Review of policies and current situation in participating regions

Date of elaboration

Grand Paradis Foundation

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2. POLICY ON NATURAL AREAS IN (*NAME OF THE COUNTRY AND REGION*)

2.1. EU DIRECTIVES AND INITIATIVES AIMED AT ENCOURAGING COMPANIES TO IMPLEMENT AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM HAVING A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON NATURAL AREAS.

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2.2 THE NATIONAL LEGISLATION OF ITALY GOVERNING THE FUNCTIONING OF NATURAL AREAS

List of policies *(e.g. for UK the Environmental Protection Act 1990)*

NATIONAL LEGISLATION.

Law 6th December 1991, No. 394, "Framework law on natural areas"

REGIONAL LEGISLATION.

Regional Law of 30th July 1991, n. 30, "Rules for the institution of natural areas"

Regional Law of 21st May 2007, n. 8, "Provisions for the attainment of the duties of Aosta Valley Autonomous Region deriving from the Italian affiliation to the European community. Accomplishment of the 79/409/CEE guidelines, concerning the preservation of wild birds, and of the 92/43/CEE ones, concerning the preservation of natural and semi-natural habitats, as well as of wild flora and fauna. 2007 community law".

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Brief description

NATIONAL LEGISLATION.
Framework national Law No. 394/1991.

- Aims: a) preservation of: animal and vegetal species, vegetal or forest associations, high value geological peculiarities, paleontological peculiarities, biological communities, biotopes, high value views and landscapes, natural processes, water and hydro-geological equilibriums, ecological equilibriums; b) management and environmental repair solutions in order to achieve integration between man and natural areas, also through the protection of anthropological, archaeological, historical and architectural peculiarities and protection of traditional agricultural - pastoral activities; c) promoting activities of education, training and scientific research and of compatible recreational activities; d) defence and reconstitution of hydraulic and hydro-geological equilibrium.
- Management - Natural Areas management (preliminary instructions).

REGIONAL LEGISLATION

Regional Law of 30th July 1991, n. 30, "Rules for the institution of natural areas". Aiming at preserving the natural environment, this law contains elements on the institution and management of natural parks and reserves in Aosta Valley region. According to this law the regional Council issues a regional guideline document called "Natural Parks Regional Plan". The regional law also indicates the agencies that can manage natural parks and the planning and management instruments that must be produced, such as the "Parks' territorial management plan". Moreover, the law establishes that the technical structure in charge of the management of the activities in the preserved areas is the *Natural Environment and Forests protection service* of the Regional Department of Agriculture.

Regional Law of 21st May 2007 n. 8 affects the 92/43/CEE guideline concerning the preservation of natural and semi-natural habitats, as well as of wild flora and fauna, and the 79/409/CEE guideline, concerning the preservation of wild birds. The aim of this law is to ensure the conservation or restoration of natural and semi-natural habitats and of the wild flora and fauna populations in order to preserve biodiversity, in respect to the economical, social and cultural needs and to the regional and local peculiarities.

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2.3 THE EXISTING MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES OF NATURAL AREAS (IN ORDER TO PREPARE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AS A PART OF THE TRANSFER OF GOOD PRACTICES)

Brief description of the designation *(e.g. for UK National Parks, in France – Grand Sites)*

Framework national Law No. 394/1991 establishes how to classify natural areas in Italy; they can be defined as:

- NATURAL PARKS (national or regional management)
- NATURAL RESERVES (national or regional management)

NATIONAL NATURAL PARKS. They can be land, river-side, lake-side or sea-side areas; they can contain: one or more untouched or partially untouched ecosystems, one or more geological, geomorphological or biological peculiarities, which can be considered important at national or international level, because of their naturalistic, scientific, aesthetic, cultural, educational and recreational values. For this reason they are managed by the State, in order to preserve them to the present and future generations.
REGIONAL NATURAL PARKS. They can be land, river-side, lake-side or sea-side areas with high naturalistic and environmental values, they are located in a single region or in more (adjacent) regions, they are an homogeneous system, identified as such based on the natural order of sites, on the high value views and landscape, the high artistic value and according to cultural traditions of the local population.
NATURAL RESERVES. They can be land, river-side, lake-side or sea-side areas containing one or more fauna or flora species with high naturalistic value (they can contain one or more important ecosystems, because of their biological diversity or their capability to preserve genetic resources). Natural reserves can be regional or national according to their importance.

30% of Aosta Valley territory is of high naturalistic value. In Aosta Valley, in fact, there are: one National Natural Park (Gran Paradiso Park), one Regional Natural Park (Mont Avic Natural Park) and nine natural reserves (Côte de Gargantua, Lolair Lake, Villa Lake, Les Iles, Marais of Morgex and La Salle, Mont Mars, Holay Pond, Lozon Pond, Tsatelet)

Natural Parks are managed by public agencies.
Natural Reserves can be managed by public or private agencies or associations (if the agency is private it must sign an agreement with the Ministry of Environment).

In all above mentioned natural areas SCI areas (Sites of Community importance) and SPA areas (Special protected areas) can be included.
In Aosta Valley there are 23 SCI areas and 5 SPA areas.

(text limit: 2000 characters by designation)

How it relates to other administrative structures (hierarchy of responsibility)?

Agencies involved in natural areas management relate with other administrative structures.
In the following table there are relationships between each agency involved.

Agency / Proccess	Ministry of environment (NUTS 1)	Region (NUTS 2)	Agency involved in natural area management (Ente Parco o altro)	Province (NUTS 3)	Community Park
Designation and monitoring of national	R	Inv	-	-	-

protected areas					
Designation and monitoring of regional protected areas	Inv	R	-	Inv	Inv
Preliminary management planning	R	Inf	-	Inf	-
Detailed management planning	Inv	Inv	R	Inv	Inv

Explanation: R: Responsible; Inv: Involved; Inf: Informed

(up to 2000 characters)

How is it governed?

Agency	Role	Bodies	Planning instruments
Ministry of Environment (Nuts 1 level)	It establishes preliminary planning activities It identifies and monitors national protected areas	- *Natural protected areas Committee* (it identifies, defines fundamental guide-lines to designate natural protected areas in Italy) - *Natural protected areas Council* (it' s set up by external experts, and it gives scientific opinions on natural areas conditions*)*	- *Natural protected areas three-year planning* (it officially identifies natural protected areas – regional and national; and it attributes funding to all natural protected areas)
The Region (Nuts 2 level)	It establishes planning activities for regional natural protected areas	- *Regional Advisory Council* (it gives technical support to policy planning)	- *Natural protected areas regional plan* (it identifies officially the regional natural protected areas)
Park Agency (NUTS 1 or 2 level)	It is responsible for the management of the regional natural protected areas It guarantees conservation, defence, valorisation and care of natural, anthropological, archaeological,	- President - Managing Council - Executive Committee - Auditors council - Park Community	- *Park Plan* (it establishes the classification of natural regional protected areas) Multi-year social and economic plan (it is a socio-economical survey of the context of the area) - Park Regulation (it

		historical and architectural peculiarities of the area.		gives ordinary management rules - entrance time, off limits areas, etc)	

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Is there a link to the legislation in 2.2 above?

Yes, framework national law n. 394/1991 establishes all rules and duties of the above mentioned entities.

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Highlight activity that is good and why (e.g. partnerships working, management plans, autonomy of activity)

Autonomy of activity: Framework national Law No. 394/1991 establishes a separation between central government (the Ministry of Environment) and local governments (Park Agencies), in order to have an easier and more careful management of local issues.

Partnerships working: Every Park Agency is autonomous in management, but there is an advisory body called Park Community, which is constituted by local governments (Presidents of regions, Presidents of provinces, majors of municipalities, and other local institutions, included in the natural protected areas).

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3. POLICY ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMES DEVELOPMENT IN COUNTRIES AND REGIONS INVOLVED IN (*NAME OF YOUR COUNTRY AND REGION*)

3.1 JUDICIAL FORMS OF BUSINESS CONDUCT IN **ITALY/AOSTA VALLEY**

Please provide a brief description of business registration structures in your country/region and examples of use. (e.g. SCOP and SCIC described in Auvergne visit)

ITALIAN BUSINESS STRUCTURES CLASSIFICATION.
Italian corporation law establishes that business structures can be distinguished according to the nature of the corporate body:

- **1) PHYSICAL CORPORATE BODY**: it means that the corporate body is a physical person, who is legally responsible with his properties (the common name is “sole trader”)
- **2) LEGAL CORPORATE BODY**: it means that the corporate body is a legal person; there are various cases, such as:

- **Partnership**: it means that the body's estate is not separated from partners' estate (capital). There are three cases: Sas (limited partnership); Snc (unlimited partnership); Ss (partnership bring about their properties);
- **Joint-stock company**: it means that the body's estate is separated from the capital of each of the partners. There are two cases: Srl (min. capital: 10,000 euros – a company with limited liability, up to the amount of the invested capital); Spa (a joint-stock company limited by shares);
- **Cooperative society:** with mutualistc aims**.**

AOSTA VALLEY BUSINESS STRUCTURES ANALYSIS

The most popular structure in Aosta Valley is sole trader, particularly in agricultural, building and trade sectors.

Aosta Valley Region registered enterprises. Source: Movimprese

Registered enterprises	2008	2009	variation
Joint-stock company	1 991	2 037	2,3
partnership	4 016	3 891	-3,1
Sole trader	7 896	7 721	-2,2
other	449	453	0,9
total	14 352	14 102	-1,7

Registered enterprises	2009	% of sole trader enterprises
Agriculture and fisheries	1 969	93%
mining	16	0%
manufacturing	931	58%
energy	30	3,3%
Environmental services	28	32%

building	2 951	73%
trade	2 414	61%
Hotels and restaurants	1 695	39%
Logistics and transport	262	63%
services	3 806	43%
total	14 102	62%

Source:Movimprese

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3.2 ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN **ITALY**

The recommended information to be included:

- active bodies, the survival of registered enterprises, characteristics of companies operating over 5 years on the market, barriers to business development, financial situation, investments, sources of investment.
- Methods for measuring business registrations and closures (e.g. in UK no of businesses registering to charge VAT is used as a measure) and number of businesses operating in the region by sector.
- Trade support associations statistics. e.g. number of businesses registering with tourist association.
- Outline of current economic operating environment – average cost of borrowing average loan rates/size for start up businesses, average waiting times for funding through grants loans etc. Statistical profiles may be useful here

All information and statistics should be provided at the national level. Comparison with statistics on the regional level may be useful.

<u>Italian companies description</u>

Italian operating businesses' number is calculated according to the businesses' number registered to

charge VAT at Chamber of Commerce (Chambers are located in every Nuts 3 level territory).
On 2009 Chambers of Commerce registered 5.283.531 operating businesses; the predominant sector is trade.

Table 1. Number of businesses operating in the country by sector (2009).

	Agriculture and fisheries	Mining	Manufacturing	Building	Trade	Hotels & Restaurants	Services	Total
Businesses operating	882 578	3 937	631 866	806 120	1 441 834	283 658	1 233 538	5 283 531
%	17%	0,1%	12%	15%	27%	5%	23%	100%

World financial crisis

The World financial crisis caused negative effects also in Italy, where there was a strong drop of GDP (gross domestic product) in 2008 (-2.2%, see Table no. 2).
Businesses rate of growth has been the lowest since 2003 (+0,28%, see table n. 3).
The central union of all Italian Chambers of Commerce carried out a survey about drop of turnover in 2009 (vs 2008) in a significant sample of businesses: dropping was strong, in particular there was turnover loss of 15% regarding 42,3% of SMEs (see table n.4).

Table 2. GDP Italy, Source: Central union of all Italian Chambers of Commerce.

	I quarter 2008	II quarter 2008	III quarter 2008	IV quarter 2008	I quarter 2009	II quarter 2009	III quarter 2009	IV quarter 2009
GDP Italy	0,4	-0,6	-0,9	-2,2	-2,7	-0,5	0,5	-0,3

Table 3 Businesses rate of increase, Source: Central union of all Italian Chambers of Commerce.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Rate of increase	1,45%	1,78%	1,61%	1,21%	0,75%	0,59%	0,28%

Table 4. Turnover loss in 2009 (vs 2008). Source: Central union of all Italian Chambers of Commerce.

	Strong Increase (more than 15%)	Sensibile increase (from 3% to 15%)	Stable (+/- 2%)	Sensibile drop (froml 3% to 15%)	Strong drop (more than 15%)
Total	1,3%	8,7%	17,5%	30,1%	42,3%

Loaning system

Recession's negative effects are strong dropping of financial structures of SMEs: SMEs had a strong limitation of access to loaning system. This effect is due to banks' increased caution in giving loans (see table n. 5).
When a SME is in trouble and it can't access loaning system, it can use its own properties or it can use public funding (not so much in 2008-2009 period) or it can address to other instruments such as venture capitalists, innovative finance etc (all these instruments are not so common in Italy).

Table 5. Loan rates reserved to SMEs' sector. Source: Bank of Italy .

	More than 5 years			Between 1 year and 5 years			Until 1 year		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Italy	4,8	5,1	5,6	4,0	4,9	5,3	5,1	6,0	6,5

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3.3 ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN **AOSTA VALLEY**

The recommended information to be included:

- structure, the effectiveness of active enterprises, investments in companies
- Further statistics such as number of micro businesses, SMEs, larger companies.
- Number of jobs, number of households sustained,
- Income/investment in the local economy. Average household incomes.

All information and statistics should be provided at the regional level (in compliance with point 1). Comparison with statistics on the national level may be useful.

Aosta Valley operating businesses are mainly about services sector: nearly 4000 operating businesses. Building sector(21% of total) and trade sector (17% of total) are very important too.

Registered enterprises	**2009**
Agriculture and fisheries	1,969
mining	16
manufacturing	931
energy	30

Environmental services	28
building	2,951
trade	2,414
Hotels and restaurants	1,695
Logistics and transport	262
services	3,806
total	14,102

Source:Movimprese

Aosta Valley operating businesses are mainly SMEs (small and medium enterprises), 96% (of all operating firms) have less than 10 employees (the trend is corresponding to European percentages).

Business size. Source: Istat (2007)

	Less than 10 employees	**Between 10 and 49 employees (Sme)**	**More than 50 employees**	**total**
Aosta Valley	10,975	428	51	11,454
Italy	4,615,149	232,374	31,313	4,878,836

<u>World Financial crisis</u>
Since 2008, after a two-year period (2006-2007) of real growth, Aosta Valley too shows signs of economical slowing down (-0,47%), essentially consistent with the national trend.
The regional GDP contraction has to be set in a local economical setting relatively more solid, with a per capita GDP higher than the average national one (+ 27%).
The first 2009 data confirm a negative trend of the regional GDP, consistent with the average national data (nearly -5%); the contraction of the per capita GDP is, however, significantly inferior to the average Italian one (-3.9%).

Per capita GDP

	2008 GDP (per capita)	2009 GDP (per capita)	Variation % 2008-2009
Aosta Valley	33.474	33.037	-1.3
Italy	26.279	25.263	-3.9

Source: Guglielmo Tagliacarne Institute

Labour market

At the end of 2008 the labour market indicators are still positive; however, it is already possible to notice that the unemployment rate is growing.

	2004		2008	
	Employment rate(15-64 years old)	Unemployment rate	Employment rate(15-64 years old)	Unemployment rate
Aosta Valley	67.0	3.0	67.9	3.3
Italy	57.4	8.0	58.7	6.7

Source: ISTAT

The redundancy fund hours, despite being less than 2005 and 2006 ones, in 2008 are already more than in 2007 (+6.4%) and, in the first semester 2009, they are three times as much as in the same period of 2008. The average unemployment rate reaches, in 2009, a percentage of 4.4, one point more than in 2008, but still far under the average national data (7.8%). As far as the number of employees is concerned, 32,940 people have been hired in 2009, more than 2000 less than in 2008 (-6.2%)

Average household incomes

	2006	2007	2008
Aosta Valley	21,083	21,302	21,478
Italy	17,216	17,742	18,106

Source: Guglielmo Tagliacarne Institute

The average per capita households income is, in Aosta Valley, a relatively reassuring strong point against the economical crisis. The Aosta Valley datum, in fact, has continued to increase between 2007 and 2008 (+0.8%), resulting higher than the national average one by 18% (absolute value).

Loaning system

Loaning system gives funding to businesses, privates and public entities.

The total amount of loans at the end of 2009 reaches 2,442 million euros, 3.5% more than in 2008. The property developers have received 20 million euros more than in December 2008 (+7%), whilst for manufacturing and services sector the amount of the loans has sensibly decreased. The amount of loans granted to the families has increased by 5.5%.

Total loans for each sector of economical activity. (in million euros and variation percentage) Source: Bank of Italy

SECTOR	Aosta Valley				
	Amounts	Comp. % amounts	Var. 12-07	Var. 12-08	Var. 12-09
Public administrations	57	2.3	-10.3	-9.9	19.7
Finance and insurance companies	21	0.9	-2.4	-46.7	8.7
Non financial companies	1.473	60.3	-0.2	1.5	4.0
With less than 20 employees	425	17.4			
Producer families	221	9.0	4.9	0.5	2.8
Consumer families	670	27.4	6.1	1.1	5.5
Enterprises	1.694	69.4	0.5	1.4	4.1
Of which: manufacturing	269	11.0	15.7	2.7	9.1

building	**311**	**12.7**	**12.8**	**1.7**	**6.8**
services	**660**	**27.0**	**-1.9**	**2.4**	**2.7**
total	**2.442**	**100.00**	**0.9**	**0.1**	**3.5**

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