EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

Action Group 1 - To develop an effective research and innovation ecosystem
https://www.alpine-region.eu/action-group-1

Workshop organized under the EUSALP Italian Presidency 2019

RIS3 in macro-regional strategies:
building a comparative framework to learn from other regions

Milan, Italy, 25 June 2019

In the current debate on post 2020 European Cohesion Policy, it would be important to capitalize on two pillars of the ongoing policy programmes: the transnational macro-regional strategies (MRS) (COWI, 2017) and the research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3) (Foray et al., 2012; Foray, 2015; Foray, 2018; McCann, 2015; McCann & Ortega-Argilés, 2015; Radosevic, et al. eds., 2017).

The EU Macro-Regional Strategies (MRSs), initially launched in the 2007-2013 programming period, align with the EU's goals of inclusive and sustainable development, by enhancing synergies among neighbouring regions. So far, four MRSs have been designed for regions in the Baltic area (EUSBSR), along the Danube (EUSDR), around the Adriatic and Ionian Seas (EU-SAIR) and in the Alpine area (EUSALP), respectively approved in 2009, 2011, 2014 and in 2015. The core of all four strategies is to enhance complementarities and synergies among regions, with a bottom-up regional policy design across the many countries involved (COWI, 2017). MRSs provide opportunities for cross-fertilizations across countries and domains of interventions, from education to health or social innovation."[1].

The four strategies are at different stages of maturity in elaborating policy programmes. This appears to be a critical issue in the further implementation of the strategy in the next 2021-2027 programming period of the cohesion policy, which will aim at "investing in all regions" with "a tailored approach to reduce disparities and help low-income and low-growth regions catch up", with "locally-led development strategies"[2].

The development path of such policy design might leverage on the RIS3s elaborated by the regions, characterised by the identification of strategic areas for intervention, based both on the analysis of the strengths and potential of local economy and on an Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (Foray, 2015).

Building on this broad and diverse picture of strategic interventions at regional and at meso-level (i.e. the macro-regions), **the workshop aims to discuss which comparative framework could help policy makers and stakeholders to improve their innovative performance by learning from other regions, and what synergies and complementarities can be enhanced within the MRSs.**

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[1] "The added value of macro-regional strategies is characterised by its cross-sectoral approach, its transnational dimension (including the participation of non-EU countries) and its contribution to better multi-level governance. But this is an ambitious concept that needs time to be consolidated and to bear fruit"

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/cooperate/macro_region_strategy/pdf/mrs_factsheet_en.pdf, 15.12.2017, accessed on 11/01/2019

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2018/05/29-05-2018-regional-development-and-cohesion-policy-2021-2027, accessed on 01/08/2018

The workshop focuses on the results achieved, three years after the launch of the European strategy for the Alpine region, for the objective of Action Group 1: "s to develop an effective research and innovation ecosystem through the identification of the key strategic sectors where cooperation in Research and Innovation (R&I) can affect either economy or society".

In particular, one of the results of the work of AGI in the context of the project ALPGOV will be presented, that is, **the comparative analysis of the priorities of the Smart specialisation strategies (S3) of the regions involved in EUSALP,** an analysis essential for the definition of shared common priorities and for the drawing up of a S3 and of a research agenda at Macroregional level, strategic objective of AGI.

The capitalisation of existing results and of the results of other projects is one of the keys to implementing the macroregional strategies and thus the workshop includes other contributions, like that of the Interreg Alpine Space S3-4 Alp Clusters, which also focuses on the S3 of the macroregional area, and those of experts and stakeholders of coordination between the macroregional strategies launched at European level.

Moreover, given the richness and vivacity of the protagonists of the research and innovation ecosystem in the Alpine macroregional area, its efficient development can and must be promoted using technological tools that reflect its complexity and that foster networking between the worlds of research, business and governance. In this context the interactive technological platform produced by the European project CEF-TELECOM Re-Search Alps – promoted by AG1 – will be presented. This platform identifies, maps and geolocates (in the Alpine Region and in the 7 states it comprises) the laboratories and research centres (public and private), their activities and the research projects they are involved in: instruments for the dynamic visualisation of the research and innovation ecosystem of the Alpine macroregional area, useful for the planning of activities of networking and strategic synergies that are indispensable for increasing competitivity in the macroregional area.

Three years on from the launching of the Alpine macroregional strategy and in anticipation of the next programming cycle that will see the macroregions as a strategic element of the European Union, the workshop intends to contribute to better focalising future actions in the context of research and innovation, a crucial context for the growth of competitivity in the area.

The present Presidency of EUSALP proposes an encounter of the representatives of R&I of the EUSALP regions and invites them to discuss these topics with academics who have contributed to the analysis of heterogeneity within the macroregion (session 1) and experts who have designed specific instruments of analysis (session 2).

The sharing of this knowledge base will be essential to delineate, thanks to the active participation of the representatives of the regions, a concrete orientation through which the macroregion strategy can achieve the objectives indicated in the mission of EUSALP.

Speakers, discussants and participants are invited to contribute by their own perspective in addressing the following questions:

- *What are the next steps to be taken so that macroregional strategy can have an impact on a transversal topic like R&I?*
- *Which regions are prepared to get involved in using the tools proposed by S3-4Alps, the instruments of analysis of AlpGov and the data now available thanks to Re-Search Alps? How to support them?*
- *In relation to the creation of a common strategy between the EUSALP regions concerning R&I:*
  - *would a coordination group/forum between the regions be useful?*
  - *who should take part in the coordination group, in order to make coordination efficient in collecting and communicating feedback from the group/forum and making decisions meaningful for macroregional strategy?*
  - *could AG1 be transformed into the coordination group/forum for the strategic action of the EUSALP regions concerning R&I?*

AUDIENCE

Policy-makers, academics and other stakeholders are invited to this workshop, which will discuss analytical results about RIS3 and policy implications for macroregions.

PROGRAMME

14.00 Welcome 15'

_Ermanno Boccalari, Regione Lombardia - DG Research, Innovation, University, Export and Internationalization, Head of Unit Internationalization, Export and Promotion

14.00 INTRODUCTION 15'

"Questions to be addressed for designing an R&I macroregional strategy"- Margherita Russo[3], University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

14.30-16.00 SESSION 1_Results on regions' socioeconomic characteristics and critical issues with regard to the governance for R&I in a macroregional perspective 1h30' [15'x4 + 5'x3 + 15]

Chair: Margherita Russo**, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

    SPEAKERS:

    Roberta Capello[4], Politecnico di Milano, Italy

    Henning Kroll[5]**,** Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI

    Francesco Pagliacci, Università di Padova and CAPP Unimore, Italy

    Kadri Ukrainski[6], University of Tartu, Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Economics and Business Administration

    DISCUSSANTS

        Alberto Bramanti[7], Bocconi University, Milan, Italy

        Aldo Geuna[8], University of Turin, Italy

        Mario Cervantes, OECD

coffee break 15'

16.15-18.00 SESSION 2_Ongoing actions generated by R&I mapping and proposals/recommendations to the Regions towards new programming period 1h45' [15'x4 + 5'x3 + 30']

Chair: Anna Giorgi[9], University of Milan, Italy

    Re-Search Alps[10], **Francesco Guerra**[11], Dipartimento di Ingegneria, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy

    S3-4AlpClusters[12], **Jacques Bersier**[13] **and Michael Keller**[14]**,** School of Engineering and Architecture of Fribourg, HES-SO - University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland

    R&I mapping in Western Balkans, **Enric Fuster,** Siris Academic[15]

    RIS3 priorities in EU regions[16], **Pasquale Pavone**, Capp-Unimore and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa, Italy

    DISCUSSANTS & Q&A

        Ales Gnamus, EC-JRC, Expert in energy, smart cities and engineering[17]; **Michaela Gensheimer**[18],Senior Project Expert, ESPON EGTC; **Baiba Liepa**, Interact[19]; Interventions by: Martina Hartl, Fabrizio Rovatti, other interventions

18.00-18.30 CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE ACTIONS

Anna Giorgi, Leader AG1 EUSALP, Regione Lombardia; **Marco Peronaci**, Executive Board EUSALP [TBC], **Jean-Pierre Halkin**, DG Regional and Urban Policy – Head of Unit D.1 [TBC]

[3]   http://personale.unimore.it/Rubrica/Dettaglio/mrusso
[4]   http://www.abc.polimi.it/it/personale-docente/capello-roberta/
[5]   https://www.isi.fraunhofer.de/en/competence-center/politik-wirtschaft-innovation/mitarbeiter/kroll.html
[6]   https://www.etis.ee/CV/Kadri_ Ukrainski/eng
[7]   http://faculty.unibocconi.it/albertobramanti/.
[8]   https://www.didattica-est.unito.it/do/docenti.pl/Alias?aldo.geuna#profilo
[9]   https://www.alpine-region.eu/action-group-1
[10]   EU CEF-Telecom Project, http://researchalps.eu/
[11]   http://morespace.unimore.it/francescoguerra/
[12]   https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/s3-4alpclusters/en/home
[13]   www.heia-fr.ch<http://www.heia-fr.ch>
[14]   https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Michael_Keller31
[15]   http://www.sirisacademic.com/wb/
[16]   Work PackageT-3, Interreg Alpine Space Programme (Priority SO4.1)
[17]   http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/researchers
[18]   https://www.espon.eu/contact/espon-egtc
[19]   http://www.interact-eu.net/contact#362-Liepa

BACKGROUND
This proposal builds on the AlpGov Project of the Interreg Alpine Space Programme - Priority 4 (Well-Governed Alpine Space), SO4.1 (Increase the application of multilevel and transnational governance in the Alpine Space). Margherita Russo, Francesco Pagliacci and Pasquale Pavone (CAPP - Research Centre for the Analysis of Public Policies, Dipartimento di Economia Marco Biagi, Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy) and Anna Giorgi (Leader AG1 EUSALP Lombardy Region representative, and Gesdimont Research centre, University of Milan, Milano, Italy)

DISSEMINATION
The EUSALP Presidency 2019 invites the representative of R&I in all the EUSALP regions to actively participate at the workshop.

Information about the workshop will be disseminated through various communication channels in EUSALP, Espon and Interact, and through the organizer' networks in EUSALP and at EU level.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR SPEAKERS AND DISCUSSANTS
The invited speakers and discussants that are listed in the programme will be contacted by the administrative organization of the workshop (Ersaf) for information on reimbursement of their expenses. Please, do not book any travel ticket or hotel before being contacted.

INVITED SPEAKERS AND DISCUSSANTS
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