



Strategie Macroregionali e soft-planning: il caso di EUSALP

Luisa Pedrazzini – *Cooperazione Territoriale e Ambientale Europea*

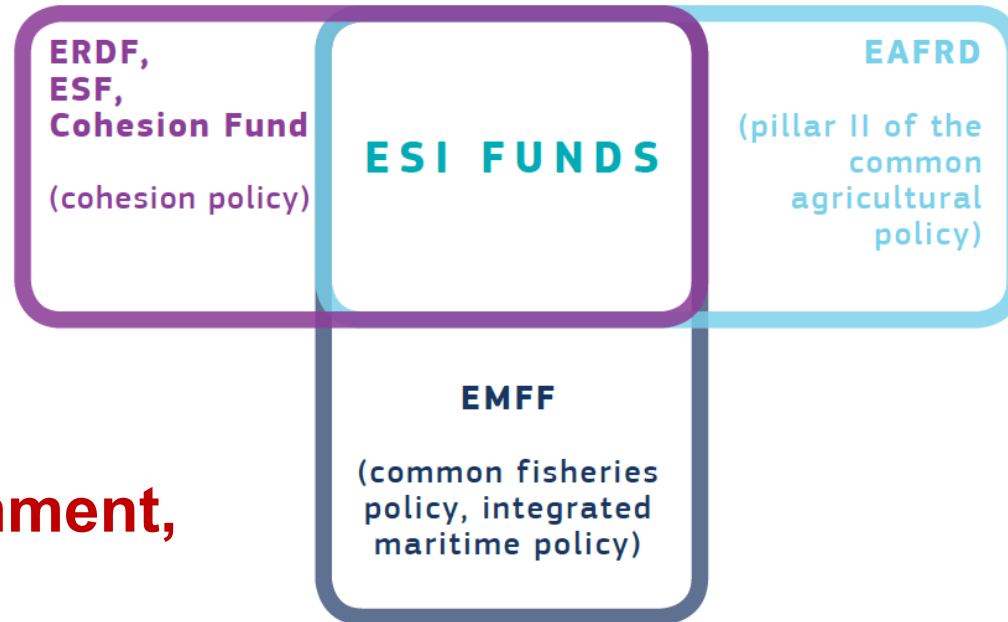
DG Ambiente e Clima

AIM: Regionalization as a way to overcome borders and face disparities in Europe

Objectives 2014-2020

Smart, sustainable, inclusive EUROPE2020

RESOURCES: ESI Funds



and more... (EIB, Environment, Research, ...)

Feature of the ETC 100 programmes



European Macro Region

*There is no standard or legal definition
for a macro-region*

MACRO REGION: *“an area including territory from a number of different countries or regions linked by a geographic feature and associated with one or more common challenges.”* Source: DG Regional Policy 2009

Geographic features (sea, river)

Historic-cultural-social features? (former empires, language groups ...)

Functional features (ports, capital cities, research poles)

EU MACRO REGIONAL STRATEGY

A 'Macroregional strategy' is an integrated framework endorsed by the European Council, which may be supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds among others, to address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to Member States and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

EU MACRO REGIONAL STRATEGY

- ✓ The EU Macro-Regional Strategies add value to interventions, whether by the EU, national or regional authorities or the third or private sectors,
- ✓ **Working together can become a habit and a skill.** In addition, overall coordination of actions across policy areas will very likely result in better results than individual initiatives.
- ✓ The EU Macro-Regional Strategies **do not rely on any additional funding.** In this respect, one of the challenges is to find ways to use existing resources, legislation and structures to be better used for the benefit of the whole region

MACRO REGIONS : governing principles



- ✓ No new EU legislation
- ✓ No new EU institutions
- ✓ No new EU funds

The task is to find ways to use existing resources, legislation and structures to be better used for the benefit of the whole region.



It is in the framework of Territorial cooperation

Territorial cooperation:

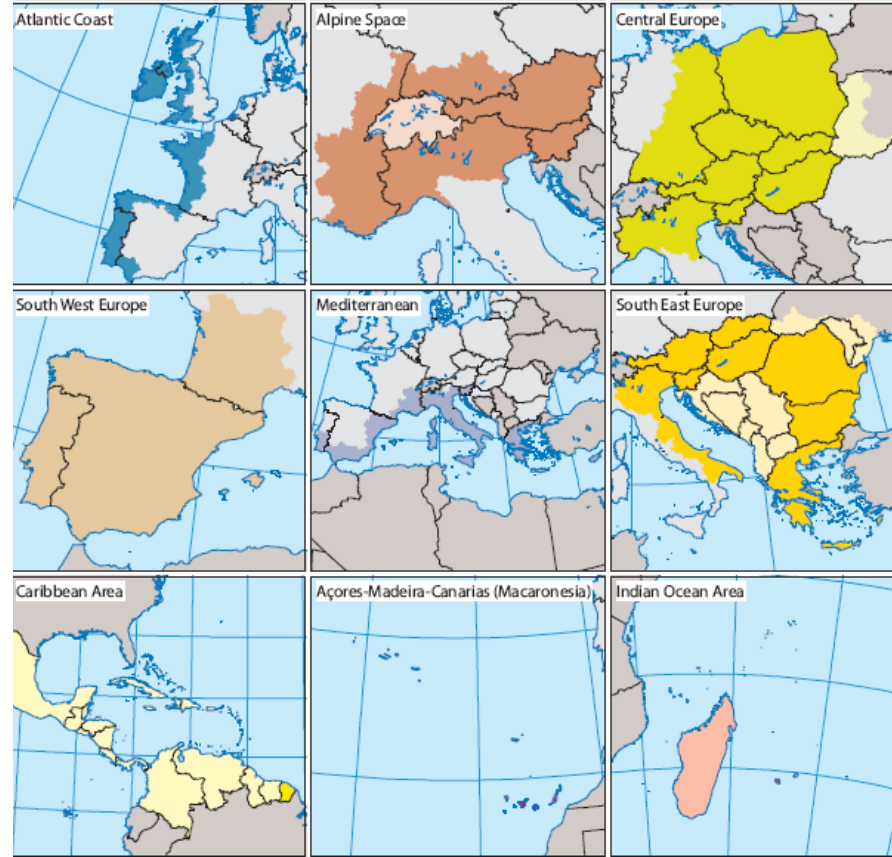
European Transnational regions facing common issues, problems and challenges

Interreg B: 13 programmes
(2000-06, 2007-13, 2014-209) (projects on voluntary basis)

Structural Funds 2007 - 2013: Transnational Cooperation areas

Non-EU cooperation areas are indicative only, and subject to modification.

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries (NUTS regions)
Other administrative boundaries: Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL), FAO



ERDF Transnational cooperation programmes 2014 - 2020



**2016 NEW:
Macroregional strategies**



4 EUROPEAN MACRO REGIONS

Macro-regional strategies approach in a comprehensive way development of a larger region, addressing common challenges and potential. They represent an EU value added, and existing EU horizontal policies are reinforced. **Main matters:**



- ☐ the deterioration of the environmental state of the Baltic Sea;
- ☐ unused potential for improved navigability and water quality for an attractive Danube Region;
- ☐ economic, social and environmental diversity and fragmentation in the Adriatic Ionian Region,
- ☐ territorial, economic and social imbalances between cities and rural areas in the Alps, to be addressed in a potential future EU Strategy for the Alpine Region.

MACRO REGIONS main objectives



- **Save the sea**
- **Connect**
- **Increase prosperity**



- **Connect**
- **Protecting environment**
- **Strengthening the region**
- **Building prosperity**



- **Blue growth**
- **Connect**
- **Environmental quality**
- **Sustainable tourism**



- **Sustainable growth & innovation**
- **Connect**
- **Environmental quality**

EUROPE2020
Smart
Sustainable
Inclusive

EUSALP the macroregional strategy

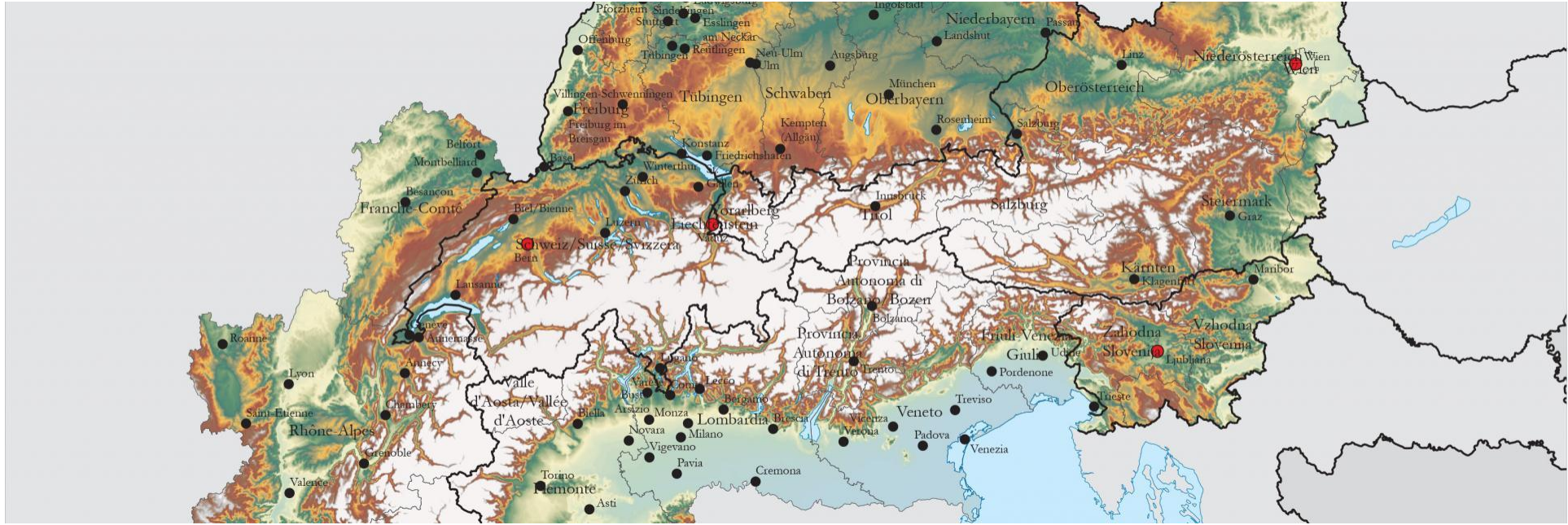
The [European Council of 19-20 December 2013](#) invited the Commission, in co-operation with the Member States, to prepare an EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) by mid-2015. From 16 July to 15 October 2014 a public consultation was held (400 contributions).

This consultation, together with the debates and discussions in the [Stakeholder Conference on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region](#) (Milano, 1-2 December 2014) in preparation of the Communication and Action Plan, which the Commission presented in June 2015. On 27 November 2015 the Strategy was **endorsed by Council of the European Union** and on **28 June 2016 by the EU Council**

Alpine Region involves **7 countries (5 EU)**: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland.

48 regions, 80 millions Inhabitants

ALPINE Macro Region: a long story



Lasting about thirty years....

The strategy will benefit from the long experience of a large number of cooperaton structures already operating in the area: Arge-Alp, Alpine Conventon, Alpe-Adria, Euregio, Cotrao, trilateral cooperaton between Slovenia, NE-Italy and Austria and other ad hoc structures such as the 'Zurich Group'

Overlapping of cooperation areas



Macro Region Alpine EUSALP

Transnational cooperation area



Interreg IVB
Alpine Space
South East Europ
Centrale Europe
MED



ALPINE Macro Region

The Alpine area is composed of territories with contrasted demographic, social and economic trends and a great cultural and linguistic diversity. This diversity goes along with a great variety of governance systems and traditions. **Both the common specificities of the Alpine area and its variety and diversity call for cooperation.**

The Alpine region represents a living and working space for the resident population and an attractive tourist destination for millions of guests every year. The Alps are the water tower of Europe and are known all over the world for their natural beauty, varied landscapes, rich biodiversity and cultural heritage.

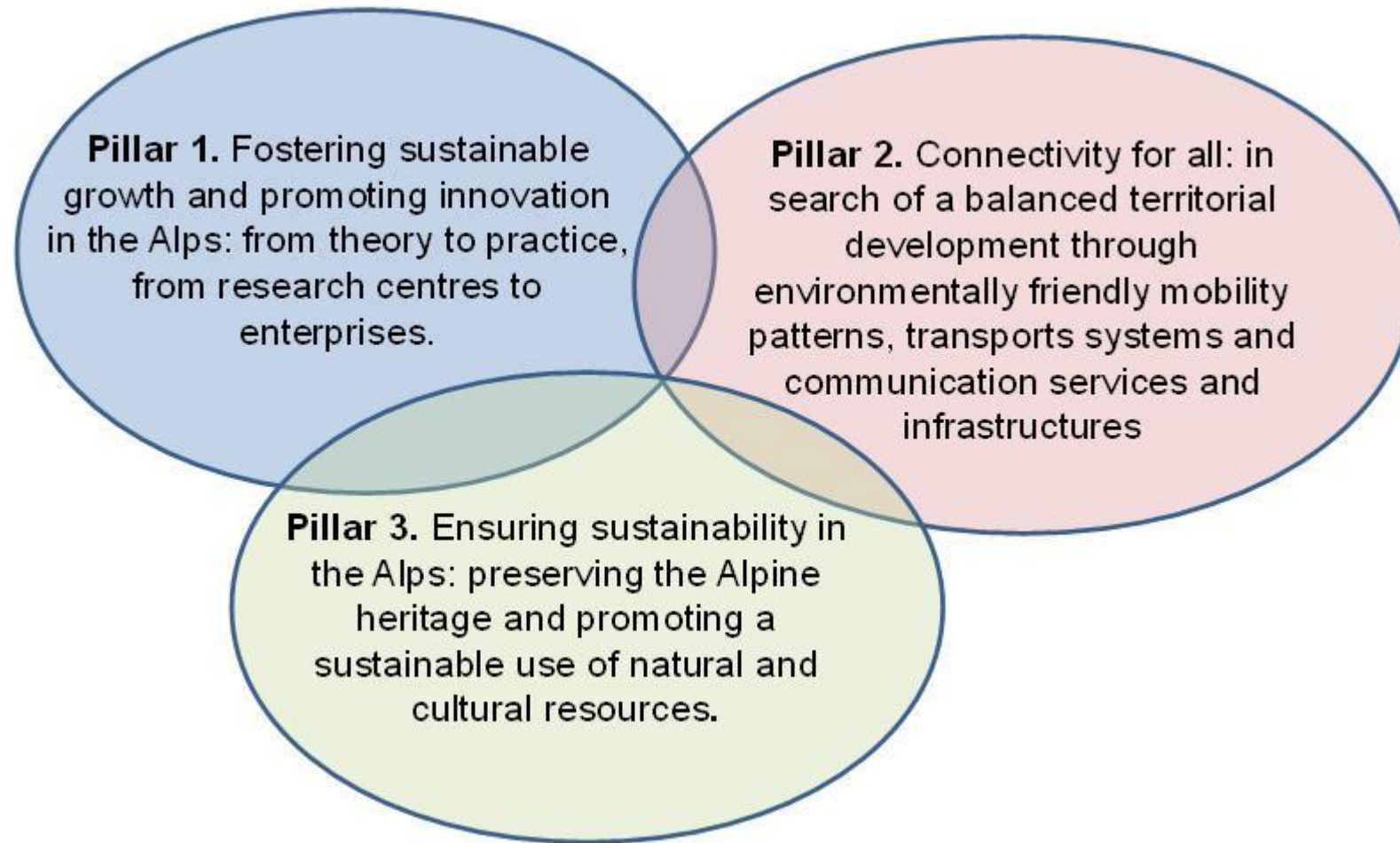
ALPINE Macro Region major challenges

- Economic **globalisation** that requires the territory to distinguish itself as competitive and innovative by developing the knowledge and information society
- Demographic trends, characterized particularly by the combined effects of **ageing and new migration** models
- **Climate change** and its foreseeable effects on the environment, biodiversity and on the living conditions of its inhabitants
- The **energy** challenge at the European and worldwide scales, which consists in managing and meeting demand sustainably, securely and affordably
- Its **specific geographical position in Europe**, as a transit region but also as an area with unique geographical and natural features with set the frame for all future developments

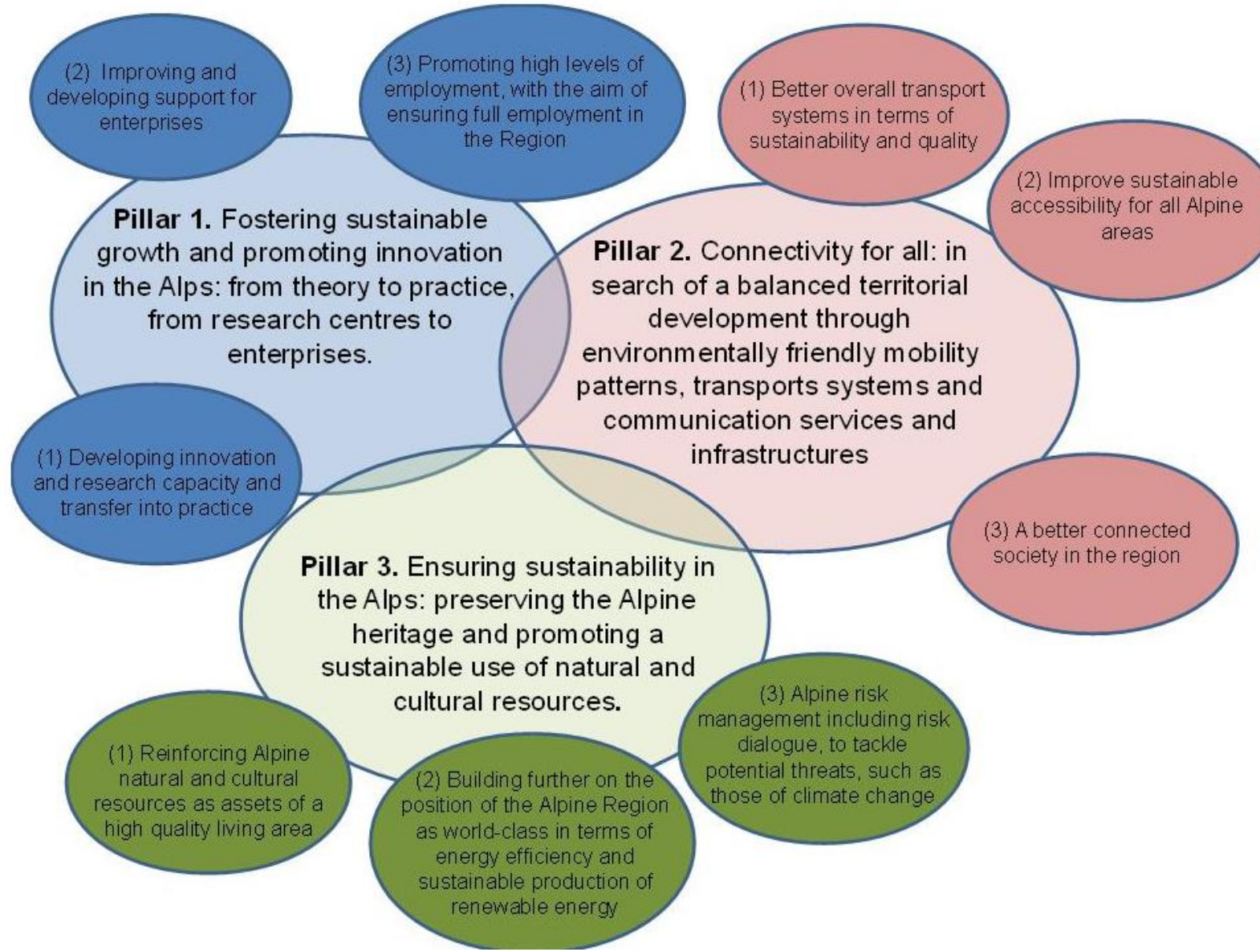
ALPINE Macro Region aims

An Alpine macro-regional strategy would provide an opportunity to improve cross-border cooperation in the Alpine States as well as identifying common goals and implementing them more effectively through transnational collaboration.

The European Council Presidency Conclusions of 19/20 December 2013 include at paragraph 50: *"(.../...) the European Council invites the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, to elaborate an EU Strategy for the Alpine Region by June 2015".*



ALPINE Macro Region



ALPINE Macro Region: governance and management structures

The [General Assembly](#) gathers the high-level political representatives of States and Regions involved in the Strategy, the European Commission, and the Alpine Convention as observer.

The [Executive Board](#) is formed by representatives of States and Regions and representatives from the European Commission, and as [Observers](#), the Alpine Convention and the Alpine Space Transnational Programme. It oversees the implementation of the EUSALP and it is meant to provide strategic guidance with respect to management and implementation of the EUSALP and its Action Plan.

The core of the implementation level is the [Action Groups](#) and Action Group leaders (9 AGs).

Hard spatial planning (formal)	Soft spatial planning (informal) Macroregional Strategy
statutory	Non-statutory
Mandatory	Voluntary
Procedural	Outside official procedure
Normative	Conceptual, analytical
Regulatory, enforceable	Postulative, recommended
Hierarchical	Non-hierarchical
At a certain planning level	Between tiers
For units within administrative boundaries	Trans-border, inter-border
Of limited participation	By / among stakeholders, participatory
Created by authorized offices	Created by other organizations also
Poorly integrated with socio- economic planning	Possibilities of integration with socio- economic planning

EUSALP: shaping a soft planning strategy

Soft planning needs and hard core to perform better (ERDF,...)

Spatiality must be the core of the strategy (where phenomena are acting)

A Sectoral approach doesn't help to face territorial matter (application of the place-based method)

Less rules is better (a non-binding and cooperative approach is winning)



References

- Balsiger J. (2016) "The European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region", in *A 'macro-regional' Europe in the making. Theoretical approaches and empirical evidence*, Palgrave Macmillan:202
- Barca F. (2009) "An Agenda for A Reformed Cohesion Policy: A Place-Based Approach to Meeting European Union Challenges and Expectations" Independent Report Prepared at the Request of the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Danuta Hübner, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
- European Commission (2009) "Macroregional_strategies_2009 Discussion Paper", presented by Commissioner Pawel Samecki presented 18 September 2009, DG Regio, Brussels
- EC (2015) "Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning a European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region" {SWD(2015) 147 final}, Brussels, 28.7.2015 COM(2015) 366 final
- EC (2016) "Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies", {SWD(2016) 443 final, Brussels, 16.12.2016 COM(2016) 805 final
- Mirwaldt K., McMaster I., Bachtler J. (2011) "The concept of Macro-Regions: Practice and Prospects" in *European Policy Research Paper* n.76 January 2011 EPRC European Policy Research Centre University of Stirling, Glasgow

