

Small States Regional Cooperation

Andorra

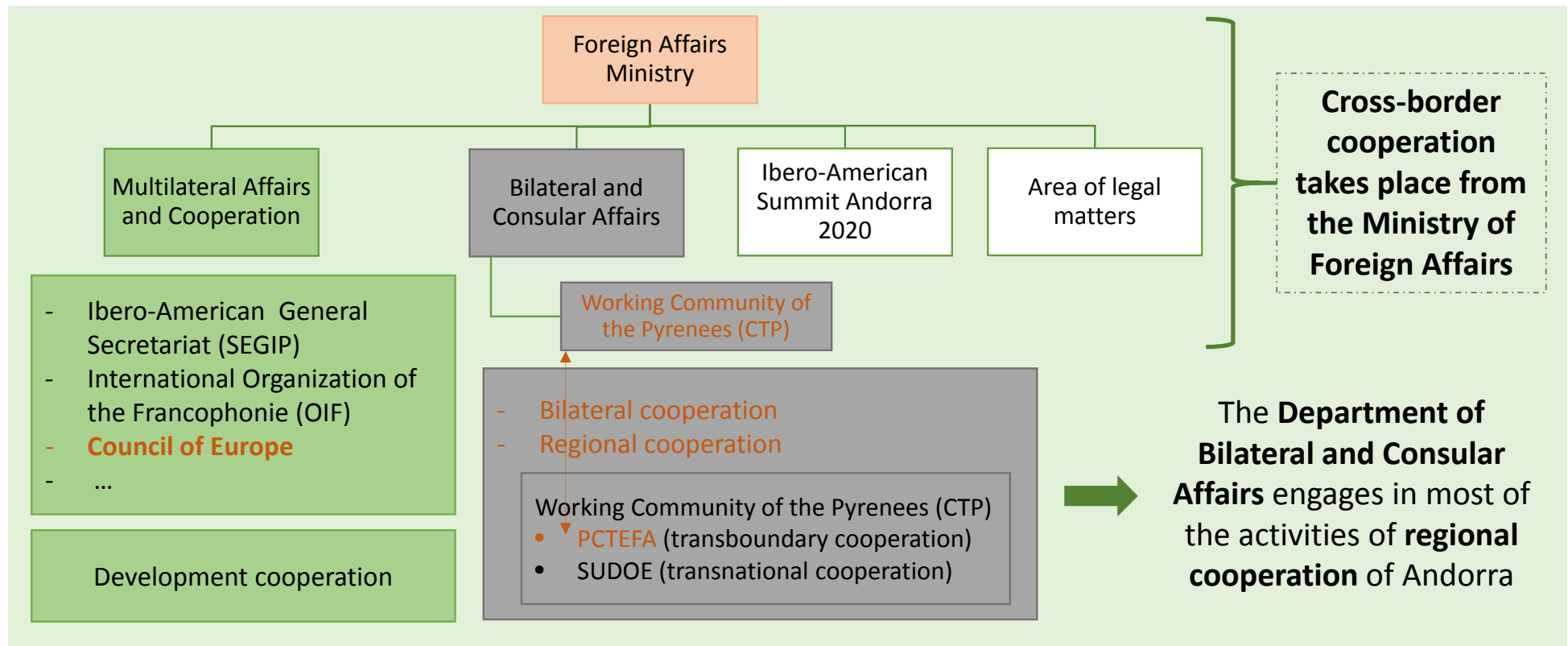
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Regional Cooperation - Introduction

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Regional Cooperation - Introduction

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- Andorra as a sovereign landlocked microstate on the Iberian Peninsula has been traditionally tightly linked to the Spanish and French territories → Due to its **location**, **economic links** and **cultural similarities** to its neighbouring countries
- The Principality has used **mutual cooperation and dialogue** in order to devise to find and strengthen common interests with regions of Spain and France, and with the European Area in general

Regional cooperation has been key for the Principality in order to **address shared challenges and develop joint projects** between national, regional and local actors

❖ Main areas of regional cooperation

- **Education** (free public Spanish and French education)
- **Health and healthcare** (Andorrans have access to medical assistance in France and Spain)
- **Sustainability** (cooperation to develop actions from the 2030 agenda for sustainable development of the United Nations)

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❖ Other Areas of regional cooperation

- **Citizen security** → defence → Treaty of Good Neighbourhood, Friendship and Cooperation between Spain, France and Andorra
- **Police cooperation**
 - Spain: two cooperation protocols with the Spanish National Police Corps and the Spanish Civil Guard
 - France: Agreement on cross-border cooperation in police and customs matters
- **International Organization of the Criminal Police Interpol (OIPC-Interpol)** since 1987
- **Cooperation at a consular level:** in countries where Andorra has no embassy → Andorrans can use the services of the Spanish and French embassies

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Council of Europe



Member State

- Member since November 1994
- CoE addresses **issues of common concern by fostering cooperation** (on legal, cultural, social issues)
- Since the Andorran presidency (2012/2013) the country's priority has been mainly in the field of **education**

Example: 2018 an action plan to continue deploying the competencies for democratic citizenship at both the school and higher education

Cooperation Agreement between the Principality of Andorra and the EC

- **2004 Cooperation Agreement** between the Principality of Andorra and the EC → not endorsed by the financial part (it could not benefit from European funding because it does not contribute to the budget)



- In **2010 Protocol of amendment of the Treaty of Bayonne** → Andorra included into the French-Spanish cross-border cooperation agreement



Andorra full member of the Consortium of the Working Community of the Pyrenees (**CTP**), in charge of managing the Spain-France-Andorra territorial cooperation program, with a provision of community funds

Local Agreements



- Collaboration agreement Andorra-Catalonia (2009) → proliferation of agreements between departments of the Government of Andorra and the *Genralitat de Catalunya* in different cross-border fields

Example: health agreement (2010) establishing a framework for cooperation between the respective health systems



Andorra, is holding bilateral talks with the regional Presidency of Occitanie to negotiate a similar cooperation agreement with this region

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Working Community of the Pyrenees (Comunitat de Treball dels Pirineus - CTP)

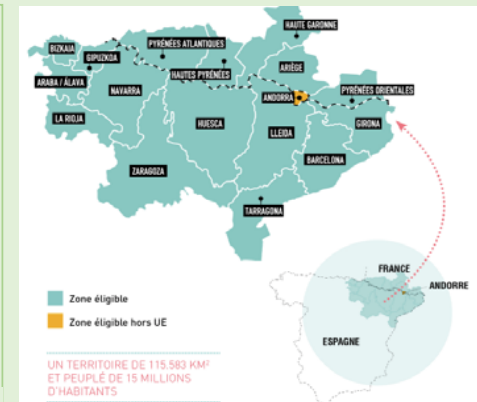


- Created at the initiative of the Council of Europe in **1983**.
- Comprises: Andorra, the Spanish Autonomous Communities of Aragon, Catalonia, Basque Country and Navarra and the French regions of New Aquitaine and Occitanie.
- Purpose of the CPT: **contribute to the development of the Pyrenees**
- Two instruments:
 - Pyrenean strategy which is the action plan of the CTP)
 - **Interreg VA Program Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA 2014-2020)**



POCTEFA

- European territorial cooperation program → promote **sustainable development** of the **border territory between the three countries Spain–France–Andorra**.
- The current program, POCTEFA 2014-2020, is the **fifth generation** of financial support for the promotion of economic and social integration projects



- Andorra, which is not a EU-member, **participates in the cooperation program POCTEFA due to an agreement** signed among members, but the Principality **does not receive financing from the ERDF**.
- Andorra is **eligible territory** where programs can be developed, but Andorran partners participating in a project cannot receive direct funds from the EU
- The **Andorran partners** that participate in POCTEFA cross-border cooperation projects are generally **public or semi-public entities**

Small States- examples of Regional Cooperation

Pyrenean Climate Change Observatory

(*Observatori Pirenaic del Canvi Climàtic – OPCC*)



What its it?

- The Pyrenees Observatory is a **cross-border territorial cooperation** initiative of the Working Community of the Pyrenees on **climate change**, launched in **2010** comprising **all the members of the CTP**.

Goal

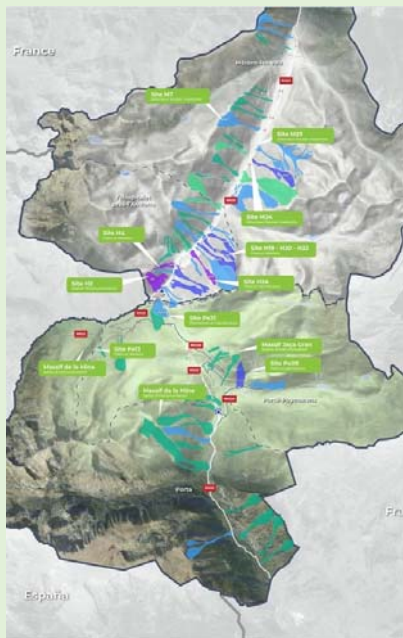
- Its aim is to **monitor and understand the phenomenon of climate change in the Pyrenees**.

Benefits

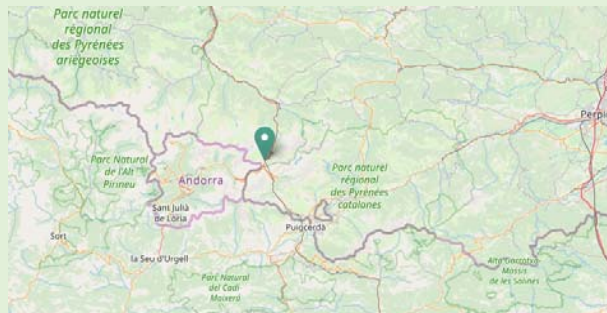
- Increased **visibility** of the Pyrenees, at European and international levels
- Integrate the Observatory into European **networks**.
- Increase **awareness** of the importance of mountain ecosystems and economies.

Small States- examples of Regional Cooperation

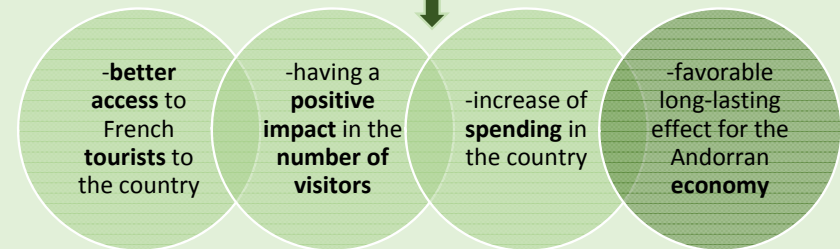
SAPYRA PROJECT



- Aims to **improve the security of Pyrenean access against the risk of avalanches**, particularly in the French access to Andorra
- **Investment made effectively in the French territory**, but which has a positive effect in Andorra



Improving the **viability of roads** in winter and has been a relevant project for the economy of the Principality



Successful case of cooperation for Andorra

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Conclusion on regional cooperation

Association Agreement Andorra-EU

The evolution of the future of regional cooperation of the Principality lies in the **Association Agreement**.

- Besides the four freedoms there is a specific chapter dedicated to cooperation.

Cooperation agreement → accompanied by the whole financial part → Andorra will participate in European programs

- Broadest project of regional cooperation for Andorra
- Participate in well-known programs ERASMUS, HORIZON 2020, COSME
- The Government of Andorra is evaluating if which particular EU program wants to participate (balancing costs and benefits)
- ❖ Possibility to create a special economic area Andorra-Pyrenees (**Manifest for the creation of a special economic area of Andorra and the Pyrenees**) → strengthen relations with neighbors and especially with the Pyrenees area by boosting the economy by opening it up to new markets.

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Conclusion on regional cooperation

Importance of cooperation

Cooperation → fundamental tool for Andorran providing

- effective responses to **common challenges** among **people** and **countries**
- contributing to the **good living of citizens and communities**
- **strengthening collective independence** and moves towards the **achievement of development objectives**.

Cross-border cooperation has had a **positive impact for the inhabitants** of the Principality.

Benefits of cooperation

❖ **Collaboration** on issues of common interest and **sharing experiences**.

Current areas of collaboration have allowed for Andorra to **enter and understand the EU dynamics** in different organisms, learning the working methods of the EU, following the procedures and **good practices of a solid organization**

A first approach to the EU → a **learning experience for future forms of collaboration**.

The future of cooperation

The way of negotiating in the future for Andorra is a way of negotiating that is part of **cooperation**, that of **collaboration**, of **gaining the trust of the counterparts** and **doing things together**.