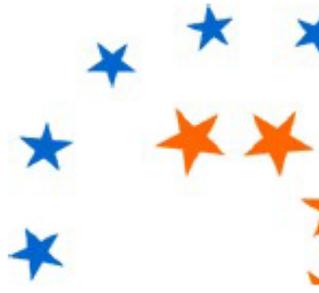


VIER MOTOREN
FÜR EUROPA
QUATRE MOTORS
PER A EUROPA
QUATTRO MOTORI
PER L'EUROPA
QUATRE MOTEURS
POUR L'EUROPE



Four Motors for Europe

Summary of the activities carried out during the Lombardy Presidency

Strategic orientation

On February 27th, 2009, the Lombardy Region took over from Baden-Wurttemberg the Presidency of the Association.

During the political meeting held in Milan, the Presidents of the partner Regions approved a **Joint Declaration** announcing the Four Motors' strategies for the co-operation in the political and economic scenario over the next few years.

The priorities were identified in the support to: research and innovation, small and medium enterprises with special reference to the measures for access to credit and investments, environmental protection and promotion of the green economy, commitment to education and development of human capital.

The Presidents of Four Motors also shared and signed a **Declaration of intent** for the definition of joint activities in view of the **Universal Exposition that will be held in Milan in 2015** and whose theme is “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”. The Presidents expressed their full consent to establish specific collaborations in the sectors of research and innovation,

renewable energy resources and sustainable development and nutrition culture.

The Lombardy Region brought the petitions shared during the changeover to the Lombard Presidency to the attention of the President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso.

On November 30th, 2009, the political Task Force of the Four Motors met in Stuttgart. At the political level, the Task Force meeting included the participation of: Claudio Morpurgo - Presidential Delegate of the Region of Lombardy for Relations with European Union States, Josep-Lluís Carod-Rovira - Vice President of Catalonia, Jean Besson - Vice President of Rhone-Alpes and Wolfgang Reinhart - Minister for Federal and European Affairs of Baden-Wurttemberg.

The program of the Lombard Presidency was structured around following areas:

- I. Policy comparison in those fields where the Four Motors Regions have achieved significant innovations;
- II. Strengthening the international collaborations of the Four Motors;
- III. Fostering the Four Motors actions in the field of development cooperation.

What was realized

I. Policy comparison

During the Lombard Presidency of the Four Motors, the coordination of the operational sectors was shared as follows: **Lombardy** leading the Working Group “**Environment**”, **Catalonia** leading the Working Group “**Economy**”, **Rhone-Alpes** guiding the “**Science and research**” sector and **Baden-Wurttemberg** coordinating the “**Education, youth and sports**” sector.

Working Groups

Environment

- The Working Group has dealt with environment as a cross-cutting issue over all policy contexts. It has operated with the aims to: a) foster the exchange of best practices and know-how on specific issues, like air quality, water resources, the recovery of polluted industrial sites, and b) boost research and innovation in the environmental field by means of co-operation with specialized research centers in the partners’ regions.

- A **network** was created to liaise those technical specialized bodies that are involved in scientific research, environmental monitoring, information and education in the environmental field. Interest for common investigation and exchange of practices emerged for **air quality and sustainability of transport, energy and climate change and green territorial systems**.
- The participation of the Four Motors in the **Conference on Climate Change** (Copenhagen - December 2009) laid the foundation for the “**Post COP15: a strategic role for 4 Motors?**” **working seminar** organized by Lombardy Region on January 22nd, 2010, in Milan. The Four Motors discussed about the mitigation and adaptation strategies in their respective regions as well as about the policies and measures implemented by their respective governments to fight climate change and develop renewable energies. Based on COP15 outputs, the Four Motors exchanged suggestions to follow up the COP15 debate.
- Further meetings were held with the “**Environmental Day**,” organized by Rhone- Alpes in Lyon on May 11th, 2009, and the international workshop “**Dialog about environmental communication, environmental education and sustainable regional development**,” organized by Baden-Wurttemberg on October 07th, 2009.

Economy

- The Working Group operated in several areas: the **organization of a Four Motors joint mission to Brazil** (January 31st-February 5th 2010); the measures to react to the **economic crisis**; the analysis and dialogue on **clusters**; the participation in events and meetings dedicated to **innovation** and creativity.
- During a first meeting held on April 02nd and 03rd, 2009 in Bergamo, a benchmarking program about the anti-crisis measures designed and implemented in the Four Motors regions was launched.
- On June 11th and 12th, 2009, in Barcelona, the representatives of the Four Motors participated in the third **Dialogue on Clusters**, which also involved Flanders, Wales and Wallonia as associated regions. The dialogue on clusters led to the elaboration of a **districts matrix** in the Four Motors regions. This activity was meant to facilitate the exchange of good practices in the policies, the governance and measures supporting districts and meta-districts.
- From November 30th to December 02nd, 2009, Baden-Wurttemberg hosted the **World Creativity Forum 2009**, which included a political meeting and a conference. The Four Motors Regions and partners from the network for creativity signed a **Memorandum of**

Understanding expressing their commitment to foster collaborations and exchanges of experiences in creative industries, also by means of a common electronic platform.

Science and Research

- A **comparative study about the planning systems** and instruments in the Four Motors partner regions was carried out under the lead of IReR, the regional research institute of Lombardy. Research activities and interviews with senior management representatives of Baden-Wurttemberg, Rhone-Alpes, Catalunya and Wales laid the basis for the identification and benchmarking of best practices in policy planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Education, Youth and Sports

- Since 1999, the Four Motors have been facing the challenges of employment. In this area, representatives for education and training in the Four Motors regions were invited to participate in the **conference “New Skills for New Jobs”**, organized by Catalunya in the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union (Barcelona, April 08th-09th, 2010). The conference analyzed the consequences of the crisis on European employment levels and the challenges involved in building new skills for new professional opportunities.
- In 2009 successful **Youth Work Camps** were organized in Baden-Wurttemberg (August 2nd-15th in Singen/Hohentwiel - nature protection project), in Catalunya (August 16th in Vidreres/Girona - restoration project) and in Rhone-Alpes (August 15th - 29th in Lyon - project in a center for refugees).
- The **Youth and Sports** Working Group met in Barcelona on March 19th, 2009, and approved several actions for the years 2009-2010, including the organization of sports exhibitions and competitions in athletics, rowing, gymnastics and handball. The “Four Motors for Europe Gymnastics Meeting” (March 26th-28th, 2010) took place in Salt, Catalunya, and the “European Four Motors Trophy” event will be hosted in Barcelona, on October 23rd-25th, 2010.

Further exchanges of practices were launched on **gender politics, time-planning policies** and **personnel organization**.

II. International collaborations

The pursuit of international collaborations was consolidated as one of the most distinctive policy actions the Four Motors have committed to over recent years. Latin America was chosen as the target region for strengthening collaborations.

- 2009 and 2010 were characterized by the beginning of the **co-operation between the Four Motors for Europe and the Four Motors for Mercosur**. From January 31st to February 05th, 2010, a **Four Motors joint mission** was carried out **to Brazil** with the aim to start the co-operation with an interregional network of States, which was modeled after the Four Motors experience, between the Brazilian state of Parana, the province of Rivera in Uruguay, the province of Alto Parana in Paraguay and the Argentinian province of Cordoba.

The mission, which included enterprises from the Four Motors regions and representatives from universities and research centers, contributed to the European and international visibility of the Four Motors for Europe.

- The mission was structured in two parts. The first part was carried out in the **State of Parana** (under the organization of Rhone-Alpes) and the second one was developed in the **State of Minas Gerais** (under the organization of the Region of Lombardy). The Four Motors presented their counterparts the features of the association's own co-operation system and the specificities of each partner region. During the mission, a **Programmatic Agreement** was signed designing a roadmap for the **economic, environmental and scientific cooperation** between the Four Motors for Europe and the Four Motors for Mercosur.
- **Agro-industry, eco-technologies, technology and services for international events** were identified as the sectors where projects could be developed with the active participation of small and medium enterprises, universities, research centers from both Associations.
- In the State of Minas Gerais, a seminar on **traceability in the agro-industrial sector** involved the scientific delegations from the partner regions. As an immediate follow up of the mission, a **Co-operation agreement in the field of intercontinental agro-industrial traceability** was signed. The agreement will be implemented by the Universities, centers and scientific-technological parks of Lombardy, Baden-Wurttemberg, Catalonia, Rhone-Alpes, Minas Gerais and La Plata.

III. Development cooperation

The Lombardy Region agreed with the partner Regions to act in continuity with the experience undertaken during the first interregional meeting on development cooperation policies which was hosted in Lombardy in May 2007.

- In March 2009, Baden-Wurttemberg involved the Four Motors in the international conference “**Good Climate for Africa**,” organized in Stuttgart by the Foundation for Development and Cooperation Baden-Wurttemberg (SEZ) and by Misereor, the German Catholic Bishops' Organization for Development Cooperation. The conference involved different in-depth panels on the themes of, among others, “Africa and climate change,” “micro-financing,” “the role of the media,” “HIV and pharmaceutical research,” “aid for the development of municipalities,” “the role of women,” “strategies in the fight against hunger”.
- In order to encourage the dialogue about aid modalities and decentralized cooperation practices, the Lombardy Region and ISPI Institute for International Political Studies organized the international conference “**From ‘Gift’ to Codevelopment: challenges in international cooperation of the Regions**” which took place in Milan on October 26th, 2009. During the conference, potential points of convergence in the Four Motors’ development cooperation projects were analyzed, with special reference to the social sectors, entrepreneurship development, institutional capacity building.