

Project update Nr. 2 January 2007

This paper is intended to inform on activities which were carried out within the project since May 2006, as well as on the up-coming next steps. For information regarding earlier activities refer to Project update Nr. 1 (May 2006). All documents mentioned below can be downloaded from the project web-site www.matriosca.net.

WORK PACKAGE 1 - Base line data and analysis

The responsible project partner for WP1 is Burgenland, in collaboration with Veneto. The work was conducted by a trans-national expert team lead by Joanneum Research (JR), Graz, Austria.

Baseline Data

A compendium of Baseline Data, incorporating EUROSTAT data and information collected from project-screenings, has been compiled and a set of thematic maps were produced, which are all available for download from the MATRIOSCA web-site.

Additional Analyses and Baseline Documents

A meeting of the expert team was held on September 27th 2006 in Großpetersdorf (Burgenland), where the following activities were defined and agreed:

- Inventory of Clusters and Networks

This inventory of research institutions, clusters and industrial districts was elaborated by JR as a synthesis of available material. In addition, a template was prepared to be completed by the experts to supplement and up-date the inventory.

- Survey on R&D and private business

The purpose of this survey is to obtain information about the linkages between universities, research institutions, educational / training institutions and private businesses. Information is gathered by the WP1 experts through interviews with technology experts, cluster managers and/or managers of key companies.

- Analysis of the socio-economic structure

In order to assess the socioeconomic characteristics of the co-operation area, a "cluster analysis" of the sub-regions was carried which covered three topics ("Economic structure", "Growth and economic development", "The Lisbon objectives of Jobs and Growth"). The results are contained in the report "*Economic Structure, Growth and Convergence in the Matriosca Region*".

Next steps:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Finalise collection of additional information (mainly from Hungarian partners) |
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- JR will elaborate a synthesis of the R&D survey and the inventory of Clusters and networks, to be presented at the kick-off meeting of relevant Project Groups.

WORK PACKAGE 2 - Institution building

The responsible project partner for WP2 is Slovenia, in collaboration with Friuli Venezia Giulia. The work was conducted by a trans-national expert team consisting of experts from all participating countries, with the University of Primorska as Lead expert. However, the contract with the Slovene expert team has expired in October 2006 and activities in WP2 are (at the moment) coordinated by staff of the Slovene project partner. The expert team is currently being restructured with experts who have profound knowledge of structures / institutions or a background in organizational development.

Analysis of preconditions

- Legal framework

The national expert team met twice in Koper/ Slovenia (June 15th and October 6th 2006) for the purpose of preparing a horizontal analysis of the present legal framework for territorial cooperation in the partner regions. This analysis of preconditions includes five country studies (Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia) as well as a synthesis of national contributions.

- Vertical Analysis

A first overview of different forms of territorial co-operation within the EU and the Alps- Adriatic - Pannonia (AAP) co-operation area was elaborated in order to outline the needs and conditions for future institutional building.

Viability Study of legal instruments

On the basis of the “analysis of preconditions” an initial assessment of the new legal instruments (EGTC and ECG) offered by the EU was carried out. It was recognised that the EGTC would offer several benefits and merits to be studied in more depth.

Next steps:

- The third meeting of national experts will be held on January 31st 2007 in Ljubljana, where the work programme for the next months will be prepared.
- The Vertical Analysis is going to be complemented by an analysis, which is based on core and support functions of organisational structures that should be met if trans-national co-operation is to be more effective in the future.
- As a result an assessment on the present institutional conditions should be obtained, which identifies the functions that are already covered (or will likely be covered) and the areas where new or more effective solutions need to be sought.
- Specific issues of the EGTC should be studied in more detail.
- A proposal for future institution-building in the co-operation area will be elaborated and presented to the 2nd Political Conference for approval.

WORK PACKAGE 3 - Common strategy and policy making

The responsible project partner for WP3 is Friuli Venezia Giulia, in collaboration with Styria. FVG established an Operational Unit within the Regional Administration. Partner contributions were provided by a trans-national expert team, which met four times in Trieste (June 13th, July 11th, August 30th and October 18th 2006).

White Paper

- Comparative analysis of regional/national strategies

The first step in elaborating the White Paper consisted in a comparative analysis of development strategies in the partner regions. In addition, an analysis of relevant experience of trans-national projects was carried out.

- SWOT Analysis and identification of macro themes

This comparative analysis of strategy documents also included an analysis of joint Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The guiding concept was to select issues which are of common interest to all partners. Four macro themes were identified on which the SWOT was focused:

1. TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLYCENTRIC SYSTEMS
2. MATERIAL AND IMMATERIAL INFRASTRUCTURES WITH PROMINENT LARGE SCALE IMPACT
3. EXCELLENCE KNOWLEDGE NETWORKING
4. INNOVATIVE SMALL BUSINESS CLUSTERING

These themes were presented to the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) in order to obtain specify them with the perspective of identifying concrete operations needed for passing from strategy to practical cooperation. The TWGs defined strategic priorities for each of the four macro themes (see WP 4).

- Scenario analysis

Besides the content-level (“priorities and meta-projects”) there are two more basic functional levels on which a strengthened cooperation should be considered. Those are the “privileged functions” and the “institutional setting”. For each of the three mentioned levels several options were identified. By a variable combination of these options a variety of scenarios shall derive for the future cooperation.

- Based on the findings of these analysis as well as contributions from other Work Packages, a draft version of the White Paper was elaborated. This document sets out a strategy including options and alternatives to consolidate trans-national co-operation in the AAP area. The version is being circulated for discussion at expert level and the MB and an Executive Summary was prepared for the political level.
- The 1st Political Conference was held on January 24th 2007 in Trieste, which discussed and approved the Executive Summary of the White Paper.

Next steps:

- A Joint Strategy Document will be elaborated, which provides a framework for the strategic projects prepared in the defined macro themes, specifies the common policy and the strategic goals to be pursued in the co-operation area.
- The 2nd Political Conference, to be held in Styria, is scheduled for autumn 2007.

WORK PACKAGE 4 - Thematic Working Groups

The responsible project partner for WP4 is Zala, in collaboration with Baranya. The Thematic Working Groups (TWG) are meant to be networks of authorities/ institutions, which have the competence to represent the partner regions in the selected thematic areas. So far, four TWGs have been established:

1. Transport Infrastructure and Location Development
2. Spatial Planning and Development
3. Socio-Economic development and co-operation
4. Co-operation among urban centres and municipalities

Their main task during the first phase of the MATRIOSCA project was to support the expert teams in WP1 and 3 by providing their respective professional knowledge and experience in trans-national cooperation projects. The following meetings were held since May 2006:

- 5th/ 6th September 2006 in Graz/ Styria (WG 1, 2 and 4)
- 14th September 2006 in Trieste/ FVG (WG 3)
- 13th/ 14th November 2006 in Novi Sad/Vojvodina (joint meeting of all TWGs)

During these meetings the TWGs discussed draft documents prepared by the expert teams of WP 1 whereby each WG focused on one or two priority macro themes derived from the strategy analysis conducted in WP3.

- The WG on **“Transport Infrastructure and Location Development”** mainly dealt with the macro theme **“MATERIAL AND IMMATERIAL INFRASTRUCTURES WITH PROMINENT LARGE SCALE IMPACT”**. According to the opinion expressed by the TWG, the core strategies for this macro-theme should reflect the following principles:
 - To improve the transport linkages (in particular public transport) within the AAP region and creating gateways to international markets (airports, logistic hubs).
 - To fill gaps in infrastructure endowment through joint planning and lobbying e.g. in transport, energy supply.
 - To improve the linkages to the trans-European corridors and improving the embedding of corridors into the AAP regions.
 - To enhance social infrastructure through large scale networking (health care and social services - old, young, specific needs).
- The WG on **“Spatial Planning and Development”** mainly dealt with the macro theme **“TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLYCENTRIC SYSTEMS”**. The following principles were defined within this TWG:
 - To create a polycentric multifunctional network to simulate a competitive metropolitan region, to connect urban centres with rural areas and to connect this regional network to the rest of Europe in order to enhance the visibility of AAP region.
 - To develop a common understanding of the logic, the content and the elements of balanced spatial development planning of polycentric spatial structures and promotion of innovative instruments.
 - To maintain cultural and natural heritage in regional development and its integration into physical planning strategies.
 - To enhance the cohesion of planning tools and procedures, of the compatibility of existing planning databases and information instruments and of planning attitudes (including introduction of Strategic Environmental Assessment).

- The WG on “**Socio-Economic development and co-operation**” mainly dealt with the macro themes “EXCELLENCE KNOWLEDGE NETWORKING” and “INNOVATIVE SMALL BUSINESS CLUSTERING”. The principles defined within this WG were:
 - Excellence knowledge networking:
 - To improve joint natural resources management (including renewable energy) fostering networks of excellence know-how.
 - To improve and coordinate information circulation and management (define common standards facilitating effective communication throughout the AAP region).
 - To establish a permanent network of science and technology excellence centres
 - To foster the exchange of skills and competences at various levels (professors, researchers, students) thus enabling the sharing of the experience and knowledge
 - To improve common governance at regional and local level (including civil servant exchange schemes and good practices sharing)
 - Innovative small business clustering:
 - To foster cooperation of clusters and networks, technology platforms to create critical mass, gain international visibility and to establish supply chains.
 - To set up mechanisms for facilitating sharing and disseminating key technologies. (Achieving minimum level of critical mass is a major issue for small businesses).
 - To promote “second level” clustering, i.e. the networking of existing SME support institutions at AAP level.
 - The requirements and process preparatory to the mutual recognition of VET curricula shall be considered as a precondition to a common labour market, expected to give further flexibility in the exchange of practices and experiences among innovative SMEs.
- The WG on “**Co-operation among urban centres and municipalities**” discussed the findings of a survey conducted throughout the partner regions as well as the results of a pilot town-twinning project. Furthermore, some core challenges for municipal cooperation were identified and proposals for the MATRIOSCA project elaborated.

It was recommended that MATRIOSCA supports co-operation at local level, as this could bring the idea of trans-national co-operation closer to the people and strengthen the identity of the area. Concrete suggestions in this direction were to

- Prepare a scheme to support co-operation of civil society (“people-to-people”), as a means to strengthen mutual understanding / relations
- Strengthen co-operation of municipalities via associations and target specific municipalities (e.g. outside cross-border-cooperation areas).

Next steps:

- In the second phase of the MATRIOSCA project, the TWGs will transform into Project Groups, consisting of administrators from project partners as well as external experts, who will collaborate for the preparation of trans-national projects.
- The kick-off meetings of the Project Groups are foreseen in March 2007 and will be prepared by Project Management.
- First drafts of the project ideas should be elaborated until June 2007 and finalised until the 2nd Political Conference in autumn 2007.

WORK PACKAGE 5 - Information and dissemination

The responsible project partner for WP5 is Styria. The content of the PR material is mostly provided by Project Management in collaboration with the Lead Partner whereas the technical realization is done by various contracted service providers.

- Web-based information system

A project web-site was established and is operating online (www.matriosca.net). The platform serves as information system for the co-operation area, containing comprehensive information on the project, its partners and progress made so far. It is also used as communication platform for involved partners and experts, facilitating fast distribution of working papers and documents and interactive functions such as partner search for projects and announcements / news.

- Project links

Internet links to the web-sites of other relevant projects were installed in order to facilitate the exchange of information and on-line distribution of project outputs.

- Partner search facility

The web-site offers a tool for facilitating the identification of potential project partners for new project ideas in the cooperation area. Descriptions of project ideas in a predefined template can be posted on the web-site by all project partners. Partners can browse through these project ideas and contact the respective partners.

- Information material

A set of multilingual information material was designed, produced and distributed to all project partners. This includes

- Folders
- Leaflets
- Enclosures for folders and leaflets
- Writing pads
- Roll-ups
- Pens
- PPT master slides

All of this material can be downloaded from the MATRIOSCA web-site.

However, these documents are only accessible for members of the project and requiring the insertion of a password on the web-site. In case of questions concerning accessibility please contact:

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WORK PACKAGE 6 - Management and coordination

The responsible partner for Work Package 6 (WP6) is Styria. ÖAR-Regionalberatung GmbH was contracted by the Lead Partner for these services.

- Management structures were established and the most recent meetings were:
 - Management Team on September 26th of 2006 in Graz/ Styria.
 - Management Board (Steering Committee) on November 27th/ 28th of 2006 in Venezia/ Veneto

- Euregia 2006 in Leipzig

The Lead Partner represented the MATRIOSCA project at the CADSES annual Conference (held together with the EUREGIA fair) in Leipzig where contacts with other projects were established and information material was disseminated.

- Reporting

All reporting obligations are fulfilled, financial management is secured and all project partners are continuously informed on the implementation status of the project. Progress Reports for the reporting periods 9, 10 and 11 were submitted to the JTS and all Reports were accepted.

All deliverables according to the Application Form were successfully completed so far and within the timeframe foreseen.

Next steps:

- Progress report for period 12 will be prepared by Project Management in February 2007 and will be circulated among partners for amendments and approval
- 5th meeting of the Management Team end of March 2007
- 4th meeting of the Management Board in June / July 2007

Graz, January 26th 2007

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