization of a regional information center.

Projects in course of implementation:

- realization of Timis - Csongrad cross-border point infrastructure through PHARE CBC RO-HU 2000;

2008. 03. 28.

- rehabilitation of Bega Channel in the perspective of its connection to Danube-Rhine-Main Corridor;
- rehabilitation of the rail track: Szeged (Hungary) – Kikinda (Serbia) – Timișoara (România);
- environment protection of Surduc lake zone, rehabilitation of rural infrastructure and Surduc lake zone integration into international tourism circuit;
- rehabilitation of Buzias spa center in parallel with Mako spa center through PHARE CBC RO-HU 2003
- Lugoj – Timișoara – Arad – Nădlac – Szeged highway which will connect the Western part of Romania to the Pan-European Corridor IV. The project was included in the Cooperation Accord of 23rd of May 2001 at Timisoara
- Opening of a cross-border point at Triplex Confinium – the point where the border lines of Romania, Hungary and Serbia meet.

Other activities

A series of meetings took place:

- on 29th of January 2003 at Timisoara – Chamber of Commerce Presidents' Forum in DCMT region aiming to encourage economic cooperation and trade within the region.
- on 22nd of June 2004 at Timisoara – conference on development strategies of DKMT with subjects like: actual stage and perspectives of DKMT space, the development of business environment, economic cross-border cooperation regarding European Union
- On 28th of May 2005 at Szeged – the subject of cross-border cooperation among the three countries was debated by the Prime Ministers of DKMT states. With this occasion the General Assembly of DKMT met and adopted the Development Strategy of the Euroregion. Proposals have been made for trilateral agreement on risk prevention and management and establishment of risk prevention and management centers at Timisoara, Szeged and Novi Sad, with a common intervention in case of disaster.

Euroregion Danube 21st Century

The idea about Euroregion, with the Danube being its centre, was first initiated in 2000. The Association of Danube municipalities from Bulgaria and Romania was its initiator. To include Serbian municipalities in this project was possible only after democratic changes in Belgrade.

As a result of common initiative of county councils in Romania, Bugaria and Serbia, on 18th of January 2005 at Vidin in Bulgaria, the Agreement on Association on cross-border cooperation called "Danube 21" Euroregion was reached by the president of the municipality of Vidin, the president of the municipality of Calafat (Romania) and the president of the municipality of Zaječar (Serbia).

The establishment of this Association was encouraged by the governments of Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania for the purpose of strengthening of these peripheral regions hit by poverty and isolation.

The region includes the following municipalities:

Serbia	Bulgaria	Romania
1. Zaječar	1. Vidin	1. Kalafat
2. Bor	2. Belogradčik	2. Poiane Mare
3. Knjaževac	3. Lom	3. Desa
4. Negotin	4. Rujniti	4. Cupercenii Noi
5. Sokobanja	5. Čiprovo	5. Cetate
6. Boljevac	6. Dimovo	
7. Kladovo	7. Macris	
8. Majdanpek	8. Kula	
	9. Novo Selo	

Objectives

Primary objective of the Association is to join efforts for the purpose of resolving the most important common problems which this part of south-eastern Europe is facing, being localities situated at a great distance from the administrative centers, lacking economic and transport infrastructure, depending on agriculture and increased unemployment rate. Through joint work and efforts better chances are created for overcoming various problems these countries are facing in the fight against crime, illegal trade etc., and numerous possibilities open up for cooperation in economic, cultural, educational and other areas.

Organs of cooperation:

For better coordination of work, more competent approach to spheres of common interest and professional elaboration of various development and other programs and projects, within the Association a number of committees have been established for:

- strategic development
- culture and education
- development of economy and infrastructure
- sports and tourism and activities of the young
- ecological safety
- agriculture and
- health protection and social activities.

These committees are made up of representatives of all regions - members of the association.

Activities:

- On 24th of September 2002 at Vidin –Ministers of External Affairs of Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia met and debated on the cross-border cooperation within the Danube 21 Euroregion, having as result the creation of a special council consisting of the representatives of Vidin, Calafat and Zajecar municipalities and representatives of the Ministers of External Affairs
- On 23rd of October 2004 at Calafat – meeting on new ways of cooperation within the Euroregion.
- On 21st of August 2006 – Agreement Romania-Bulgaria on the construction of Calafat-Vidin Bridge with PHARE funding.

Proposed projects:

- Construction of a natural gas distribution pipe linking the municipalities of Calafat, Vidin and Zajecar;
- Projects concerning environment protection;
- Creation of information centers for business;
- Creation of a free trade zone;
- Organizing fairs and expositions;
- Rehabilitation of street, heating, water supply and sewage infrastructure of the Euroregion's municipalities.

The Middle Danube - Iron Gate Euroregion

As a result of the common initiative of county councils in Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia, on 6th of October 2006, at Vidin the Agreement on Association and the status of the Middle Danube - Iron Gate Euroregion was signed; it includes the county of Mehedinti (Romania), the county of Vidin (Bugaria) and the municipality of Kladovo – the District of Bor (Serbia).

Being recently formed, this Euroregion did not develop cross-border cooperation projects but series of meetings among experts from the three countries took place at Vidin where some projects were established for the following period.

In parallel, collaborations have been established among the mayors of Drobeta-Turnu-Severin, Orsova and Vidin municipalities and between the Serbian and Romanian managers of Iron Gate National Park which the Bulgarian authorities intent to join.

Upper Prut Euroregion

The idea of this Euroregion was initiated from Romanian wish in the Treaty regarding neighborhood and collaboration relations between Romania and Ukraine signed on 2nd of June 1997; the region consists of Botosani and Suceava (Romania), Balti and Edinet (the Republic of Moldova) and Cernauti region (Ukraine). On 22nd of September 2000 the Agreement on the Euroregion's constitution was signed at Botosani.

Organs of cooperation

Committee 1: dealing with economic problems, infrastructure, tourism

Committee 2: environment protection and sustainable development

Committee 3: science, education, culture, health, sports

Committee 4: inter-regional and inter-ethnic relationship

Activities:

- international scientific conferences on environment and ethnic relationship;
- change of experience in administrative, socio-economic, cultural domains;
- the repeal of taxes for cross-border passing for the Euroregion's inhabitants;
- identification of common projects concerning sustainable socio-economic development and raising the technologic level environment protection;

- the meeting on Romanian minority problems in Cernauți region and Ukrainian minority problems in Suceava county, took place in the town of Suceava.
- cross-border cooperation projects within the cooperation program between Romania and Ukraine (part of TACIS CBC and Phare CBC) concerning: environment protection, culture, rural tourism, development of SMEs: “Bucovina Regional Economic Forum”, “Development of an alternative transport network between Romania and Ukraine”, “Discover Bucovina” (tourism promotion in the historic part of Bucovina (Suceava-Romania and Cernauti Region); “Bucovina Traditional Folklore Festival”.
- in 2006 – the meeting of Upper Prut Euroregion’s Council having as result the approval of activity plans for the four Committees of the Euroregion dealing with economic problems, infrastructure, tourism, environment protection and sustainable development, science, education, culture, health, sports, inter-regional and inter-ethnic relationship;
- cross-border cooperation programs Romania-Ukraine for 2004-2006 period – project named “Cultural cooperation between Botosani and Glodeni”

Short and medium term projects:

- common programs for measuring and evaluation of Prut River water quality;
- improvement in the exploitation of Stanca-Costesti hydroelectric power station;
- improvement of cross-border check points among the three states;
- creation of the “Upper Prut” tourism itinerary;
- rehabilitation of Radauti Prut (Botosani-Romania)-Lipcani (Edinet-Republic of Moldova) bridge;
- creation of a information system among the Chambers of Commerce and Industry within the Euroregion;
- establishment of a commercial bank for the Euroregion’s members;
- improvement of some roads connecting the Euroregion’s members; developing cross-border rail and road corridors;
- providing the localities along the Prut river with water supply, sewage and cleaning equipment.

Bihor-Hajdú-Bihar Euroregion

The Euroregion was created at the end of 2002 under the Authority of Bihor County (Romania) and Hajdú-Bihar (Ungary), realizing that cross-border cooperation is very important for European integration.

Objectives:

- maintaining and developing a good cross-border cooperation;
- identifying the potential cooperation domains;
- organizing activities in order to promote cooperation;

2008. 03. 28.

- implementing concrete programs of common interest;
- promoting Euroregion's cooperation with other international organizations;
- supporting the Euroregion members during the European integration.

Organs of cooperation:

- Euroregion's Council
- Executive Committee
- President
- Secretary
- Three Special Committees:

The Committee for international cooperation – establishing international cooperation relationship

The Committee for budget and survey – analyzing funds allocation

The Committee for cooperation and sustainable development – dealing with financing opportunities correlated with annual strategic priorities.

The Carpathian Euroregion

Romania has been represented in the inter-regional Association of the Carpathian Euroregion by the counties of Satu Mare, Sălaj, Maramureș, Botoșani from 1997 and Harghita from 2000.

Activities:

In 2002-2003 the Romanian partner collaborated with Main-Rhine Euroregion in a project concerning environmental issues. The first phase was initialized in 2002 when a group of Dutchmen experts visited Baia Mare and Suceava and together with Romanian experts identified environmental problems of Romanian part of the Carpathian Euroregion. The next phases consisted in visits and interactive change of experience among Romanian, Hungarian and Dutch experts.

In 2003 another project was initiated regarding the construction of an express road linking the municipality of Baia Mare (Romania) and Voja (the county of Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg - Hungary) which is supposed to insure the connection between Baia Mare and the European highway network. The partnership with EU members within the Carpathian Euroregion enabled funds use within the INTERREG program for infrastructure development.

In 2004 - the second edition of "Culture Days Festival in the Carpathian Euroregion"

From 2004 the Carpathian Euroregion has participated in an international program in Maas-Rijn Euroregion, named "Flood Prevention Policies".

In 2005 in Budapest the Administration Board approved projects within "Integrated Rural Development Programme": "Econet Initiative" and "Long Term Development of Bucovinei Mountains"

In 2006 - Partnership in the following projects:

"Interactive Forum of Experts on Transportation in the Carpathian Euroregion"

2008. 03. 28.

“Co-operation along the EU’s Eastern External Border Regions in the Carpathian Euroregion”

“Logo East “– a programme for strengthening local and regional governments through partnership (Haga, Holland, 27th of March – 8th of April)

Case studies – Projects in Romania or with Romanian participation:

Forest Development Project (FDP)

Forest Development Project is implemented in România.

The FDP will assist MAFF to:

(a) establish systems to ensure sustainable management of private forest lands, by building the capacity of the Department of Forests and its forest inspectorate, supporting the development of private forest owners associations, and establishing a forest management information and monitoring system;

(b) mitigate the consequences of forests restitution on the management of State forest lands by assisting NFA to maintain, develop and finance its important role in managing protection forests, and reduce the environmental impacts and improve the economic efficiency of managing State production forests through rehabilitation and development of the forest road network, piloting an effort to introduce improved environmental standards in roads design and rehabilitation;

(c) support increased productivity and competitiveness of forest industries, through establishing and operating a Forest Sector Business Information Center; and (d) build public support for sustainable forest management by implementing a public awareness program targeting key stakeholders with emphasis on new forest land owners and their associated communities

Implementation process of the FD project:

Phase	Action type	Published	Deadline
Call for bids	Procurement of Hardware and Software	May 2, 2007	Jun 22, 2007
Call for letters of intention	Training Program for the Department of Forests and 9 (nine) Territorial Inspectorates	Mar 29, 2007	Apr 16, 2007
Call for bids	Forestry Management Information and Monitoring System	Jul 21, 2006	Sept 18, 2006
Call for bids	Procurement of works for rehabilitation of forest roads	Apr 20, 2006	Jun 6, 2006
Call for bids	Procurement of IT equipment	Mar 16, 2006	May 23, 2006
Call for letters of intention	Support for Establishment and Development of Associations of Local Forest Owners	Jun 1, 2005	Jun 23, 2005
Call for letters of intention	Public Relations Support, Awareness Campaign and Development of PR Products	Jun 1, 2005	Jun 20, 2005
Call for	Strategic Development of National Forest	Jun 1,	Jun 30,

2008. 03. 28.

letters of intention	Administration	2005	2005
Call for bids	Procurement of vehicles	May 27, 2005	Jul 15, 2005
Call for letters of intention	Best Practice Guidelines for Forest Roads Romania	Nov 24, 2004	Dec 10, 2004
Call for bids	Procurement of Double-cab Pick-up Trucks	Aug 18, 2004	Oct 6, 2004
Call for bids	Procurement of Vehicles	Aug 18, 2004	Sept 30, 2004
Call for bids	Procurement of 4x4 vehicles	Aug 17, 2004	Oct 4, 2004
General call for acquisitions	GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE	Nov 6, 2003	

General Cadastre & Land Registration Project

General Cadastre & Land Registration Project is implemented in România. The General Cadastre and Land Registration Project aims to:

- establish an efficient system for securing land titles of real estate owners which can be expanded nationwide;
- create a general cadastre system providing clear and current definition of real estate parcels forming the basis for real estate registration; and
- set up a simple, safe, and cost effective procedure for land transactions.

There are three project components:

- The first develops cadastre by supporting aerial photography, base map development, cadastral surveys, and a Land Information System; by strengthening national and local cadastre offices; and by supporting the Cadastre Implementation Group that manages the cadastre component.
- The second component establishes and operates a land book system, trains staff, and provides institutional support for local land book offices and the land book implementation group.
- The third component provides institutional strengthening by supporting the project coordination unit; providing technical assistance to guide implementation and enhance planning and management capacity of the project agencies; and information system design and development and assistance in carrying out cost recovery studies.

Implementation process of the GC&LR project:

Phase	Action type	Published	Deadline
Call for letters of intention	Consulting services for Development of a Five Year Program for the Implementation of the General Cadastre in Romania	Apr 11, 2006	Apr 19, 2006
Call for letters of intention	Consulting Services	Mar 18, 2006	Mar 31, 2006
Call for	Conversion of Land Books from OCPI Bucharest	Oct 10,	Nov 21,

2008. 03. 28.

bids	into a Digital Database	2005	2005
Call for bids	Procurement of Cadastre Services: Conversion of Inscription/Transcription Registers into a Digital Database	Sept 14, 2005	Oct 31, 2005
Call for bids	Procurement of Archive Furniture	Sept 13, 2005	Oct 10, 2005
Call for bids	Procurement of Cadastre Services: Database and Digital Archive for Property Titles	May 3, 2005	Jun 22, 2005
General call for bids	General Procurement Notice	Jan 14, 2005	
General call for bids	General Procurment Notice	Feb 13, 2004	
Call for bids	Procurement of Orthophotomapping – Ortho_DJ_OT/2003	May 13, 2003	Jun 26, 2003
Call for bids	Procurement of Computers and Accessories	Nov 14, 2002	Jan 9, 2003
Call for bids	Procurement of Aerial Photography and Orthophotomapping –Aero 04/2003	Nov 14, 2002	Jan 16, 2003
Call for bids	Procurement of Vehicles	Jun 19, 2002	Aug 5, 2002
Call for bids	Aerial Photography And Orthophoto Mapping – AERO 03/2002	Apr 15, 2002	Jul 18, 2002
Call for bids	Publicity Campaign Services	Jan 28, 2002	Apr 15, 2002
General call for bids	General Cadastre & Land Registration Project	Jan 14, 2002	

The project aims to improve the information system on land use and land ownership by providing accurate and updated land registrations, as well as strengthening the institutional framework which centralise this information.

This objective of the project will contribute to achieve the main objective of CP which is the protection and the sustainable development of the Carpathian area, by improving the internal as well as European cohesion of the area and by preserving its natural and cultural heritage

Obviously, the project will contribute to the coordination of environmental and developmental objectives, which CP tries to demonstrate, can go hand in hand, by more accurate and updated data base on the region's advantages, potentials and challenges.

The results of the project are expected to have short term impacts in physical planning and in real estate transactions. On long term there are expected improvements in environment control and land use management, especially in agriculture and forestry activities.

The project will have results in the improvement of the information base through the collection and systemizing of the spatial information on the Carpathian region, including environmental information.

2008. 03. 28.

Deepened knowledge on spatial data of socio-economic sectors, the project will have significant influence in the stakeholder's activity as well as in changing life conditions of the population.

Donauregionen –

The Spatial Development Concept of Interregional Cooperation in the Danube Space – INTERREG IIIB-CADES

Outline of content

The aim of the project was to harmonize and complete the information basis for spatial planning in the Danube area, which is a prerequisite for investments in the region.

The countries located along the Danube river, thereof many new EU members, need to co-ordinate and update their spatial concepts and plans, in accordance with the new conditions imposed by the enlargement. The insufficient availability of information for planning is a constraint for investments which can be overcome by common strategies.

The spatial planning work group ARGE Donauländer developed in the period from 1997 to 2002 a comprehensive strategy for the Danube region. Donauregionen project is the next step in the process of international co-operation between the Danube countries in order to evaluate and exploit their development potentials.

Results and effects are:

- creation relations and partnerships between the authorities in the Danube area
- establishment of a territorial-planning basis supporting the interregional co-ordination in the Danube area
- construction of a system allowing reporting/sharing on the activities planned by Danube regions.

Relevant outcomes

“Methodology of organization of the transnational data basis” (Mars 2000) – Spatial Development Plan of the Danube Area – INCD URBANPROIECT – Bucharest

“Relevant indicators for the European spatial development” (July 2000) – INCD URBANPROIECT – Bucharest

“The spatial development concept of interregional co-operation in the Danube space” – Project methodology (August 2006) – MoCRD Bratislava

- Natural resources, environmental protection and creation
- Human resources, urban structure and quality of life
- Transport and technical infrastructure

Source and further information: www.uok.bayern.de

Partners:

Bulgaria – National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria – Sofia

Hungary – Scientific Association for Regional Development Self – Government of Pest County Budapest

Romania – INCD URBANPROIECT – Bucharest

Serbia – Republic Agency for Spatial Planning of the Republic of Serbia – Belgrade

Germany – Ministry of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection of Bavaria – Munich

Slovakia – Regions Research Center – Modra, – Ministry of Construction and Regional Development - **Lead partner**



Important parts for the Carpathian Space/Carpathian Project (C.P.):

- The information platform on which public authorities in the cross-border regions may rely in their planning and programming activities.
- The structure of the information and planning system can be compared with the data basis and approach of the C.P.
- The establishment of partnerships between planning organizations in the region in order to harmonize and co-ordinate spatial planning activities. Working in transnational projects is a difficult task for international partners, particularly coming from new EU members; this setback must be overcome by establishing common ways of thinking and acting.
- The creation of transnational relations between public authorities and between private organizations is a pre-condition of the polycentric development.

2008. 03. 28.

- The development strategy prepared between 1997 and 2002, in such a large transnational area, could be interesting as a model of structuring and managing the goals of different international actors.

The formulation of a development concept for the Danube area includes the identification of projects fostering development, a typology of the regions, and the selection of the centers for development.

- It could be also useful to compare the set of instruments developed by the project; in order to enforce the implementation of the proposals, with those CP establishes.

In close relation with the “Donauregionen” is another INTERREG IIIB project the “Donauhansé”, developed in the period 2003-2006, with a budget of 1,960,000 Euro. The project partners were mainly local authorities of the riverbank cities (city councils) from: Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

The main goal of the “Donauhansé” project was to establish a network of cities, connected by the Danube River, which could co-operate with the aim to foster economic prosperity of their citizens.

The results and effects expected were nearly similar with those above mentioned, but more concrete in the way of realizing a sustainable network of Danube linked cities:

- contact among city authorities responsible for economic development, tourism and transport;
- an elaborated common marketing strategy for the river tourism; specific economic activities and transport;
- integration of additional destination for tourism into the Danube river route and improvement of the river corridor in ports and urban river bank developments.

This initial “Donauhansé” project could be interesting for CP primarily by its way to establish the conceptual and organizational framework and identifying concrete areas and project cooperation in an area centered on a natural element, which can be considered either as a “barrier” and a “connector” other point of interest for CP could be in the way the project strengthens the cities as hubs of development for polycentric networks, in a transnational framework organized along a major natural element.

READY –

Mine Closure, Environmental and Socio-Economic Regeneration Project – INTERREG IIIB CADSES

History of the Project:

The structural change in mining regions is a difficult task and many small cities are not able to cope with it alone. That’s why the City of Oelsnitz already initiated the Interreg II C-project REVI. The target of REVI was to find technical solutions for former mining places. The former REVI partners supported by the Institute of

2008. 03. 28.

Ecological and Regional Development (IOER) in Dresden have developed the follow up project READY which based on the results of REVI and the demand for overall revitalisation and development concepts. Further partners were found in Germany as well as in other EU and non-EU countries. They want to overcome the disadvantages of development that emerged because of long-time-mining.

Project partners are 18 mining cities and regions in 6 countries, 1 state ministry, 2 scientific institutions and 1 private organisation. In the participating cities the mining industry is in decline or mining and manufacturing of mining products has already ended.



The cities have 4 common characteristics:

1. Lack of political awareness
2. Looking for new local and regional perspectives
3. Situated in peripheral regions
4. The cities are little or medium sized.

The main task is an intelligent link between rehabilitation and regional planning in mining regions followed by the creation of a European network of mining cities to improve the competitive ability of the structural disadvantaged mining cities.

Objectives:

1. Providing incentives for the structural change through the accomplishment of new perspectives, strategies for rehabilitation and development, identification and preparation of key investments.
2. Initiation of a new quality of trans-national cooperation and of an exchange of know-how and experience among the partners of the network.
3. Increasing the political attention by corporate actions.

Mine Closure, Environmental and Socio-Economic Regeneration Project

The Government of Romania has received financing in the amount of US\$120 million equivalent from the World Bank toward the cost of the Mine Closure, Environmental and Socio-Economic Regeneration Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, works, related services and consulting services to be procured under this project.

The project will include the following components:

A: Mine Closure and Environmental Component of the Project will (i) support the closure and environmental rehabilitation of mines and/or mine processing facilities at 20 sites; and (ii) help start implementation of the recommendations of the Sector Environmental Assessment which was conducted in 2002.

B: Socio-Economic Regeneration (SER) Component of the Project will scale up the job creation activities piloted by the Mine Closure and Social Mitigation Project (MCSMP) and will add sub-components to foster local conditions for economic growth and social regeneration based on the lessons learned. The main objectives of the SER component are to: (i) Scale up the job creation measures implemented under the first loan; (ii) Support local development activities through community capacity building and financing of economic infrastructure and social services; and (iii) Strengthen the Borrower's capacity to implement the SER component.

C: Institutional Support Component consists of the institutional support for the following: (i) the Project Management Unit (PMU) which will manage the Mine Closure and Environmental component and will also be responsible for consolidating project accounts; and (ii) the National Agency for Development and Implementation of the Reconstruction Programs in Mining Regions (AZM), Romanian Social Development Fund (RSDF) and the Project Management Unit for Socio-Economic Regeneration (PMU-SER) which will coordinate all the sub-components related to SER.

Implementation process of the MCSM project:

Phase	Action type	Published	Deadline
Call for bids	Mine Closure and Environmental Regeneration Works for Bodos Mine	Jul 12, 2006	Aug 21, 2006
Call for bids	Mine Closure and Environmental Regeneration Works ISCRONI (Livezeni Sud) Mine	Jul 4, 2006	Aug 1, 2006
Call for bids	Mine Closure and Environmental Regeneration Works for Livezeni	Jul 4, 2006	Jul 31, 2006
Call for bids	Mine Closure and Environmental Regeneration Works for Racos Mine	Jul 4, 2006	Aug 7, 2006
Call for letters of intention	Consulting services for Monitoring and Social Impact Assessment : Plan of Project Evaluation and Present Situation Study for the Socio-economic Regeneration (RSE)	May 22, 2006	Jun 5, 2006
Contract	Quarter/Year: 1/2006	Feb 1, 2006	
Call for	Vehicle acquisition	Jan 5,	Feb 15,

bids		2006	2006
Call for letters of intention	Consulting services for the <<Public Consultation Campaign>>	Jan 4, 2006	Jan 31, 2006
Call for letters of intention	Consulting services for <<Strengthening the Capacities of the Communities>>	Dec 22, 2005	Jan 31, 2006
Call for letters of intention	Integrated Financial Management System	Sept 6, 2005	Sept 30, 2005
Call for bids	Mine closure and Environmental Regeneration of the mining affected areas at Valea de Brazi, Hunedoara county	Aug 8, 2005	Sept 28, 2005
Call for letters of intention	Technical Audit for Closure and Environmental Rehabilitation Works	Jun 20, 2005	Jul 4, 2005
Call for letters of intention	Development of Closure Manuals for Salt and Uranium Mines	Jun 20, 2005	Jul 4, 2005
Call for letters of intention	Development of a Manual for Environmental Procedures and Implementation of an Environmental Management System in the Mining Sector	Jun 20, 2005	Jul 4, 2005
Call for letters of intention	Preparation of an Environmental Monitoring Plan for Calimani and Baia de Aries Mines	Jun 20, 2005	Jul 4, 2005
Call for letters of intention	Workspace Centres, Management and Enterprise Support Services	Feb 3, 2005	Feb 25, 2005
Call for bids	Mine Closure, Environmental and Socio-Economic Regeneration		

Analysis and preparatory work for the extension of a skiing area within a mining site

Category: feasibility studies and case studies

Keywords: tourism, regional development, rehabilitation

Baia Sprie is a typical mining city in the North of Romania. The city with an area of approx. 96.02 km² counts approx.11,000 inhabitants. Approx.1.500 of which are still working in the mining industry. (Update: 2005)

Background:

The copper, gold and silver mining, which is subsidized by the state until 2007, characterized the area in and around Baia Sprie. The mining for many years left environment damages like heaps and contaminated rivers, which still today form the image of Baia Sprie. To overcome the structural change, people search for alternatives and other potentials. Here the READY project is a welcomed beginning. Here development plans for an old people's home and a kindergarten shall be made, as well as a first analysis and first work for the extension of the ski-area shall be made.

Description:

2008. 03. 28.

With accomplishing projection for the feasibility study, municipality of Baia Sprie through its Local Council, charged the firm S.C.CENTE S.R.L. from Baia Mare, Maramures County.

The general objective of the program is to improve the regional infrastructure in order to support the economic growth by creating a favourable frame for attracting local and foreign investors and by creating sustainable working places.

The specific objective of the “Feasibility Study: “Gutinul – Development of tourism area Baia Sprie – Suior” will be to attempt - rehabilitation and development of tourism infrastructure including leisure facilities and historical and cultural infrastructure and transport links to these facilities, and also to enhance the attractiveness of the areas with tourism potential.

Project results will be concreted in:

- 1 ski fond track/mountain bike, length, 1,864 km, breadth 6 m, level difference 85m
- new created access road, length 0,680 km
- race track biathlon competitions, length 420 m, breadth 7,75m
- race track for starting biathlon, length 140m, breadth 7,75m
- polygon fire biathlon I, length 70 m, 12 stalls
- 1 parking with 60 places
- 1 administrative building Sc 560 mp
- 1 Salvamont building Sc 225 mp
- 1 lake surface 1, 75 ha

This project is very important for the community of Baia Sprie because it aims to create alternative jobs for mining sector, which is at present the most important income source for the inhabitants here. In short time, mining industry will no longer be a satisfactory economic support; one possibility is to be completely close up if there will be no private investors.

Building a skiing area and auxiliary facilities using a former mine landscape will have a multiple effects – after use and rehabilitation of a mining site and generating a long term economic development, which is one of the main targets of the community here.

The objective of the specific study follows also the directions established at national level within the National Development Plan 2000-2004, also in the Regional Development Plan for North-West Region and, not last, by the Sustainable Development Strategy of Maramures County.

The National Institute for Research and Development on Urban and Spatial Planning URBANPROIECT in its quality of coach and monitoring body of the Romanian partner in the INTEREG IIIB READY Project – the city of Baia Sprie, confirms through this Assessment Report that the feasibility study has proved to be feasible. We conclude for so, that the Romanian partner has accomplished the second and last action mentioned in the Action Plan – Action 1.36.

Infrastructure improvement plans to enhance the quality of live in residential areas of miners, development of plans for an almshouse and a kindergarten

Category: concepts/plans

Keywords: regional development, rehabilitation

Background:

Analyzing present situation in Baia Sprie, the City Hall concluded that it is necessary to operate some actions to improve live quality among its citizens. Likewise the City Council has approved the evolvement of two feasibility studies referring to construction of a kindergarten for little children and extending an almshouse for old citizens of Baia Sprie and its surroundings. As partner in READY Project, the City of Baia Sprie supported, in kind, an amount of 3000 euro for the mentioned feasibility studies.

Description:

The main objective of the actions operated by Baia Sprie Partner is to improve the quality of live at local level.

This purpose is sustained by two sort of results:

1. Results deriving from constructing the kindergarten, like:

- two levels building;
- improving capabilities of public management in offering social services to locals. Building this kindergarten, local authorities anticipates a higher access to preschool education and less worries for parents regarding the time spent by the children during their work hours.

2. Results deriving from extending the existing almshouse

- new public spaces- a day centre club of 100 square meters for pensioners; five more rooms; a room for contagious illness;
- improving capabilities of public management in offering social services to locals.

Extending the almshouse is a project based on the increasing demands for this kind of social services and is expected to improve old peoples live quality.

Both projects, the kindergarten and the almshouse, subscribes to the higher purpose of getting sustainable development in mining communities.

Results of the project so far:

- New business opened – 1078
- New work places created – 6185
- New business incubated – 64
- Support consultancy points for entrepreneurs -80
- Micro-credits for economic initiatives – 2484
- Value of micro-credits assigned – 5.581.140 USD

The next steps envisaged are:

- Finding new investors for the remaining mining sites;
- Stimulation of local creativity, by citizens' participation, in order to collect and manage project proposals coming from the private sector.
- Development and use of tools addressed to build private/public partnerships, in the process of improving local infrastructures.
- Finalizing closure of mines sites where investments are no longer economically efficient.

Mine Closure and Social Mitigation Project effects report

According to the World Bank's report on the Implementation Completion and Results of the **Mine Closure and Social Mitigation Project** (29th of June, 2007), the project was satisfactory. Here are some assessments on the project.

Relevance of Objectives and Implementation

In April 2004 the Government of Romania approved the 2004-2010 Mining Sector Strategy aimed to reform the sector and respond to EU accession rules that required the Government to eliminate subsidies for all mines other than coal by 2007 and for coal mines by 2010.

A new Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) was adopted in May 2006, shortly before the project closed. The CPS is centered on supporting the Government's EU accession and integration agenda. In this context it makes reference to the need to properly manage environmental standards to meet EU requirements as well as for targeted poverty reduction measures to ensure that the benefits of growth reach the entire population. Thus, in addressing these goals, the project remained as relevant to the Bank assistance strategy at closure as it did during preparation.

Achievement of Project Development Objectives

The main development objective of the project is considered to be achieved as all the key performance indicators of the project have been surpassed.

The mine closure component led to the closure of the 31 mines which resulted in the permanent cessation of all operational subsidies related to the mines that had stopped operations but had not yet been technically closed. The component also resulted in environmental remediation for the mines.

The social mitigation component created and sustained about 25,000 jobs. This is equivalent to about 30% of the total number of miners laid-off by the 1998 decision, but it should be noted that not all jobs went to ex-miners.

The objectives of the social mitigation measures were: (1) to augment the Government's efforts to bring economic relief to mining regions that have been affected most seriously by the cessation of production of mines; and (2) to test the effectiveness of a comprehensive social mitigation strategy in Romania. In 2005, a social impact report captured trends that suggested a revival of social capital and social cohesion in communities in the mining areas, albeit at a very low level.

All measures contributed to the achievement of the intended objectives - providing access to capital through the micro-credit schemes; business consultancy and know how through the Enterprise Support Services scheme; labour market training through Employment and Training incentives Scheme, and services provided to business entities through Business Incubators provided value added services that promoted income generation. Of course these results should not be attributed exclusively to the project. By this period Romania had entered a period of significantly stronger economic growth and revival of employment that contributed to the improvement of conditions in the mining communities. Nonetheless, the relative isolation of many of these communities tied with their former monoindustrial nature suggests that without the project it would have been more difficult for economic revival to reach these areas.

In the Institutional Strengthening Component, the most significant achievements were: adoption of the new mining law, establishment of modern IT based mining cadastre and title registry, and sectoral environment assessment followed by its implementation. In addition NAMR received training in private sector investments; training and equipment for the exploration and exploitation concession inspection.

Efficiency

The economic analysis shows that employment downsizing of the loss-making mining industry combined with re-employment of workers in productive private sector activities makes a significant contribution to the mining regions and the country's overall economy.

The contribution is due to the overall productivity increase caused by the sector's workers taking up jobs outside the industry as well as by avoiding economic losses in nonviable mines when employees in such mines are laid off. The economic rate of return is estimated to be 50 percent.

Compared to the initial target of 10,000 jobs the project was able to create over 13,000 and sustain another 6,448.

In terms of outcomes, mining localities are not better off than non-mining localities but given that they had been much more severely affected by sector restructuring, which is not surprising, but it is also noticeable that improvements in mining localities are evident.

Other Outcomes and Impacts

1. Social Development. As confirmed by the Social Impact Monitoring (SIM) report done in 2005, one of the key manifestations of the project's social development impact was improved - social capital in the mining regions. Social capital is an indication of the social cohesion of the community, and has been shown to have positive outcomes for health, political participation, educational achievement and crime. Following the initial shock of the mine restructuring process, there was a sharp decline in social capital between 2001 and 2004. However, from 2004 onwards, there has been a revival of social cohesion and trust across the mining communities, something that has been facilitated by the project's social mitigation activities.

2. Institutional Change/Strengthening

The restructuring of the mining sector in Romania meant a radical change in the role of state institutions from being production and output oriented to functioning more as regulatory bodies.

Given that the agencies involved lacked the necessary experience, the project was designed to assist in strengthening the capacity of the CGMC (Central Group for Mine Closures), NAD (National Agency for Development and Implementation of the Programs for Reconstruction of the Mining Regions) and NAMR (National Agency for Mineral Resources) in the closure of mines, social mitigation and the promotion of mining concessions to private investors. The project successfully established CGMC and built up its capacity to carry out closures based on international best practice. The capacity of NAMR was also enhanced enabling it in its efforts to attract private investments in the mining sector. NAD's role in the project was to coordinate and implement the social mitigation program. During project implementation NAD directly implemented some project sub-component and outsourced others. There has been an evident evolution of NAD over the course of the project.

According to the World Bank's report on the Implementation Completion and Results of the General Cadastre & Land Registration Project, the implementation of this project has resulted in important benefits to both individuals and the Romanian society as a whole, alleviating two of the major constraints towards the development of land market, namely, the title insecurity and insufficient quality of service delivered.

The **creation of a unified self-financing Agency** and the merging of the offices across the country is a very significant step for sustainability of the reforms. The Agency's position as autonomous outside the ministry structure also allows it a certain freedom to make decisions and act more like a business operation than a state bureaucracy. The Agency has developed a monitoring system to collect transactional data and monitors the different offices to ensure good service standards are being met. The Agency is committed to rolling out the new IT system with its own funds throughout the remainder of 2006 and 2007.

ANCPI is strongly positioned to continue the reforms begun under the project. ANCPI is self-financing and is on a sound financial footing.

The Government of Romania has requested a new investment project that will build on the improved land administration system now in place. The **new project - the Farm Restructuring Project** – will have two components, the first of which will focus on systematic cadastre and titling in priority agricultural areas. This systematic work will build on the results from the two pilot systematic cadastre works (in Dâmbovița and Prahova counties) completed under the General Cadastre and Registration Project. This new project is also made possible due to the strength of the new Agency's performance and improvements in service delivery. In addition, ANCPI has applied for a received EU PHARE program funds for additional systematic cadastre work activities. This project is already underway.

Achievement of Project Development Objectives

The Project Development Objectives have been achieved. A secure land book system has been established throughout the whole country. A simple cadastre system is also in place and has now been integrated with the land book to provide a one-stop-show for property transactions (simple, efficient and cost effective). The overall processing times have been significantly reduced and the quality of the processing has significantly increased.

The public are more aware of the need for registration, and the process is being professionalized, the incidence of incorrect or incomplete applications being significantly reduced.

ANCPI now has complete digital orthophoto coverage of the whole country and has introduced the concept of cadastral index mapping to allow it to provide a geographical reference for all parcels, though without precise field boundaries. Cadastre services are carried out by the 42 regional offices involving 3085 cadastral units. The number of sporadic registrations (on demand) entered into the cadastre has increased from 165,258 in 1999 to 594,783 in 2005. It is estimated that the numbers this year (2006) are going to be another 20-30% higher.

The land book system is now operational in all 42 counties and 3 million new land books have been opened in the former transcription-inscription areas (south and

east of the country). These points contribute to both an increase in land market activity and more recognition of the need to register ones property. Standard applications are registered in some ten days, and alterations to land parcels are processed in 15-20 days. ANCPI is managing some 3,000 cases per day - both cadastre and registry transactions. Interviews with stakeholders (notaries, banks, etc.) and anecdotal evidence tell us that most transactions are being registered with ANCPI and this is supported by the growth in numbers recorded by the Agency.

Access to information has also increased as more property owners are aware of the services of ANCPI and the importance of registration, as well as growth in the land market. Requests for extracts (property related information) have increased from approximately 1 million in 2002 to 1.5 million in 2005. Other ministries have also been able to use the data generated by the project for their own purposes. This includes use of the orthophotos by the Agriculture Ministry in the preparation of the Integrated Administration and Control System/ Land Parcel Identification System necessary for EU subsidy payments.

One unexpected outcome has been the growth and growing sophistication of the private sector in Romania. The private sector has grown with the project providing numerous and increasingly sophisticated services - cadastre surveying, data entry, digitization of cadastre plans, document scanning and indexing. This is a positive development for the future programs and projects of ANCPI in this sector but also for Romania as it enters the EU and foreign investment increases along with the need for sophisticated and well managed surveying (for road construction, housing development), scanning and data entry services and others.

Efficiency

In summary, project economic benefits could be estimated in four dimensions:

- i) impact on the property market;
- ii) environmental impact;
- iii) streamlining of registration process; and,
- iv) impact on the banking system.

Other Outcomes and Impacts

At the time of project preparation it was recognized that the private sector, particularly private surveyors would play an important role in implementation, but less attention was paid to the need for strengthening and professionalization of the private sector. As the project has progressed, the need for appropriate professional standards and codes of conduct for cadastral surveying, conveyance and notarial services, valuation become clear and the project has provided the opportunity for these private sector interests to develop. This has had a direct impact on the quality and reliability of the registration, led to a reduction in processing times (more complete and better information submitted) and consequently has contributed to a reduction in disputes, and thereby a more cost effective and secure system.

The project has also resulted in a unified system of land registration. This was not anticipated, and the benefits are still filtering through. Externally, the public sees less bureaucracy and a faster turnaround; internally, the staff has a greater understanding and respect for the work of the different sectors resulting in closer cooperation and understanding. Registrars and surveyors now have a better

2008. 03. 28.

understanding of each others profession and that they are providing an integrated service to the public.

Finally, the project did not anticipate that a fully self -financing agency would be established as a direct result of the project. This is a tremendous step that provides for the future sustainability of the sector, and could suggest a model for other agencies in the region.

Conclusions and Outlook

Government programmes and Carpathian Euroregion:

It has to be stated, that none of the government projects of the last century outlined can be regarded as fully successful, and some of them can be regarded rather as a failure. Some of them could not be completed (Hungarian alpine project, Polish Central Industrial Region). Others turned to be really problematic after the change of the political and economic system (Slovak arms industry, Jiu Valley). The Carpathian Euroregion seems to be born prematurely.

Deduced recommendations for an envisaged future EU-Carpathian Programme:

The time dimension of any programme shall be seen to be extremely important. Economic recovery of lagging areas is a very long term process, which requires a long term policy framework. It is especially important in the Carpathians, where geographic, economic, environmental, social and ethnic conditions represent anyway an immense obstacle in the way of any development initiatives.

International cooperation, but especially EU commitment, is a sine qua non of any successful programme. The Carpathians is a “transnational” mountain range, and the respective Carpathian countries are mostly small states. But in the largest country, the “Central Industrial Region” project has failed in a large part because of the lack of international financing. If Romania would have been EU member in the last decade, the situation in the Jiu Valley would be certainly different at present. The World Bank offered assistance, but it cannot be substitute for the EU – for example the long lack of EU-technical and financial support of for the Carpathian Euroregion. For these initiatives and other recent processes the EU neighbouring and partnership policy was formed to late.

Cooperation and common work in the transnational mountain range Carpathians calls also for the importance of involving the Ukraine and Serbia in any Carpathian cooperation. At present, all other Carpathian countries are already members of the EU. Therefore, there might be an inclination to leave out the Ukraine and Serbia from Carpathian cooperation schemes. Their participation makes serious administrative and accounting difficulties. But especially the Ukraine is situated at a critical section of the Carpathians, its leaving out would separate the two halves of the Carpathians from each other. As well no integration of Ukraine and Serbia into EU-Programmes or projects would mean not to integrate substantial natural and cultural heritage.

A future Carpathian programme should include not only the mountain areas, but their forelands as well. Without them to prepare a viable programme for the Carpathian is not possible. Workplaces in a sufficient number cannot be created in the mountainous areas, only in the cities at the foot of the mountains. The markets for mountain products are in the cities in the foreland. Services, other

than the basic ones can be created only in these cities or larger settlements. Accessibility in mountainous areas means mainly the accessibility to and from the next larger city. The Polish project "Central Industrial Region" was implemented entirely in the cities of the forelands, still, it had much more significant impact on the situation of the mountainous area than the Hungarian project to support alpine agriculture, which was restricted to the really mountainous villages and small settlements. As well the Alpine Space Programme included regions and cities in the foreland of the Alpes, which have strong connections to mountainous areas and which assume the position of centralized regions with the main economic productivity.

The formulation of a strategy requires prioritization and sequencing between objectives potentially conflicting, especially in the short run. Lack of proper prioritization was felt most in the Polish project "Central Industrial Region". Nearing the date of completion of the programme, almost nothing or very few of the constituting investment projects were completed. In case of economic development projects, prioritization and sequencing means that priority should be given to national growth, aiming to raise the combined performance of regions, rather than to redistribute existing resources.

There can be no full reliance on a single or limited set of instruments to promote growth. Comprehensive policy packages are the key to success, with human capital and knowledge being the crucial elements in the policy mix.

Socio-economic and environmental objectives are inseparable in a complex development programme. Inseparable, though sometimes they may compete with each other or even contradict to each other. In mountain areas and in the long run however, they are mostly reinforcing each other. Stopping deforestation is an environmental, but at the same time a long run economic aim as well. With the rehabilitation of pastures the situation is the same.

Considerations of ethnic and party politics type should be – as far as it is possible – left out from the programmes, especially in the Carpathian which is a very sensitive area from this point of view. Unfortunately it was not always the case in the examples of the last century described. Ethnic considerations played a role in the Hungarian and in the Slovak programmes. Among the causes of the Carpathian Euroregion, there were some conflicts of political and ethnic nature as well. In the case of the Jiu Valley programme bad management and bad politics met and the result of this meeting was total and dramatic failure. It is to be hoped that such fallacies could be avoided in the future.

Lessons Learnt from EU-Programmes and –Projects and Euregions

The Alpine Space has a long tradition of cross-border and transnational cooperation on different levels (local, regional, national) – starting already in the 50s. Once transnational co-operation started on EU-level, the Alpine Space (resp. parts of it) had an own programme and the possibility to cooperate within EU-funded projects in different fields.

2008. 03. 28.

Thus several thematic experiences were gained within the Art. 10 – Pilot Action Programme - Eastern Alps as well as INTERREG IIC for the Western Mediterranean and Latin Alps and especially withing INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space in the programming period 2000-2006. The topics, for which experience in transnational cooperation was gained, comprise the sectors of spatial development, economic development, sustainable transport and accessibility as well as natural and cultural heritage and hazard prevention or mitigation. Several of these experiences are transferrable to the Carpathians and should be integrated when setting-up a related project in the Carpathians. Some Alpine Space projects have interesting approaches as well as structures for the implementation of projects that shall also be considered in the Carpathians.

Cross-border regional cooperations in the Carpathian area emerged mainly with the Euregions in the 90s. At present, there are 20 Euroregions or “Euroregion type” organisations in the Carpathian area. But their established common boards can only adopt recommendations, which are quite often rather general. Due to financial restrictions the management of these Euregions is often very limited. The Euroregions and its members could and can submit applications for EU-funded cross-border cooperation. The organisational framework of the Euroregion facilitates some coordination of these project development and applications. But, for the time being, establishing a Euroregion is rather of political significance, signalling the intention to cooperate. There are very few Euroregions which can boast with tangible results.

The regulation of “European Groupings of territorial co-operation” for the programming period 2007-2013 might facilitate and promote the activities of Euroregions also in the Carpathian area.

Also experiences and cooperation within EU-funded cross-border programmes can further contribute to establish clear structures and achieve more tangible results. Experiences of other cross-border cooperation areas, especially already established EU-cooperation programmes, in terms of organisation, implementation and thematic outcomes shall be taken into consideration in the future.

In the Carpathian Area also in EU-funded transnational cooperation projects were implemented within CADSES and CADSES Neighbourhood Programme. The programme area integrated the whole Carpathian Space with a rising number of EU-member states within the programme area in the course of programme implementation.

Programmes and Projects relating to the Carpathians as outlined should be considered respectively integrated when planning on further steps and contact to former project holders should be established.

In general, experience with cooperation in Euregions, EU-funded cross-border and especially transnational cooperation shows that the implementation of international projects needs time. Often the first “tangible” result is the getting to know each other, getting familiar with different legal structures and approaches. Administrative obstacles – in terms of partner cooperation but also in the sense of EU-project management have to be overcome.

Lessons can be learned from already implemented programmes and projects, especially those, that were – with the Lead Partner Principle and one common

2008. 03. 28.

management structure - already centrally organized in the programming period 2000-2006. Administrative experiences on EU-framework, on the management and coordination of complex (structure- and topicwise) projects will be used in further EU-Project work and shall not get lost and “reinvented from the start”.

The programme descriptions and project examples from different areas in the Carpathians and transnational cooperation projects in the Carpathians and in the Alps should be taken into account.

The results of these projects can be good starting points for (further) “tailor-made” Carpathian projects. The ‘how-to’-experiences in implementing these projects in different topics successfully and have results used by relevant target groups and decisions makers should be integrated when elaborating project ideas and applications.

Additionally, for administrative, managerial and thematic implementation of international EU-projects the findings and publications of the INTERACT programme, collecting and analyzing experiences from different INTERREG Programmes and Projects all over Europe, shall be integrated respectively the possibility of participating in meetings and seminars shall be used.

Outlook on the new EU-Programming Period (2007-2013)

The new programming period (2007-2013) brought some changes to EU-Structural Funds.

The INTERREG-community initiative was changed into a mainstream programme, thus now called “Objective 3 – European Territorial Cooperation” (ETC).

There are still 3 strands for cooperation: The cross-border, the transnational and interregional cooperation strands.

In the strand for transnational cooperation, there still is a programme for the whole Alpine Space in the Programming Period 2007-2013.

The CADSES area – that comprised the whole of the Carpathians – was now split in two Programmes:

The Central Europe and the South-East Europe (SEE) Programmes are now the successor programmes in the Programming Period 2007-2013, comprising following countries (see graphic below):

CENTRAL EUROPE Programme

SEE Programme



Therefore the Carpathian region was cut in two by the Central and SEE Programmes

Special rules that would allow Carpathian countries from outside the respective programme area to participate – the 20 % and 10% - rules - still have to be implemented.

In the new Central Programme and as well in the SEE-Programme international bodies under international law cannot participate due to national control and liability regulations.

Thus, while on one hand the new programmes encourage forming and implementing sustainable structures and institutions for specific challenges, on the other hand already existing strategic partners and networks under international law are excluded due to the tight administrative framework of structural funds implementation.

Therefore it has been stated as not retraceable and disappointing that the Alpine Space, with several experiences and proved results in wealthier regions of the European Union, still has a common Programme Area, while at the same time EU-Projects in the Carpathian Space are not possible to a full extent in the whole region. Furthermore existing transnational networks under international law that can support the integrity of the Carpathians in the new programme areas are excluded from participation and the Carpathian region with economies in transition is as such further marginalized.

A common catching up to sustainable economic development possibilities, natural and cultural heritage and spatial development standards as well as coordinated cooperation in the whole Carpathian Space in the issue of transport and sustainable solutions are thus further lagged.

2008. 03. 28.

Recommendations

towards programme bodies and the EU-level:

- mountain areas in Europe and their foreland shall be considered in transnational cooperation programmes
- the Carpathian Convention as the only existing transnational framework of cooperation will be fully utilized and supported
- until the long expected creation of a full-fledged Carpathian Spaceprogramme in European Territorial Cooperation.