

Mission of the Four Motors within  
the Framework of the EU Strategy for  
the Danube Region

Misija Četiri motora Evrope  
u okviru Strategije Evropske unije  
za Dunavski region

# The role of Regione Lombardia in building the macro-regional strategy for the Alpine region

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## General facts 1 Who we are, how many and where

### Area and population

Total area: **23,836 kmq**

Resident population:  
**9,917,714 inhabitants**

Population density:  
**415,7 inhabitants/kmq**

✓ mountain area = **43%**  
✓ population = **13%**

### Lombardy vs Italy

Total area: **7.9%**

Population: **16.4%**

Population density:  
**+ 2.06 times**



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General facts 2  
Our wealth

**GDP**

**333,475,000.00 Euro**  
(2011)

**21.2%** of Italian GDP

**4° GDP** compared with  
European regions

**31° GDP** worldwide  
(more than Denmark,  
Portugal, Finland, Israel,  
Egypt...)

**GDP per capita**

**33.483,00 Euro**  
(2011)

**25° GDP** per capita  
worldwide (more than  
UE average, Spain,  
South Korea, Italy ...)



Source Istat 2011



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## General facts 3 Business, education and employment

### Enterprises in Lombardy

**16%** of Italy

**26%** with more than 50 employees

### Production in Lombardy

**27.1%** of Italian manufacturing added value

**27.7%** of Italian exports

### Direct foreign investment

**30.5%** in Lombardy

**69.5 %** rest of Italy



### Education

**253,694** students obtained high-school diplomas

**13** Universities

**48,617** Graduates

**7,511** Full-time university lecturers

### Total unemployment rate

**Lombardy 5.8%**

Italy **8.6%**

EU **10.6%**

Source Istat, Eurostat 2011



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## What is a Macro-region?

**Macro-region:** an area including territory from a number of different countries or regions associated with one or more common features or challenges.

**3 No's**



No new **laws**  
No new **institutions**  
No new **funds**

### State of play

**On track:** Baltic Sea (2009)  
Danube Region (2011)  
**In pipeline:** Adriatic-Ionian Sea (2012)  
**Next:** Alpine (2013?)



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✓The definition of macro-region fits perfectly with the Alpine region.

✓The history of alpine cooperation shows (since 1860) the importance of participation and sense of belonging for the population.

✓A long-lasting tradition of cooperation has been inspiring policies at any level since the 1920s.

✓ Sustainable development and competitiveness cannot be achieved only at a local level.

✓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.

## Why an Alpine macro-region? - 1



**Area** = 300,000 kmq

**Population** = 70,000,000 inhabitants

**7 Countries** = Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland



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## Why an Alpine macro-region? - 2

### The added value of the macro-regional strategy would like:

- ✓ To coordinate **European, national and regional funds** in the pursuit of shared objectives and targets;
- ✓ To create **a sense of common achievement** among the protagonists involved;
- ✓ To **bring together alpine organisations and authorities** at any level around some key opportunities and challenges;

### A macro-regional approach needs:

- ✓ a clear political endorsement and a clear commitment;
- ✓ a steering group
- ✓ awareness among stakeholders



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## The Alpine macro-region: from the beginning until now - 1

- ✓ **Oct 2010** – Brussels, Open Days – Seminar “Towards an Alpine Macro-region” promoted by Regione Lombardia et al.
- ✓ **June 2011** – Mandate for the establishment of the Macro-regional WG (**Alpine Convention**)
- ✓ **July 2011** – Conference of **Arge Alp** Heads of Government - Resolution in favor of a macro-regional strategy
- ✓ **July 2011** – **ASP** approval of a research on the future of the programme in the light of a possible MR
- ✓ **Nov 2011** – Brussels – First meeting (technical and political) of the Alpine regions hosted by Bavaria
- ✓ **Jan 2013** – Grenoble – Second meeting of the Alpine regions hosted by Rhone Alp
- ✓ **Feb – Mar 2012** – Two meetings of the Drafting team (Munich and Milan) to draw up the “Initiative paper” of the Alpine regions



## The Alpine macro-region: from the beginning until now - 2

- ✓ **Jun 2012** – Bad Ragaz (CH) - Conference of Alpine regions Heads of Government – Submission of the “Initiative paper” and setting up the Steering Committee
  - ✓ **Oct 2012** – Innsbruck – Conference of Alpine regions Heads of Government to present the initiative of regions to EU Institutions and National Governments involved
  - ✓ **Feb 2013** - Milan – Initiative of Regions - Agreement on merging the three existing initiatives (proposed by France)
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- ✓ **May 2013** – Strasbourg, **EU Parliament** – Resolution in favor of the Alpine macro-regional strategy
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- ✓ **Jun 2013** – Paris – Joint meeting between States and Alpine regions (hosted by DATAR) to outline the “Interpellation paper” that merges the three current main papers (by Regions, ASP and AC)



## The Alpine macro-region: from the beginning until now - 3

### The main challenges along the path

1. A huge number of protagonists

In the early stage only the main networks and stakeholders were formally involved maintaining good relationship with the others

2. Ownership of the initiative

In the beginning no one wanted to take the leadership

3. Political awareness

It is necessary to link up regions with Member States

4. Political endorsement

It is still difficult to prepare the ground for a broad discussion and move politics to policy

5. Priorities

With several topics in common, it is not helpful to talk about it at this stage. It is necessary to link priorities with funds in a further stage.

6. Perimeter

The area of cooperation has to be considered depending on the subject. Boundaries must be according to the geographical needs of the single topics.

7. Communication

Communicate, communicate, communicate. Always and at any level. The strategy belongs to citizens



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The Alpine macro-region: from the beginning until now - 4

### What about Regione Lombardia?

1. Vast experience in territorial cooperation
2. Vast experience in multi-level governance
3. Good relationships with other Italian regions involved and Ministries
4. A unit dedicated to ECT, Alpine Macro-region and mountain issues
5. Attitude to stakeholder dialogue



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## Open challenges

1. Clarifying the added value

2. Involving existing networks

3. Focusing on common challenges

4. Identifying priorities

5. Aligning existing funds

6. Finding many partners in Brussels

7. Affecting the EC in promoting macro-regional strategies in 2014-2020 programming



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## Next steps

1. Submission of the «Interpellation paper» by States and Regions

Oct 2013 – Conference in France

2. Dissemination and communication of the IP to Member States and MEPs

Oct/Nov/Dec 2013 – Brussels

3. European Council → mandate to the EC ??

Dec 2013 – Strasbourg

### MEANWHILE

Bringing together Regions and Ministries within each State

The Interpellation paper should be widely shared

Working closely with who is drawing up the OPs 2014-2020

Don't forget to mention macro-regions at any level



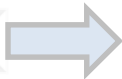
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## Conclusion

1. The process to propose the Alpine macro-regional strategy is a bottom-up process

✓ Strong belief by regions

2. Key factors of success



✓ Consolidate identity of the population with the territory

✓ Competition between regions and State

3. From a debate started in 2010 **we have now an EU Parliament resolution (May, 2013) in favor of the Alpine macro-region** pointing out the strong bottom-up approach adopted by the regions of the Alpine area



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THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION



For more information:

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