// Alps 2050
The Alps as functional region?
Functional region?

The search for perimeters on different levels:

- Intergovernmental
- Transnational
- Macro-regional
Functional region?

Regionalization based on...

a) … homogeneity

X
Functional region?

b) functional linkages

X
Functional region?

Regionalization based on...

c) Specific interrelations
Functional region?

Regionalization based on...

c) Specific interrelations
Functional region?

Regionalization based on...

a) homogeneity  b) functional linkages  c) specific interrelations

X       X       V
Governance and territorial coordination
Institutional thickness ...
...vs. spatial blindness?

The ‘big 3 institutions of the Alps’ hardly institutionalise territorial development:

- Not as EUSALP action group
- Not as Alpine Convention Working body
- Not as INTERREG space objective
Analysing the future?
...assumes that the hitherto dominant trends will be carried forward. Development paths are mainly based on national, domestic politics that lead to complex spatial patterns. The overall positive trend in economic development continues. However, this comes along with only limited success in achieving sustainable development and strategic spatial development.
Scenarios

Status quo

... underlines the necessity to protect the inner-Alpine mountainous areas as a precious and vulnerable natural and cultural heritage. Touristic demand, transport needs, settlement growth and other human activities have put this region under high pressure. Protection regimes as initiated by the Alpine Convention are more than necessary and are further strengthened. The dynamic of the ‘metropolitan ring’ surrounding the Alps will be organised in a way that does not question sustainable development within the Alps.
... underlines the necessity to improve linkages between the different subregions. The relationship between mountainous inner-Alpine and the more urbanised pre-Alpine parts will be strengthened, and in parallel the cross-border relations will be addressed more intensively. Removing barriers and enhancing functional links is of key importance (e.g. for labour markets, budget organisation, public services).
Scenarios

Status quo

... emphasises that the Alpine region is one of the most successful economic spaces in Europe and one of the most attractive touristic destinations worldwide. The position in the centre of Europe causes the need for transit flows to ensure European economic prospering. The metropolitan ‘hubs’ and the major corridors are the basis of successful spatial development. Attracting skilled labour force and entrepreneurial investments is as important as to ensuring good transport and economic flows on the Alpine and European level.
Towards a common vision
Learning from the Alps 2050 process?
Learning from the Alps 2050 experience?

- A functional region is (more) based on common challenges than on similarities and flows.
- Institutional thickness does not (necessarily) mean territorial coordination.
- A vision is an ongoing process, not (only) a plan.
Thank you
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This presentation will be made available at: www.espon.eu/lasi

Sources:
• www.espon.eu/alps2050