

Euromountains.net Project - theme 2
INTERREG III C

The Role of Territorial authorities in Developing
and Promoting Mountain Resources and Quality
Product

Description of the Territorial Authorities

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Clarification of the organisation of the territorial authorities in each partner country

In the EU, a unit (the NUTS) has been implemented so as to facilitate the comparisons. 3 levels are identified by the EU, but each member state is free to decline infra-levels. Each NUTS level does not always exist. Below, the information I have for the countries involved in theme 2.

	NUTS2	Nb	NUTS3	Nb	NUTS4	Nb	NUTS5	Nb
France	Region	22	Department	96			Commune	36000
Italy	Region	21	Province	104			Commune	8101
Spain	Autonomous community	19	Province	52			Municipality	??
Norway	County	18			Municipality	434		

In order to better understand the various public authority levels a table has been filled in for each of the country studied, that is to say: France, Italy, Spain and Norway.

Pays : France

Local authority or council (number)	NUTS	Historic	Election modality	Competencies	Role/ responsibility in policy implementations	Competencies and means for intervention for promotion/ valorisation of products	Type of financial resources and/ or Funds managed
State	1	Parliamentary Republic Origin comes from the French Revolution (1789)	President elected at the direct universal suffrage	The State has a strong power in almost all the fields. It promulgates and implements the laws. It keeps a strong power on the lower levels that financially depends on it.	<i>Main level. Despite recent reforms, France remains a strong centralised state.</i>	Direct subvention to agriculture Action through deconcentrated services	Raise the diverse taxes
Region (22)	2	Recent level. 1986 : become of territorial authority, first elections	Direct Universal suffrage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economical development • Training (High school - 15-18 year old) • Transport • Town policies • Research • Culture 	<i>Region tends to wider its competencies and its influence and become little by little as a major politic level. The European context favour this tendency</i>	Competencies in training, heritage management. Territorial policies (through regional nature parks and different forms of territorial contracts)	Taxes Loans Ex : budget of Rhone-Alpes (5,6 million inh.) is 1,4 billion €
Department (96)	3	Since the French Revolution. (1789) Have more and more importance.	Direct and universal suffrage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solidarity : retirement facilities • Training : secondary school (11 - 15 year old) • Roads 	<i>Departments keep an important financial power, close to the territory. Level nevertheless criticised to which one prefer the regions</i>	<i>Competencies in tourism, heritage management, agriculture. They can decide specific supports outside competencies.</i>	Taxes State transfers Ex : budget of the Department of Rhone (1,6 million inh.) about 1 billion €
Community of communes (2 500 ie. 82% of the population)		Years 90th Several laws encourage the grouping (92, 99), launch of a real dynamic.	Assembly elected on indirect suffrage, within the local councils	Compulsory competencies : Competencies Transferred by the communes.	<i>Voluntary based grouping of communes. Compensate the limited size and weakness of action of the local level. Recent dynamic but is of interest in term of local development.</i>	<i>Competencies delegated by the Communes</i>	Taxes State transferts Ex : budget of the Community if communes of Lyon (1,2 million inh.) about 1 billion euro
Commune (36 000)	5	French communes are numerous and little populated	Direct universal suffrage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current business of the commune. Wide competencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local roads • School (5-10 year old) • development/ town planning • Household refuses Can be transferred to the community of communes	<i>Basic level of democracy Too numerous, too small. Attempts to reduce the number of commune have never been successful.</i>	<i>Wide competencies but weak financial means</i>	Contributions of the member Communes State transfers Eventually: common taxes Ex: budget of the commune of Lyon (445 000 inh.) 0,6 billion €

Pays : Italie

Local authority or council (number)	NUT S	Historic	Election modality	Competencies	Role/ responsibility in policy implementations	Competencies and means for intervention for promotion/ valorisation of products	Type of financial resources and/ or Founds managed
State	1	The republic of Italy born on 2 June 1946	Direct universal suffrage	Exclusive legislative power among others on : functions of the communes, provinces and metropolitan cities ; protection of environment, ecosystem and cultural heritage (Italian Constitution)	Legislative function exercised by the Chamber of Deputies and the Senat. State has the exclusive regulatory power for legislation, but can delegate it to the regions. (Italian Constitution)		Own resources and resources from the European Union
Region (21)	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Val d'Aosta, Sicily, Sardinia, Friuli-Venezia-Julienne, Trento-Haut-Adige /Südtirol have specific autonomous statutes ; • the 15 other regions were created in 1970. 	Direct universal suffrage	Exercise legislative power in the fields not reserved for the state : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific and technological research and innovation support - Health protection - Food - Civil protection - Land management - Promotion of cultural and environmental assets - Promotion and organisation of cultural activities (Constitution italienne)	Regional competencies used mainly in : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transport - Public works - Hospital organisation - Culture - Tourism - Urbanism - Local police 		Own resources, resources allocated by the state and eventually the European Union
		Val d'Aosta			Uses legislative, planning and control functions in the fields established by the special statute : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic planning - Coordination of the urban and environmental programming 	Promotion of typical products of the area, crafts, hotel industry, tourism and landscape protection (Special statute of the Val d'Aosta)	

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Province (104) and 110 to 2010		Framed by the article 114 of the Italian Constitution (1948) <i>Val d'Aoste does not have provinces</i>	Direct universal suffrage	Varied between regions : - Defence of the territory - Energy - Cultural activities - Viability and transport - Environment - Hunting and fishing		Important role in implementation of the policies promoting local quality products	
		<i>The Autonomous Province of Trento</i> The Province rejoined the State of Italy in 1919 and became autonomous in 1972.	Direct universal suffrage	The provincial council of Trento has significant legislative powers in internal affairs, foreign policy is under the responsibility of the Italian Government. The autonomous status confers powers in the commerce depending on regional regulations, credit agencies, agricultural institutions and banks. Trento can legislate over employment. Trento controls the mining exploitations, mineral waters and thermal sources and within the limits of the national laws, the provisioning of water with the exception of hydropower.	The provincial council is the legislative structure of Trento. Its members are the members of the Trento regional council with its headquarters in the regional council of the Trentino-Alto Adige region. Laws adopted by the provincial council may have to be voted by the representation of the central government in the region if they exceed their powers or are in conflict with national interests or with those of the other provinces of the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism promotion activities with other regional authorities • Cross-border relations with foreign countries • Responsible for the protection of the environment and a power to create parks and pastures to protect flora and fauna • Competencies in: Agriculture and forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Livestock and fisheries - Forest guard services • Trento has taxing powers but they are limited 	Amendment of the autonomous status in order to guarantee the return to the province of a percentage (over 90%) of the specific taxes versed in the province. In 2005 budget of 4.850 million € (appr. 10.000 €/inh.). Added to this different funds from the EU

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Community of mountain communes (356) of which 4201 Mountain Communes)	41	Mountain communities were created in 1971 by the law 1102/1971. The laws nr. 142/90 and 265/1999 have modified their administration	Indirect election ²	Different between regions. Represents intermediary level in the implementation of the communal functions that can be accomplished more efficiently in a supra-communal level. (Regional law n. 54 of 1998) More info: http://www.uncem.it/stories/2005/05/19/legislazioneRegionale.html	Uses in common the communal functions and basic services, in order to provide more efficient and socially locally adjusted service at the local authority level. (Regional law n. 54 of 1998)	Territorial development on human, social, cultural and economic fields by a resource development policy. Implementation of works for the territorial interest with the communes in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environment, • economy, • production, commerce, • tourism, • social services • culture and sports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own resources, resources allocated by the region and European Union ; • Resources outside forced sectors ; investment plan measures ; or sectoral resources (Regional law 48 of 1995)
Communes (8.101)	5	Created by article 114 of the Italian Constitution (1948) <i>In Val d'Aosta the modern commune was born in XVII century within the States of Savoy. Today there are 74 communes</i>	Direct universal suffrage	Local authority representing the community, guarding its interests and promoting development (Regional law n. 54 of 1998)	Assures the administrative functions for its population and area in : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social services • Land management and use • Economic development, with the exception of those explicitly allocated to other bodies (Regional law n. 54 of 1998)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and promotion of local culture • Support to local crafts and agriculture production in order to develop tourism potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own resources, resources allocated by the Region and European Union ; • Resources outside sectoral limits ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investment plan measures - Sectoral resources (Regional law 48 of 1995)

¹ European regulations do not define NUTS levels of the Mountain Communities and Communes defined here, which do not follow the NUTS definitions but the Local Administrative Unit (LAU) regulation.

² Each commune names its representatives within the council of the mountain community at the time of the communal council elections. Assembly elected indirectly in the municipal councils.

County: Spain

Local authority or council (number)	NUTS	Historic	Election modality	Competencies	Role/ responsibility in policy implementations	Competencies and means for intervention/ promotion/ valorisation of products	Type of financial resources and/ or Founds managed
State	1	Spain is a plural kingdom divided in provinces since 1515	The Spanish are represented in the Sénat and the Parliament, this last one is chosen by universal direct suffrage				
Autonomous Communities (17+Ceuta y Melilla)	2	The Spanish Regions became autonomous in 1978	The direct election of the regional parliaments (Autonomour Chamber of deputies)	Uses administrative powers among others the following fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public goods and private heritage (special treatment of mountain areas) • Territorial policies • Public interest works • Transport • Water and electricity (exploitation, transport and distribution if they do not affect neighbouring regions) • Organisation of market centres and of the hygienic quality of the goods • Chambers of commerce, industry, agriculture 	Rural development policy starts in 1990. Aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the participation of economic actors from rural areas • Consolidation of the private non-profit structures with participative formats • Development and promotion of quality products and services • Improving quality by modernising production and by local gastronomy and crafts (certification labels) 	Integrated operational programme includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of rural areas through agricultural activities • Diversification • Promotion • Analysis of local and regional market and distribution chains • Support to the production of local products • Technology transfer 	Own European funds (ERDF, EARDF) and national funds (PRODER and others)
Province (50+ Ceuta y Melilla)	3	Association of municipalities whose mission is to implement the supra-local objectives. The current structure of provinces is from 1833.	Composed of a president and parliament members elected indirectly, from the municipal elections	Ensures the provision of municipal services in the territory with the economic, legal and technical support of the regions in the regional or supra-municipality areas	The province provides advice, support and subsidies to the municipalities. One of the concrete tools is "Plan Provincial".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commune assistance programmes • Rural development programmes • Direct subventions • Support to rural development initiatives , among which the structural fund initiatives 	Own resources of the Province, with funds from the municipalities and private funds
Mancommunity (8108)		Grouping of municipalities. Law of 1985	Indirect election within the mayors of the municipalities forming the Mancommunity	No own competencies, only by grouping of the municipality competencies	Specific, depending on the aim for the creation of the Mancommunity. Promotion of tourism or territorial development	No own competencies	Subventions by other public administrations or private entities

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Municipality	4		Direct elections. Law 1809	Capacity of action to promote activities and provide public services that affect the needs of the local population and neighbouring communes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Planning of activities in the area</i> • <i>Requests for activities to improve the quality of life of the citizens</i> • <i>Requests of action for other administrations</i> 	Competencies in the authorisation and implementation of economic activities	Own funds with the support of funds from other administrations

Pays: Norway

Local authority or council (number)	NUTS	Historic	Election modality	Competencies	Role/ responsibility in policy implementations	Competencies and means for intervention for promotion/ valorisation of products	Type of financial resources and/ or Founds managed
State	1						
County Council/ County Administration (18)	2	County councils established in 1838: County Administration established in 1975 as a territorial authority; first elections	Direct Universal suffrage of County councils since 1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economical development • Training (High school - 15-18 year old) • Transport • Tourism • Culture 	<i>County level is under debate in Norway. Several politicians argue for bigger and fewer counties, and to make them major political levels. The European context favour this tendency</i>	Regional department with experts in regional planning, economic activities, etc (agriculture mostly supported directly by State/ Government) County plan for regional development, revised 4-yearly.	Funds from Government and own economic activity for regional development; managed partly directly and partly distributed to lower territorial authorities, organisations or other managing bodies (ex. Innovation Norway)
County Governor (18)	2	Established 1685. Until 1975 the County Governor was the leader of the County council	The County Governor is appointed by the King/ Government	The County Governor is the chief representative for King and Government at county level. Important field of actions are environment protection, agriculture, local government finances and family matters. He also acts as a guardian for civic rights	The County Governor works for implementation of central government decisions. <i>The role of the Governor is stable, but might be influenced by the expected changes in size and number of counties.</i>	Experts from the County Governor's office supervise and instruct local activities. The agricultural department promotes and give advice in different matters directly to farmers.	The County Governor manages different funds for promotion of agriculture and regional development; cooperates and liaises with the County Administration, the municipalities and other bodies in managing and distribution of funds.

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Regional Councils Regionråd (Community of communes) Up to 5 in each county	3	Grouping of municipalities set up during the 10-15 last years. Region of Nord Gudbrandsdalen/ region of Valdres, including 6 municipalities each, was established in 1993	The Regional Councils consist of 2-3 politicians from each participating municipality; may have a smaller Executive committee.	The general objective of the regional councils is to work for common tasks and to promote the interest of the region towards the county and state authorities.	Voluntary based grouping of municipalities. Compensate the limited size and weakness of action of the local level. <i>Is of particular interest in terms of local development</i>	Most regional councils have few or a very small employed staff. Practical matters and execution of council's decisions are mostly taken care of by staff at the municipalities.	In Oppland the regions Nord-Gudbrandsdalen/ Valdres have been given authority to manage development funds from the state and other sources. Both in Oppland and Sogn og Fjordane the regional councils have entered partnership agreements with the county council, and have responsibility for carrying out some development initiatives of the County plan.
Municipalities/ Communes (433)	4	Established in 1837 by the Acts of Local Government	Direct universal suffrage (men since 1896, women since 1910)	Compulsory competencies: Primary an lower secondary education, social services, municipal roads, water and sewage, zoning regulation.	<i>Municipality level is under debate in Norway. Several politicians argue for fewer and bigger municipalities, more like the level NUTS 3.</i>		Basic funding of the municipalities are taxes (income and property) and support from the State. Many mountain municipalities have income from hydro electric power plants

