

Macro-regional strategies a recipe for Success?

Comparing INTERREG and macro-regional strategies governance
frameworks and governance dimensions

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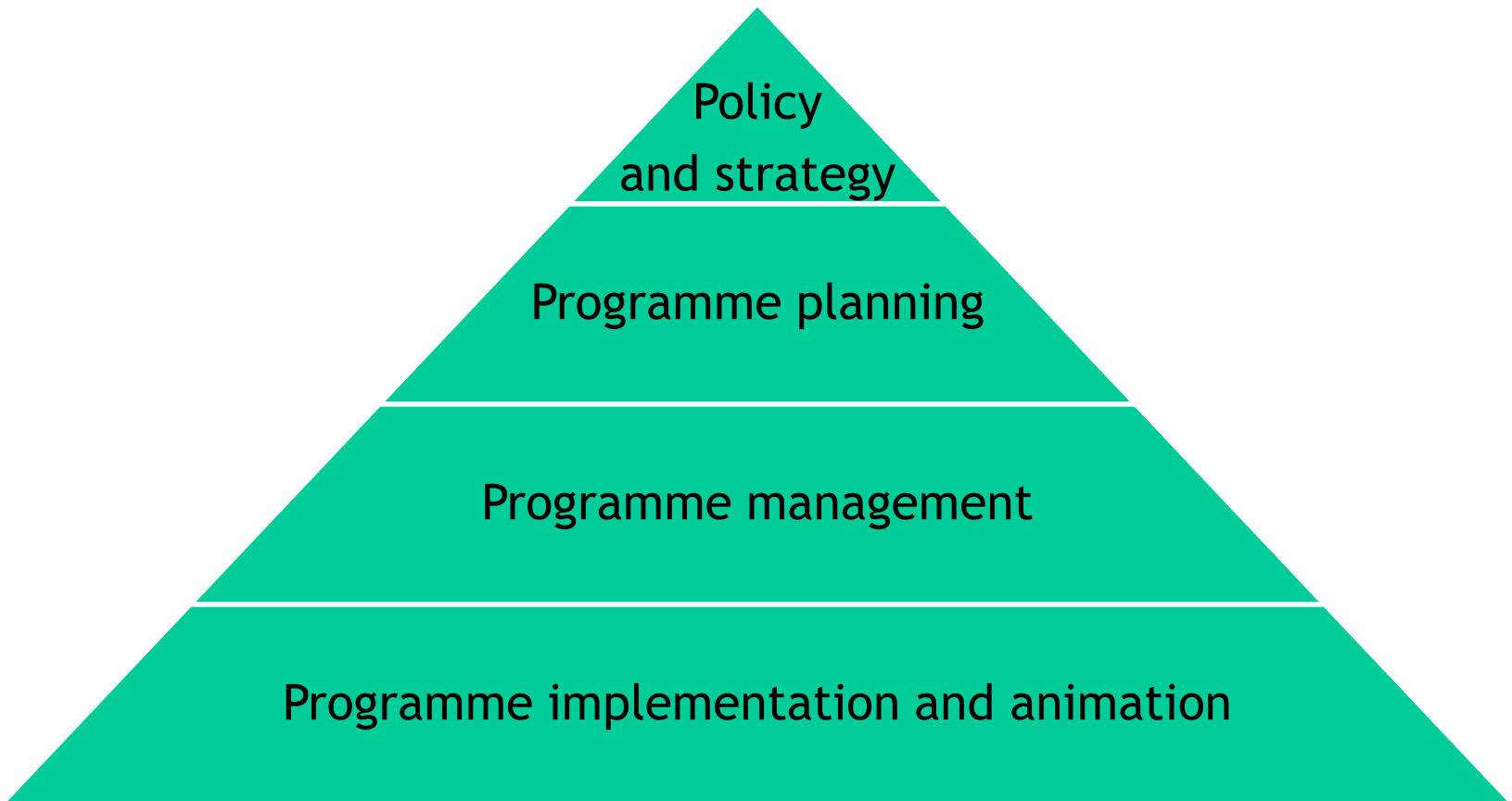
- Data
- Role of sub-national actors in the EU
- Governance framework INTERREG
- Governance framework macro-regional strategies
- Governance dimensions
- Conclusions and points for discussion

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- ESPON TERCO
 - Desk research of all INTERREG programmes
 - 8 general case studies
 - 5 targeted case studies for governance issues (35 interviews)
 - Macro-regional strategies (Case study EUSDR)

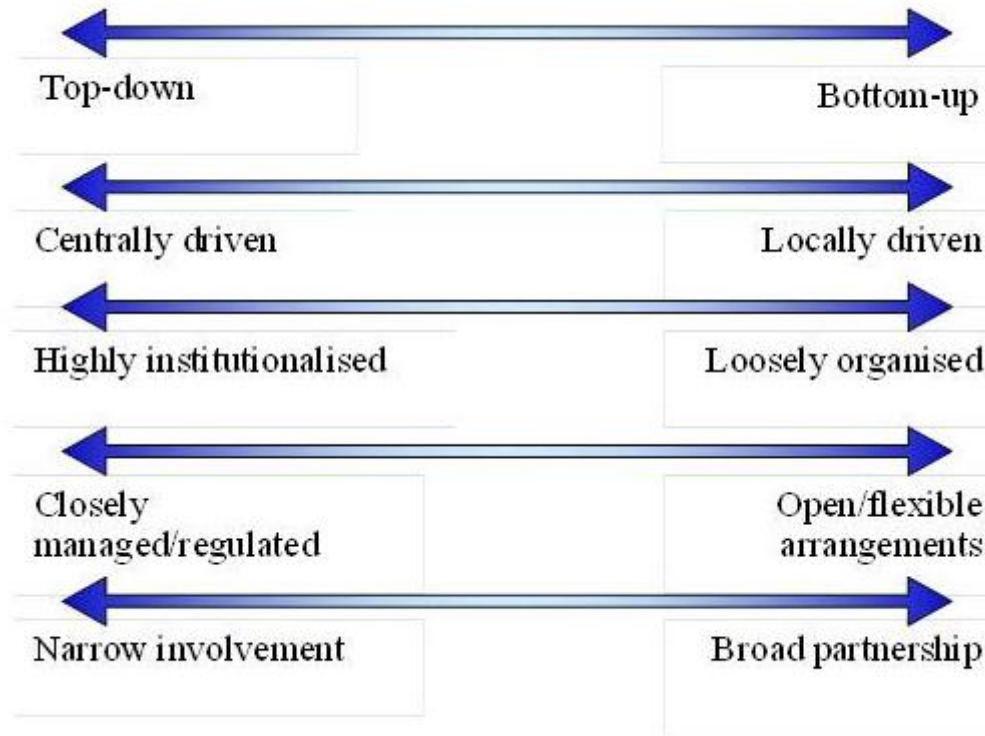
The role of sub-national actors in the EU

- Role of sub-national actors has been boosted by European integration
 - Strengthened regional institutions
 - Partnership principle
- ETC is a particularly good example
 - Traditionally a competency of the state
 - Started informal in a limited number of domains
 - Increasingly formalised and institutionalised
 - Increase in scope

Governance framework



Governance dimensions



- What is the role of sub-national actors in the governance framework of INTERREG programmes and how does this compare to their role in macro-regional strategies?
- What are the underlying governance dimensions that can be identified for both cases?

Governance framework INTERREG (1)

- Policy and strategy formulation
 - INTERREG is an embedded part of cohesion policy
 - Consultation process in pre-regulation stage
 - Central state and Commission are key decision makers and drivers of the process
- Programme initiation
 - Partnership principle - regional and central state and Commission
 - Influence sub-national actors varies according to domestic administrative traditions

Governance framework INTERREG (2)

- Programme management
 - Reflects structures of domestic Structural Funds
 - Managing Authorities placed in national and regional public authorities
 - In limited cases there exist truly joint functions (1 EGTC)
 - Regional actors sit on the MC and have voting rights
- Programme implementation and animation
 - Implementation functions are commonly delegated to sub-national actors
 - Project generation methods influence the type of actors that are attracted
 - Common to have decentralised animation structures

Governance framework macro-regional strategies (1)

- Policy and strategy formulation
 - Lack of regulation
 - Sub-national actor are supportive of MRS in consultation
- Programme initiation
 - Central state and EU institutions are key drivers
 - Consultation process includes sub-national actors
 - Attempts for a more bottom-up approach

Stage	INTERREG	MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGY
Policy	Consultative role	Consultative role
Initiation	Decision makers but role depends on administrative traditions	Consultative role
Management	Sub-national authorities sit on MC but often national positions decided prior to these meetings	Central state and Commission are mainly responsible sub-national actors are consulted
Programme Implementation and animation	Usually have regional contact points and delegated procedures	Central state and Commission are responsible but have to attract funds externally

Governance framework macro-regional strategies (2)

- Programme management
 - No prescribed way for monitoring, managing and implementing macro regional strategies.
 - Fairly top-down approach
 - DGregio
 - High level Steering Group
 - Priority Area Coordinators
 - Annual forum for consultation
- Programme implementation
 - MS are responsible for driving priorities
 - Commission has a coordinating role
 - Nationally appointed contact points
 - Lack of resources?

- A mix of governance dimensions
- Macro regional strategies at the moment ‘top heavy’
- Macro regional strategies are centrally driven compared to INTERREG
- Lack of new institutions and regulation means that there is enough flexibility to adapt MRS

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- To what extent do macro-regional strategies present opportunities for influence for sub-national actors?
 - Will macro-regional strategies change the way in which territorial cooperation takes place, especially considering the three no principles?
 - Will the governance dimensions that have increasingly become apparent in INTERREG cooperation (regulation and institutionalisation) also transfer to macro-regional strategies?
 - Is the concept of a macro-region sufficiently flexible to be applied to a range of different governance traditions that pre-exist in different regions?