



# **A model for international cooperation at regional level: the case of the Alpine Convention**

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# ALPINE CONVENTION

international treaty for  
the sustainable development of the Alps



# Mountains

## GEOGRAPHICAL ENTITIES

COMMON NEEDS, SITUATIONS, PROBLEMS



CALL FOR

- SHARED POLICIES AND STRATEGIES**
- COMMON AND COHERENT TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT**



# The Alpine Convention

- **CONTRACTING PARTIES:** The eight Alpine states and the EC
- **THE TREATY:** A framework Convention and eight thematic protocols
- **THE ORGANS:** the conference of Ministers (Alpine Conference), the Permanent Committee, the Compliance Committee, the Permanent Secretariat, the Working Groups and Platforms



# Structure





# The Alpine Convention

## THE STEPS:

- 1992: Signature of the Framework Convention
- 1995: Framework Convention in force
- 2002: Eight protocols in force among the first Contracting Parties
- 2003: Establishment of the Permanent Secretariat



# The Alpine Convention

## Defines:

- A general obligation to pursue a **common policy** of **conservation** and intensified cooperation
- A **commitment on legal, scientific, economic and technical cooperation**
- A common policy of **research and observation**



# FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

Mountain farming

Tourism

Transport

Mountain forests

Conservation of nature and  
the landscape protection

Population and Culture

Climate Change

Soil Conservation

Energy

Spatial planning and  
sustainable development





# Type of measures

- Typical language of international law  
(soft law)

but

- Some hard law provisions



# Common features in all Protocols

- Participation of regional and local authorities
- Integration
- Research and observation
- Education/training and information
- International cooperation
- „Further measures“



# Nature of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols

- Focus on cooperation (in particular, on research)
- Environmental protection but under a development perspective
- Efforts required at various levels: national, regional and local
- Dynamic aspect: Implementation requires a continuous effort from the Contracting Parties



## „Not only Protocols“

- Ministerial Declaration on climate change in the Alps, Alpbach, November 2006. Requires adoption of an action plan with concrete measures on prevention and adaptation. Action plan on climate adopted in March 2009.
- Ministerial Declaration on Population and Culture in the Alps, Alpbach, November 2006. Calls for initiatives on a wide range of topics. Much focus on the local and regional level.



# Main Instruments of the Alpine Convention

- Activities of the Working Groups
- Multilateral projects of the Contracting Parties
- Activities of the Permanent Secretariat
- Informing and communicating
- Observing and understanding
- Exchanging experiences
- Cooperation with networks and other partners is essential



# Partners

- Networks of Municipalities, Towns, Protected areas, sustainable tourism destinations
- NGOs
- Alpine Space Programme (EX Interreg, ETC)



# The Multi-Annual Work Programme 2005-2010: four key priorities



- Mobility, Accessibility, Transit



- Society, Culture, Identity



- Tourism, Leisure, Sports



- Nature, Agriculture and Forestry, Landscape



**Thank you for your attention**

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