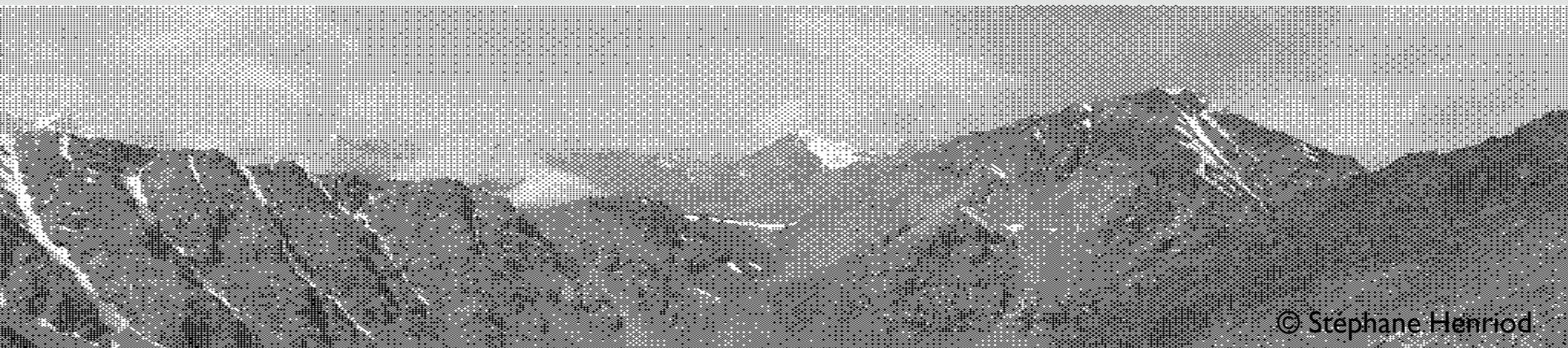


Bordering the Alps

Drawing a “new space of action ” inside the Alpine
Convention’s limits

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Presentation's plan

1. Presentation of the pan-Alpine actors acting inside the Alpine Convention's framework
2. Pan-Alpine identity: objectivation and identification
3. Conclusive remarks

Presentation's plan

Presentation of the pan-Alpine actors acting inside the Alpine Convention's framework

Alpine states & European Union

- Key role of **national states** → signature of the **Alpine Convention** (1991)



- **Alpine Space programme** & European Territorial Cooperation projects (former Interreg)



Networks of local actors: scaling down initiatives

1994



1997

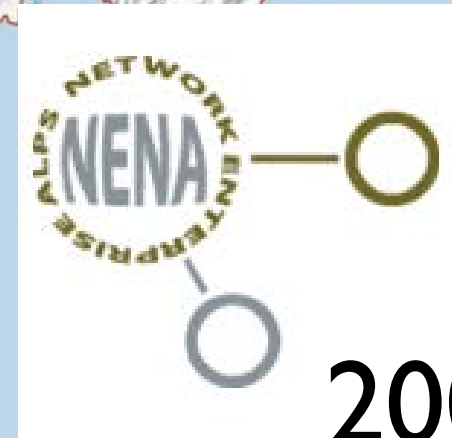


Ville des Alpes de l'Année
Alpenstadt des Jahres
Città alpina dell'anno
Alpsko mesto leta

1997



2006



2006

A central actor: CIPRA

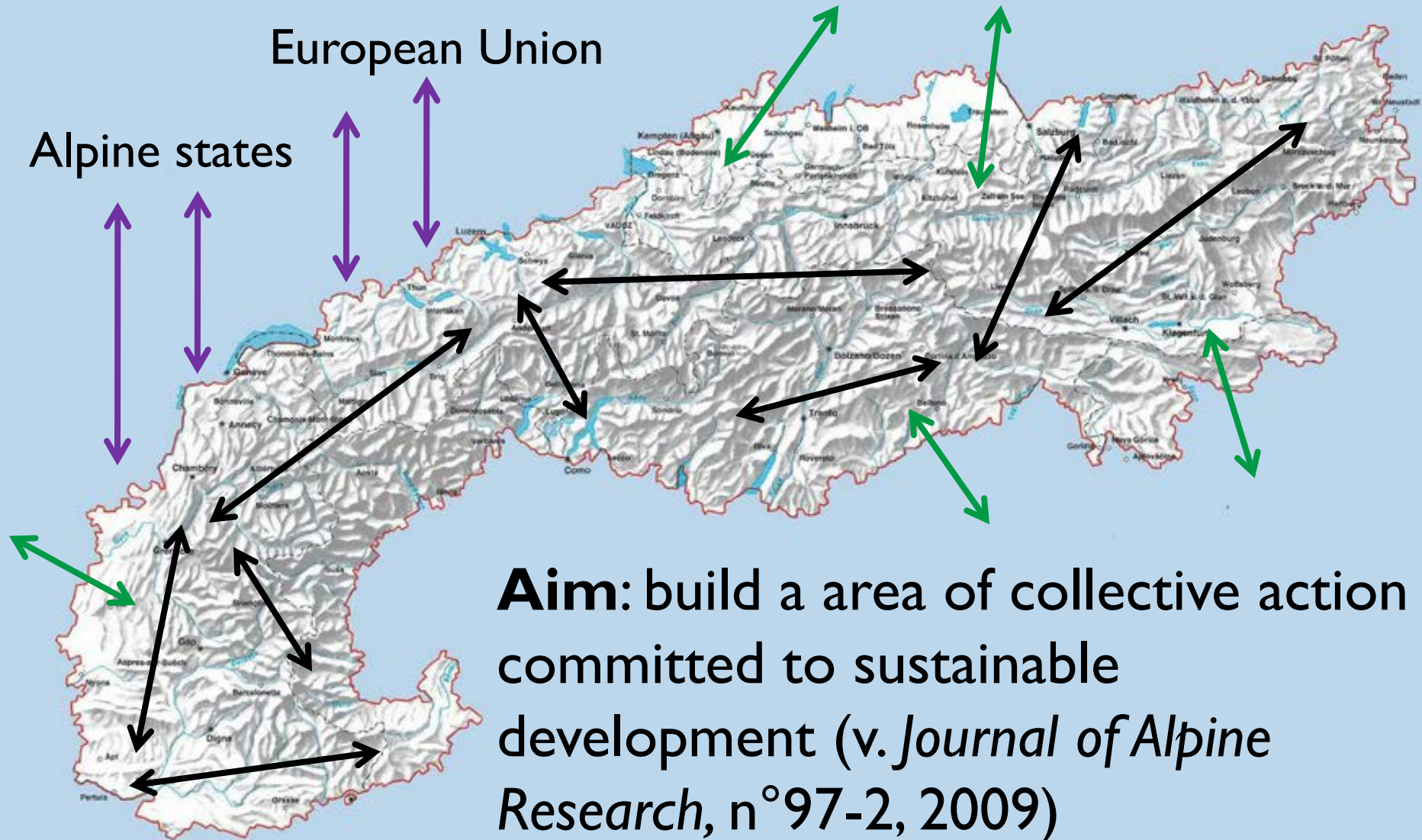
Alpine Convention

Alpine Space (Interreg)



Pan-alpine networks

Vertical & horizontal reorganization of territorial levels (Väyrynen, 2003)



Defining identity

How to grasp the “identity catchword” (Häkli, 2001)?

- ▣ **Objectivation:** identification of an object by a subject to understand the world (Debarbieux & Rudaz, 2010)
- ▣ **Identification:** recognition of the capacity of individuals and groups to feel part of a collectivity
→ affirmation of a **chosen and shared collective identity** (Debarbieux, 2006)

Presentation's plan

Objectivation

Objectivation of the Alps: some elements

- ❑ **Borders** of the Alpine region: contested geographical borders, uncontested socio-cultural background

Objectivation of the Alps: some elements

“The definition of the territory of the Alpine Convention in Slovenia is stupid, because it is restricted to a certain geographical middle area of the Alps. The definition leaves out large areas and practically the majority of Slovenia. In Italy, the whole karst is inside the Alpine Convention, until Trieste, but in Slovenia the karst is not inside” (Dragan, CIPRA)

Objectivation of the Alps: some elements

*Exactly the roots, coming from the way of living with a similar landscape make us **analogous**. The farming work for example, which knows similar problems, similar challenges, it is the same if you are in South-Tyrol, or in Switzerland, or in our place. And from there on, **the same mentality is built**, which is similar, it is the same where I look at. And this is fascinating. And I think, this **cannot be fixed along national borders**. (Hans, Mayor)*

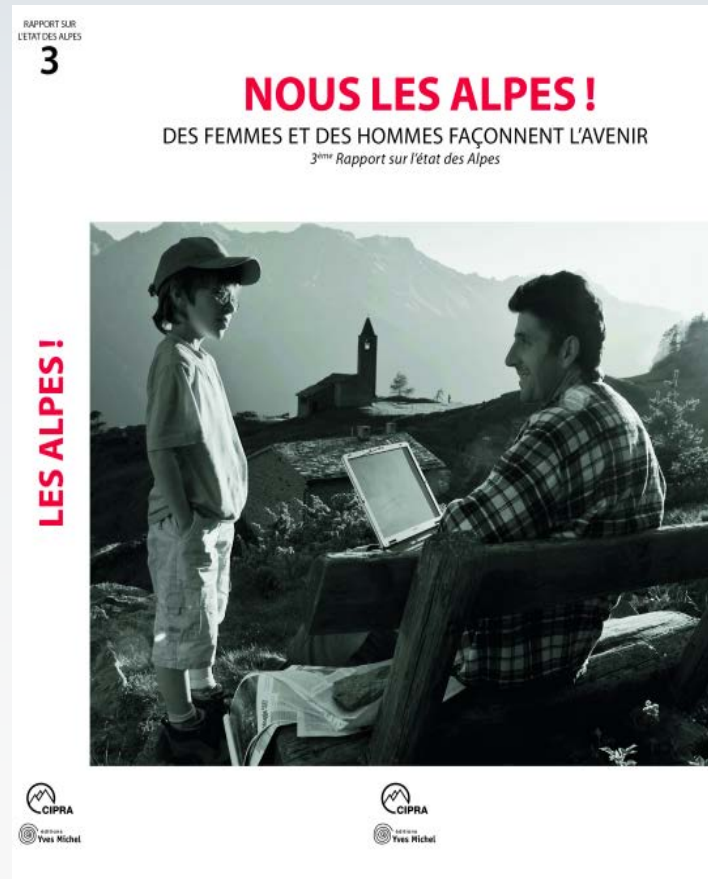
Objectivation of the Alps: some elements

- ❑ **Borders** of the Alpine region: contested geographical borders, uncontested socio-cultural background
- ❑ **Diversity** as fundament of the Alpine **unity**
→ **root metaphor**

Objectivation of the Alps: some elements

- ❑ **Borders** of the Alpine region: contested geographical borders, uncontested socio-cultural background
- ❑ **Diversity** as fundament of the Alpine **unity**
→ **root metaphor**
- ❑ **Nostalgic image** of the Alps (one of the “five recurrent images of the Alps” → Petite, 2009)

Objectivation of the Alps: some elements



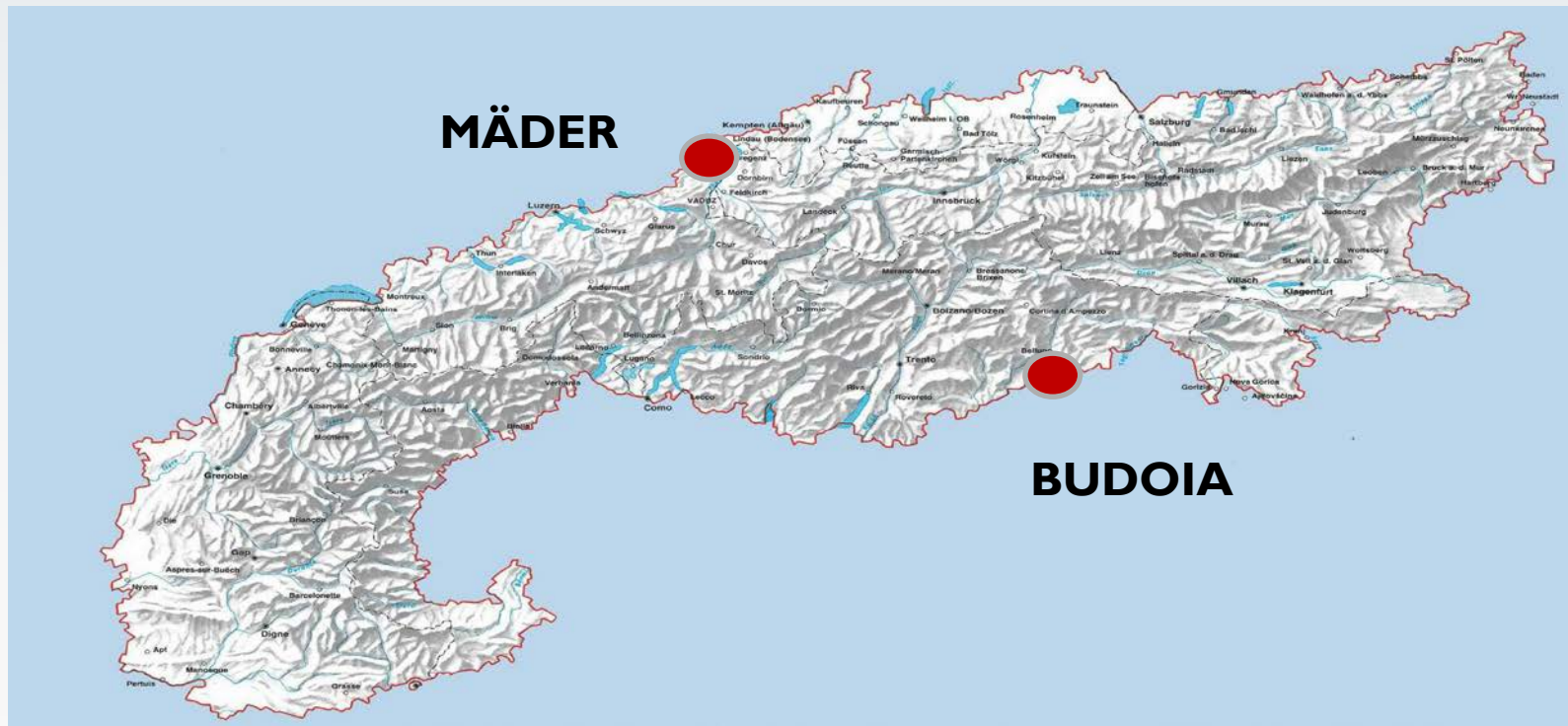
3rd Report on the state of the Alps (c) CIPRA international

Presentation's plan

Identification to the Alps

Identification to the Alps: two examples

Tells from two municipalities situated in the pre-Alps, but the most active in the network...



Identification to the Alps (cont.)

□ Mäder (Austria)

*“What happens up there, in the upstanding mountains, has **important implications here**” (Mayor of Mäder)*

- Suffering from the consequences of the upstanding Alps
- Identification to sustainable development more than to the Alps

Identification to the Alps (cont.)

□ **Budoia (Italy):**

*I am as well [as a lot of other persons in this town] son of emigrants, who went to Switzerland. **I feel the attraction towards the mountain.***

When I have spoken to the people about that, I felt that they understood.

*CIPRA and Alliance in the Alps gave me the possibility to promote and **wake up feelings** that the population, anyway, was "brewing inside". (Antonio)*

(Mayor of Budoia)

Identification to the Alps (cont.)

□ **Budoia (Italy):**

- Transform a personal identity in collective identity
- Possibility to get funds via the network

→ Both **strategic identities:**

For Budoia: **affective**

For Mäder: **functional** and **pragmatic**

Conclusion

- ▣ Even for the most active and committed persons, identification to the Alps is more a matter of **opportunity** than of **belonging**
- ▣ **No need of a strong identification** to the Alps to support successful pan-Alpine projects, which contribute to give another image of the Alps (objectivation) i.e. the Alps as a transboundary area not divided by national states