Tagung Boden und Bodenschutz in Europa

Bodenschutz in den Europäischen Strategien für den Donau- und Alpenraum – vom politischen Konzept zur Umsetzung

Dr. Peter Eggensberger, StMUV
Character der macroregional strategies

- So called „soft policy instrument“.

- States and regions agree on policial topics for a pre-defined territory, however without creating new regulations, new funds or new structures (the 3 No‘s).

- Coordination task fulfilled by European Commission, but „ownership“ is expected from states and regions.

- Instrument to be implemented voluntarily, however kind of political binding is given!
The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR, adopted in 2011) refers to the entire Danube Region and addresses four thematic pillars:

1. Connecting the Region
2. Protecting the Environment
3. Building Prosperity
4. Strengthening the Region

The Danube Region

14 Countries
more than 110 Mio. inhabitants.
EUSALP: territory and topics

The Alpine Region

7 states, 48 regions about 80 Mio. inhabitants.

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP, adopted in 2015) refers to the core Alpine area and its surroundings and addresses three thematic and one horizontal objective(s):

1. Economic growth and Innovation
2. Mobility and connectivity
3. Environment and Energy
4. Governance
Governance of EUSDR

Policy level
- European Council
- European Commission DG Regional Policy
- High level group
- National Contact Points

Operational level
- Steering group for each PA
- Priority area coordinators (PACs)
- Project promoters

Possible financing sources
- Cohesion Fund, Structural Funds (Obj. 1-2-3 programmes)
- IPA ENPI
- Sectoral EU and national funding (environment, education, etc)
- International Financing institutions
- Private banks, Donors
Governance of EUSALP

DRAFT - EUSALP GOVERNANCE FLOWCHART

EUSALP General Assembly
High-level political representatives of States and Regions involved in the Strategy + European Commission, + the Alpine Convention (observer)

EUSALP Executive Board
National coordinators + objective coordinators + other representatives of the States and Regions (max 3 per country) + European Commission
Alpine Convention + Alpine Space Programme (as observers)

Actions led by AGL

STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

ALPINE SPACE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME + INTERACT (Supporting EUSALP governance and implementation)
Issue of soil (protection) in EUSDR

- Statistic: 12 hits on „soil“ in Action Plan

- 1 out of 4 targets in Priority Area 6
  Enhance the work on establishing green infrastructure and the process of restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, including soil, in order to maintain and enhance ecosystems and their services by 2020 in the Danube Region and to improve air quality.

- 3 out of 16 Actions in Priority Area 6
  **Action 10** - To ensure appropriate treatment of solid waste. Integrated waste management systems should be established and implemented on national, regional and local level.
  **Action 11** - To create standardized and compatible information on land cover on transnational basis”. (former GMES).
  **Action 12** - To raise awareness about soil protection.
Issue of soil (protection) in EUSALP

- Statistic: 6 hits on „soil“ in Action Plan

- Action 6: To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources
  “… According to this approach, preservation and valorisation of sources like biodiversity, water and soil are closely interwoven.”

- Examples of possible projects
  Strengthening soil protection and sustainable land use in the Alps, in particular regarding the issues of land take and soil sealing and the risk of landslides.

- Ref. to Protocol Soil Protection of Alpine Convention
Organisation of work, responsibilities EUSDR

- **Steering Groups**: administration + observer

- **Priority Area Coordinator (PAC)**
  Dr. Florian Ballnus, Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection
  Ana Kobašlić, Ministry for Environmental and Nature Protection, Croatia

- **Task Forces**
  Among others: SONDAR (Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region)
  [www.sondar.at](http://www.sondar.at), Initiated and chaired by Land Lower Austria, Christian Steiner und Erwin Szlezak.
  Recently chair involved as permanent observer in Steering Group 6
Organisation of work, responsibilities EUSALP

- **Action Groups:** administration + funding programmes + observer + guests

- **Action Group Leads (AGL)**
  - Wolfger Mayrhofer, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention
  - Helmut Serro, Land of Carinthia

- **Task Forces as an option**
How to bring soil topic forward?

- Generally: Contact Priority Area Coordinator or Action Group Lead
- Clarify how you want to contribute to implementation of Strategy, such as:
  - Proposing projects
  - Getting support for meetings
  - Presenting results or projects
- Be aware: PACs and AGL do not have the capacity to approve any activity. They are meant to support you in promoting your activities!
- Have in mind next multiannual framework 2021-2027!