



# The Alpine Space in the future Cohesion policy

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# CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION (1)

- Programming period 2007-2013 at mid-way point
- Crisis: **Cohesion policy as part of EU crisis response**: short-term action to reinforce Europe's competitiveness in long term
- **Adoption of Europe 2020**: strategy on how Europe can deliver smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in longer term



# CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION (II)

- Lisbon treaty: addition of **territorial cohesion** as explicit objective of Cohesion policy
- **Debate underway on future of Cohesion policy**: Commission publishes fifth Cohesion report with public consultation, followed by Cohesion forum held January 2011
- Commission to make proposals for **post 2013 EU budget financial framework** June 2011.



# TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME ALPINE SPACE (I)

- **Seven Alpine countries work together**, including 2 non-EU Member States
- Programme invests €130 millions in impact-orientated projects 2007-2013
- **Priority 1: Competitiveness and attractiveness**  
(includes strengthening of innovation, especially SME's and reduction of territorial disparities)



# TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME ALPINE SPACE (II)

- **Priority 2: Accessibility and Connectivity** ( includes intergrated planning of transport and mobility and innovative ICT-based public services)
- **Priority 3: Environment and Risk Prevention** ( especially coping with the effects of climate change).
- **Exists alongside national and regional Cohesion policy programmes** in Member States implementing European Regional Development Fund ( ERDF) and European Social Fund ( ESF)



# EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

7 Flagship initiatives as follows:

- **Innovation Union:** aims at turning innovative ideas into products and services creating jobs and growth
- **Resource efficient Europe:** aims at meeting climate/energy targets
- **Digital agenda for Europe:** speed up roll-out of high-speed internet
- **Agenda for new skills and jobs:** includes increasing of labour market participation



# EURO 2020 STRATEGY

- **Industrial policy for the globalisation era:** includes improvement of business environment for SME's
- **Youth on the move:** enhance education systems and facilitate entry on labour market
- **European platform against poverty:** ensure social and territorial cohesion.



# EUROPE 2020 and COHESION POLICY

- **Cohesion policy already contributing** towards achievement of EUROPE 2020 goals
- **Crisis response marks a further shift** in this direction, in particular by promoting energy efficiency
- **Alpine Space programme a good example** of strategic alignment





# FUTURE DIRECTION OF COHESION POLICY

- Reinforced strategic programming in future, **further alignment with Europe 2020 Strategy**
- **Results-driven** approach **enhancing added-value**
- Development and investment **partnership contract** with Member States
- **Increased thematic concentration**
- **Strengthening performance** through conditionality (success factors) and incentives



# POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR TERRITORIAL COOPERATION

- Likely maintenance of current architecture
- Cooperation on an **equal footing** with other Cohesion policy objectives
- Strategic approach: need to be **more firmly embedded in strategic frameworks**
- **Simpler delivery system**



# IMPLICATIONS OF TERRITORIAL COHESION APPROACH

- **Enhanced functional approach** meaning more flexibility regarding territorial levels and scales at which challenges can be met
- **Multisectoral** place-based approach involving wide range of different EU policies
- Concept best communicated through **case studies, good practices** and benchmarking



# TERRITORIAL COHESION DIMENSION IN FUTURE POLICY

- Need to account for intensification of development problems by **geographical or demographic features**?
- Need for development of **ambitious urban agenda** and addressing high concentrations of **socially marginalised groups**?
- Need to address **urban-rural linkages**?



# MARCROREGIONAL STRATEGIES

- Part of territorial cohesion philosophy of **building interventions around needs of functional regions**
- Involvement at European level justified by **common challenges** difficult to meet by standard intergovernmental or interregional responses
- **EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region adopted as pioneering approach** following increasing degradatation of Baltic Sea and need to address disparate development paths of bordering countries



# BALTIC SEA STRATEGY: MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Create an **environmentally sustainable** place (e.g. through enhanced waste water treatment)
- Create a **prosperous** place (e.g. promoting innovation in SME's).
- Create an **attractive and accessible** place (e.g. improving transport links).
- Create a **safe and secure** place (e.g. better accident response).



# BALTIC SEA STRATEGY: STRUCTURES

- **No extra burdens** in funding, institutional and legislative terms
- Strategy divided into priority areas with identified flagship projects
- Priority area coordinators at national or regional level acting as facilitators
- **Multisectoral approach** harnessing funding from different sources (e.g. Cohesion policy, other EU funding, national funding).



# BALTIC SEA STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE

- Implementation under way since mid-2009
- **Further work needed** on aligning all sources of funding with the strategy aims
- **Commission to report** to Council on progress to Council in 2011.
- **Need to have convincing gains** from first experiences (including Danube strategy) **before deciding on further macroregional strategies.**





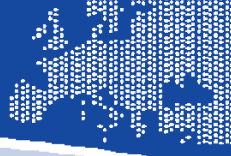
# DEMOGRAPHY ISSUES

- Major **cross-cutting** theme of importance to current and future Cohesion policy
- Relevant for **implementation of many flagship initiatives** of the Europe 2020 strategy
- Relevant for **implementation of territorial cohesion agenda**
- Impact dependent on specificities of targeted regions or territories



# DEMOGRAPHY: INITIATIVES AT EU LEVEL

- Bi-annual **European Demography Forum** ( November 2010 forum devoted to Demographic Dimension of Europe 2020 Strategy)
- Innovation **Partnership** pilot project on **Active and Healthy Aging**
- Commission proposal for **European Year 2012 for Active Aging**
- 2009 Commission Communication to EU finance ministers on dealing with impact of aging population



# **CONCLUSIONS**

**YOUR SEMINAR IS AN IMPORTANT  
CONTRIBUTION TO THIS DEBATE !**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !**