

Bodensee (Lake Constance) – Model for a sustainable and interconnected cross-border region

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Agenda



- Cross-border Cooperation, Lake-Constance Area
- International Lake Constance Conference (IBK)
- Framework Conditions for Small Project Funds
- Specifications of the IBK-Small Project Fund

The International Lake Constance Region



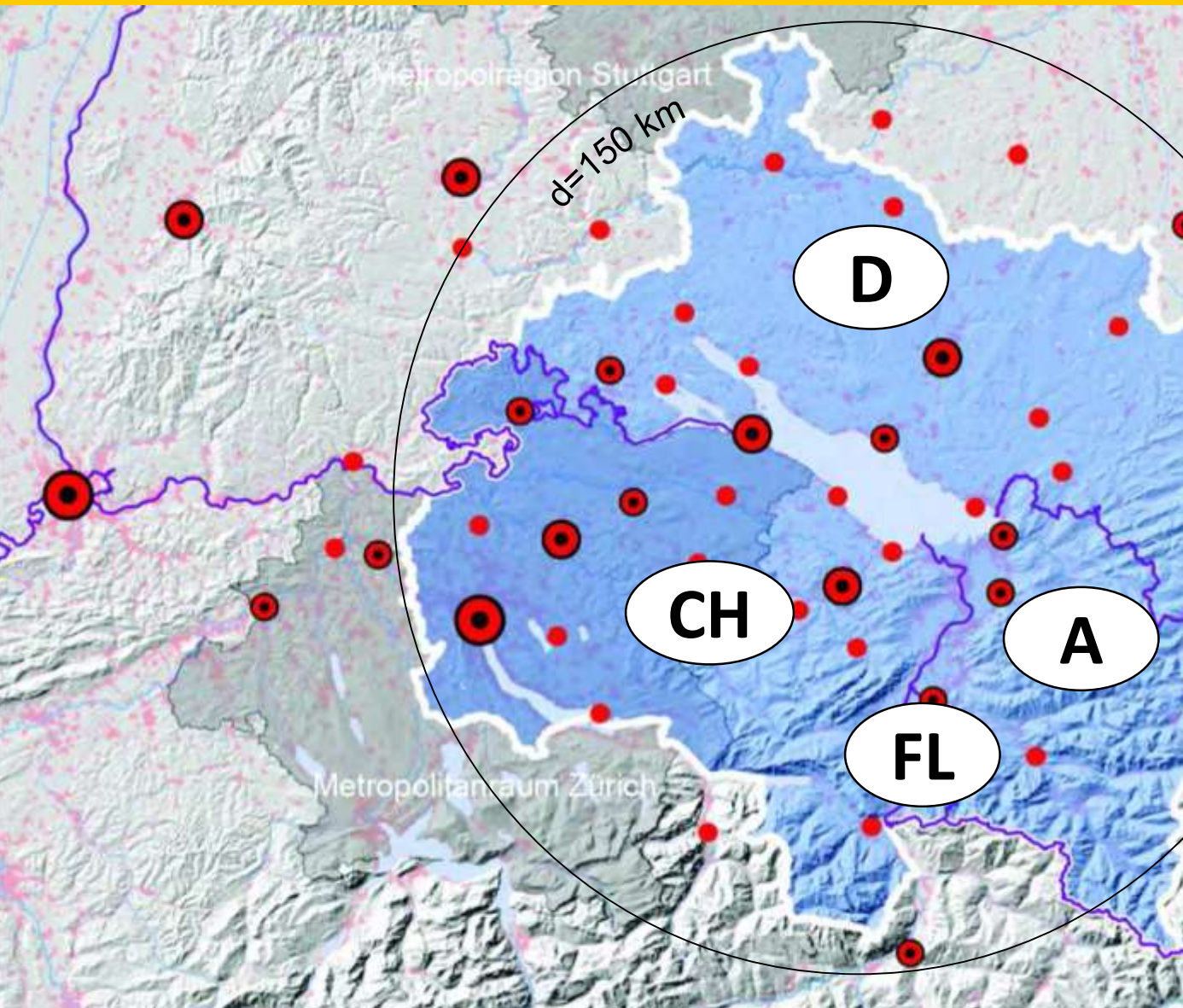
Germany

Switzerland

Austria

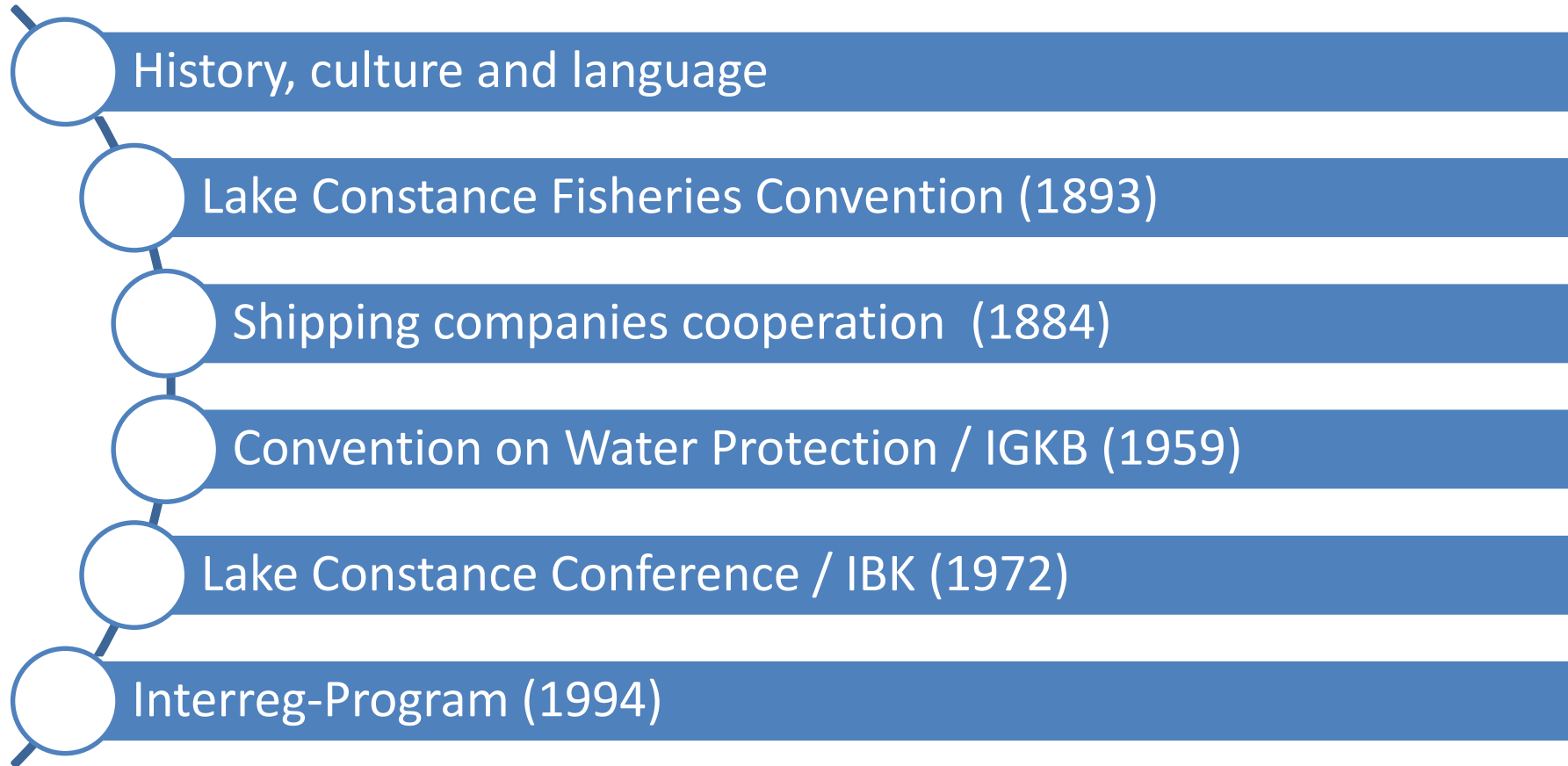
Principality of Liechtenstein

Highly interconnected region



- 4,2 million inhabitants (2021) on 14'500 km²
- 2,3 million in employment (2020), 553 per 1.000 inh.
- 277 bn euros GDP (2020), comparable with Finland
- Export-oriented economy
- strong innovation performance
- 52'000 cross-border commuters
- cross-border labour market + tourist region
- Lake Constance Arts & Sciences Association with 25 institutes of higher education

Many interrelations...



Interreg Program



"Alpine Rhine-Lake Constance-High Rhine"

Interreg I - IV (1994-2013)

- 350 projects, 1,500 partners
- Approx. 31.5 million € subsidies

Interreg V (2014-2020)

- Funding: € 52 million
- Extension of programme area

Interreg VI (2021-2027)

- Funding: € 52 million



We promote Europe.

Umbrella Organisation



Established in 1972, the International Lake Constance Conference (IBK) is the political umbrella organisation for cross-border cooperation in the Lake Constance region.



IBK at a glance



- 1972: 1st Lake Constance Conference
- 1979: Statute, 6 members
- 1998: 10 countries and cantons
- 1994, 2008: Mission statements
- 2017: IBK mission statement + strategy
- Voluntary, no legal form
- Annual change of presidency
- Consensus principle
- Budget
approx. 1.5 Mio. € / p.a. for projects;
410'000 € / p.a. to run the head office
→ from membership fees

IBK Small Project Fund

Sources of funding: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF),
New Regional Policy Switzerland (NRP) and cantonal funding,
national funding from Liechtenstein



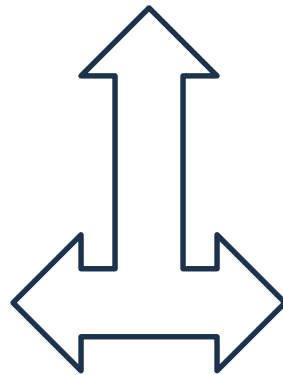
EUROPÄISCHE UNION
Europäischer Fonds für
regionale Entwicklung



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Working group
with representatives of
the State of Baden-
Württemberg 2018:
Results: **Simplification**
proposals for the
support of Small
Projects



Heads of Government Conference 2017:

- Cross-border strategy
- Role of cross-border projects for the implementation of strategies

Delegation Trip to Brussels 2018:

- Promotion of Small Projects must continue
- Need for simplification

Framework Conditions I



- According to the **Cooperation Program** (Interreg VI-A) Germany-Austria-Switzerland-Liechtenstein small project funds (SPF) focus on projects with total project costs of max. 200,000 €.
- **Small projects (recipients)** receive support from the ERDF via the small project fund in accordance with **Art. 25 (1) ETC Regulation**.
- The support from the ERDF can also flow into small projects **outside the EU** as long as the fund has its seat within an EU Member State participating in the Interreg program (Art. 23 para. 7 ETC Regulation).
- The SPF can dispose of the ERDF funding as a **sole beneficiary**.
- **The funding rules of the Interreg program do not apply to the small projects, but only to the SPF itself.**
- **Small project funds have its own funding rules in compliance with the requirements of the ETC-Regulation, in particular Art. 25 (6).**

Framework Conditions II



The funding rules of the SPF must consider:

- **Simplified cost options must be applied as a matter of principle**
- real costs are accepted only under exceptional circumstances (public contribution more than 100,000, subsidy or **lump-sum financing**), (Art. 25 (6) of the ETC Regulation).
- In particular, **real costs are not accepted in combination with unit costs (standardized unit rates)**
- Draft budget is possible – but actually not used
- **Staff costs can be claimed as a flat rate of 20% or as standardized hourly rates. Different hourly rates than for EU recipients can also be applied, in particular for recipients from Switzerland or for Liechtenstein.**

Framework Conditions III



The funding rules of the SPF must consider:

- **Public Procurement Law: the law of the state applies in which the recipient has its registered office.** Thus, if a Swiss partner carries out a tender for the project, Swiss public procurement law applies.
- **SPF is free to set its own funding rates in its regulations** – observing the general principle of equal treatment and not exceeding the funding rate approved by the Interreg program.
- **The SPF beneficiary (IBK) disburses the funding to the small projects.** Reimbursement of these costs is made within the framework of the Interreg rules for small projects (NB: there is a second SPF funded from IBK's members only). Thus, the SPF-beneficiary should be able to make an advance financial payment to the small projects.

Framework Conditions IV



The funding rules of the SPF must consider:

- **Management verification (FLC)** of the costs of small projects (final recipients) is carried out by the SPF beneficiary of the small project. **Second level** control also covers the reliability of the indicator system (transparent and comprehensible method basis).
- **The selection of small projects** is made by a selection committee appointed by the SPF-beneficiary.
- **Selection criteria** must meet the requirements of Article 25 (3) of the ETC Regulation: non-discriminatory, transparent selection procedure, objective criteria, evaluating the project applications must follow a kind of "methodology".
- In terms of content, there are no specifications other than **a cross-border effect of the project is required. Applicant can thus be only one organisation (as 'sole recipient')**.
- Article 23 of the ETC Regulation does not apply to small projects funded by an SPF.

Key Points of the IBK Small Projects Fund 2023-2028



- **Cooperation and financing** by all IBK member countries; lead partner: state of Baden-Württemberg, represented by IBK office
- **Concept:** broad range of target groups, thematic diversity of projects, clearly defined eligibility and exclusion criteria, international selection committee with rules of procedure, maximum support rate following the minimum for standard projects, budget for funding projects approx. 1.2 million euros.
- **Coordination/project consulting** by a 60% position (0.6 FTE)
- **Co-financing** of administrative costs (coordination office, material and travel costs, public relations, etc.) by the IBK, co-financing of project costs by the recipients of the small projects.
- **Dual-track orientation of the fund** (see below)
- **Project selection by an international selection committee:**
 - Voting members: one representative for each, i.e. the German members and the Austrian member, one for Swiss cantons and one for Liechtenstein plus the IBK managing director
 - In advisory capacity: A representative of the Joint Secretariat Interreg ABH, the project coordinator and the deputy managing director (responsible of controlling)



Funding rules



No draft budget: too complicated! Use of different flat rates depending on individual needs - Choice between two options:

More external cost & services than staff costs:

- External cost & services costs as real costs (to prove with invoices) plus
- 20% flat rate for staff
- Office & administrative costs as flat rate of 15% of staff
- Travel costs as flat rate of 5% of staff costs

More staff than external costs & services:

- Staff costs based on standardized hourly rates (unit cost) and timesheets according to Interreg-Program
- Flat rate of 40% for the remaining eligible costs (calculated expenses must be presented with the application)

Dual-track Orientation



IBK-Small Projects Fund 2023-2028

IBK-Citizens' Projects

Project volume: about **5.000 €**
Funding Amount: **max. 3.000 €**
Funding rate: **60%**

Financing from IBK funds
Funding criteria according to IBK

for private individuals, schools, groups, clubs, associations, municipalities & other organisations

Effect in the IBK area

Interreg-Small Projects

Project volume: about **50.000 €**
Funding amount: **max. 30.000 €**
Funding rate: **60%**

Cofinancing from Interreg VI ABH
Eligibility criteria according to Interreg EU/CH

Especially for municipalities, NGOs, clubs, associations, corporations

Effect in the program area ABH

ABH 022
ABH 023

Technically: 2 Subprojects



► total costs: 2.4 Mio € / total ERDF: 1.68 Mio €

Interreg
Alpenrhein-Bodensee-Hochrhein



Kofinanziert
von der
Europäischen
Union



und Partnerstaaten

ABH022: **Institutional capacity** (SZ9)

- **Project budget:**
1,1 Mio € / ERDF: 770.000 €
- **Target group:**
local authorities, planning associations, administrative bodies, tourism associations, energy agencies, NGOs, civil society organisations, service provider, educational institutions, interest groups, associations, individuals.
- **Goal:**
optimize and strengthen existing cooperative relationships in the region and contribute to the establishment of new relationships.

ABH023: **Civic projects** (SZ11)

- **Project budget:**
900.000 € / ERDF: 630.000 €
- **Target group:**
citizens, associations, initiatives, organisations, municipalities.
- **Goal:**
to promote cross-border neighborly contacts on various social levels as well as exchanges highlighting similarities and differences in everybody's everyday life thus contributing to a deeper understanding of neighboring countries.

Factors of success



- close cooperation with the Interreg program
 - consideration in program design
 - elaboration of regulations
 - project selection
- long experience
- proven concept
- high level of confidence
- decision-making selection committee
- very intense consulting of applicants

example

Example ABH022: Institutional capacity (SZ9)

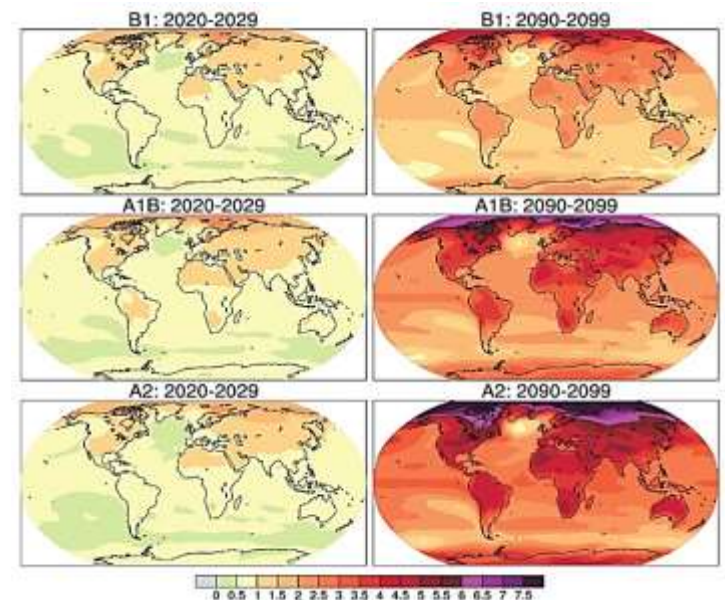
CO₂-Reduktion in the building sector

„Comparison and monitoring of funding systems“

Promoters: Energy offices and energy agencies of the IBK-member countries (Lead: Vorarlberg)

Results:

- Which support measures are best suited to achieve energy efficiency and decarbonisation in the building sector quickly and cost-effectively?
- With monitoring and workshops.



example

Example ABH023: Civic Projects (SZ11)

Art and literature – children’s books with local stories and dialect

„Strengthening the regional identity“

Promoters: Donaueschingen secondary school and Uzwil primary school

Results:

- Six children’s books with typical regional children’s rhymes, each in dialect and standard German, illustrated by artists from the region
- Students research, conduct interviews, visit each other, Author readings, audio-files

Interreg
Alpenrhein-Bodensee-Hochrhein



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und Partnerstaaten

Projekt Mundartbücher, Foto Gemeinde Uzwil, Schweiz



Projekt Mundartbücher, Foto Monika Wenger, Donaueschingen

Other funded projects



- **Sea and Fish Dialogue Forum**
Interdisciplinary dialogue
- **Shape the Future / Initiatives Map**
Overview and networking of the "sustainability scene" at Lake Constance
- **Who pays? - Alternative economic forms**
Participation workshop in the Landesmuseum; hiking kiosk; Ask the freak
- **Lake Constance Village Talks**
Collegial learning for successful village development
- **Network Sustainable Procurement**
Bodenseetagung; Impulse for networking

Added value landscape



Sea and Fish Dialogue Forum challenges

- Decline in catch yields Lake Constance fishermen
- phosphorus problem
- Oxygen supply, climate change...

Interdisciplinary dialogue

- IGKB, IBKF, IBF, fishermen, gastronomy, nature conservation, environmental associations, etc.
- 3 meetings in 2016, Update: 19.10.2017

→ Finding solutions together

→ Consensus and open questions

→ Need for research, concrete steps

