

Regional (Cross Border) Strategies within the GreenNet project

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INTRODUCTION



Main fields of spatial conflicts in the GreenNet-pilot regions

- agriculture/forestry
- traffic/transport
- energy supply
- hunting/fishing
- settlement development
- recreation/tourism
- water management

Conflicts interfere with problems concerning:

- land ownership
- loss of funding
- missing or non-adequate protection status
- low social appreciation of landscape history
- cross border-cooperation



Safeguarding and development strategies

Promotion of an interconnected and barrier-free ecological corridor along the Green Belt:

- Strategies accounting for the ecological significance and identifying a perspective for the socio-economic development
- Integrating the concept of nature protection into strategies for sustainable rural development (e.g. strategies for environmentally-sensitive tourism)



The concept of regional governance

- establishment of **cooperative decision-making processes** and of manifold **coordination and communication**
- Relies on weakly institutionalised **networks** and **voluntary-participative methods**
- Benefitting from **regional resources and potentials**
- Meets **regional requirements**
- Brings about a **sense of regional identity**
- Secures a **sustainable rural development** based on the promotion of the Green Belt



STATE (policy, administration)	MARKET (economy)	(civil) SOCIETY
parliament	public enterprise	citizens
government	agricultural and forestry sector	citizens' initiatives
ministries	good-producing sector	associations
federal, regional and municipal offices	services sector	non-governmental organisations
	private households	etc.

MAIN OBJECTIVES IDENTIFIED IN THE GREENNET-PILOT REGIONS



Main objectives in the pilot regions I

- Europe-wide interconnection of landscapes and ecosystems along the Green Belt (**interconnection of ecosystems**)
 - closing gaps, implementing corridor solutions, establishing stepping stones ...
- Conservation of rare habitats and of landscape diversity (**diversity of ecosystems**)
 - Protection and conservation of rare habitat types, ecological revitalisation of the destroyed Kučnica river bed ...
- Protection of rare species of animals & plants and of biodiversity (**diversity of species**)
 - Improvement of natural biodiversity, increasing the number of small cattle ...
- Conservation of **soil and water**
 - Protection of water quality, minimising pollution of Kučnica river ...

Main objectives in the pilot regions II

- **Providing options for regional development** (e.g. for sustainable tourism)
 - Preparing common development strategies, promoting sustainable tourism ...
- **Preserving the Green Belt as memorial landscape**
 - Preservation of the cultural landscape, providing incentives for the recognition of values ...
- **Raising awareness for safeguarding the Green Belt**
 - Getting acceptance for project aims, increasing the level of knowledge about the Green Belt ...
- **Implementation of selected instruments**
 - Change of land use, setting up a working table for the discussion of future perspectives ...

REGIONAL STRATEGIES BASED ON LOBBYING ACTIVITIES OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY



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Development of a toolbox for safeguarding the Green Belt

- under due consideration of informal and legally non-binding participatory processes -> manifold activities of the civil society
- ... are of crucial importance for the design of strategies
- ... address all three key fields of action (civil society, market, state)
- ... intend to motivate stakeholders to apply instruments in favour of safeguarding the Green Belt and a sustainable rural development
- ... are characterised by low effectiveness, but leave open a high degree of freedom for individual stakeholders



Lobbying activities of the civil society

Addressing (other) stakeholders of the civil society

- raising the local population's and decision-makers' awareness of the Green Belt (promotion campaigns, workshops, flyers, media reports)
- activating civil commitment / gaining stakeholders for cooperation (establish networks and cooperation structures, allocation of sponsorships, mobilisation of volunteers)
- promoting landscape management (elaborating landscape management plans based on ecological surveys)



Lobbying activities of the civil society

Addressing stakeholders of the market

- communicating incentives (marketing of regional products, build-up of regional economic cycles, environmentally-sensitive tourism, alternative agricultural management)
- encouraging stakeholders to make use of funding programs and financial support or to redesign subsidies concerning landscape issues
- considering changes of ownership structures on the land market (purchase of valuable areas as precondition for landscape management activities)



Lobbying activities of the civil society

Addressing stakeholders of the state

- participating processes of integrative spatial planning
- ... of assessment instruments
- ... of functional planning (adaptations of infrastructure projects)
- ... of land consolidation & agricultural reclamation
- supporting compensation/mitigation measures
- suggesting the concept-preparation for the establishment of a nature park
- consulting nature conservation authorities for the purpose of designating protected areas



SELECTED STRATEGIES IDENTIFIED IN THE GREENNET-PILOT REGIONS



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CENTRAL
EUROPE
COOPERATING FOR SUCCESS



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

(1) Alternative agricultural cultivation

Bringing farmers together (demand and supply of hay pellets) in the Styrian-Slovenian border region along the Kučnica

Emission of „sheep share certificates“ to ensure an extensive agricultural management in Southern Burgenland

(2) Strategies for sustainable tourism

Promotion of recreation and (eco-)tourism by experiencing nature & culture in Upper Palatinate Forest

Promotion of the „Iron Curtain Cycle Trail“ providing options for short term recreation in Slovakian Pilot Region



(3) Landscape management

Mobilisation of volunteers carrying out management activities („biotope management initiatives“) in Northern Weinviertel

Elaborating landscape management plans based on ecological surveys in Southern Moravia

(4) Changes of ownership structures

Purchase of species rich meadows in the region along the Kučnica: ensuring a sustainable cultivation and providing these areas for the re-establishment of former meanders of the Kucnica river

Land consolidation and land swap in Grabfeld Region to create larger and interconnected areas of ecologically valuable habitats



(5) Joining in planning processes

Using the means of public participation of spatial and functional planning and of assessment instruments in Slovakian Region

Consultation activities with nature conservation agencies (for designation „protected landscape elements“) in Upper Palatinate Forest

(6) Participatory development of a new instrument of landscape/ecological planning

Initialising a participatory process and coordination of several management and planning instruments in Julian Prealps



(7) Public biodiversity monitoring

Collecting of data on biodiversity by volunteers and presenting this information in the internet in cooperation with touristic partners in Southern Burgenland

(8) Bypass solutions

Bypassing gaps in the Green Belt and providing an interconnected ecological corridor as migration route e.g. for the wild cat in the German Grabfeld Region

(9) Public relation

Accompanying all these strategies !

Wide range of activities: from personal meetings with stakeholders (in Northern Weinviertel) to wide promotion campaigns

Doing a lot of persuading in Kučnica Region: from information events and excursions to book presentations or releasing a movie



Factors of success for prosperous regions

- ✓ The strategies and instruments should meet the regional requirements and traditions
- ✓ The linking up of different approaches → key to success
- ✓ The implementation of the strategies and instruments needs courage and creativeness



Thank you for your attention !

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