What have the AlpES partners been up to so far?

Following a very successful and interesting first partner meeting in Ljubljana in July, the AlpES project partners, joined by some of our project observers, met again in December. This time the meeting took place in Innsbruck (Austria), also known as the heart of the Alps! The meeting was hosted by our Austrian partner from the Institute for Ecology, University of Innsbruck (UIBK).

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Progress towards an Alpine Concept of Ecosystem Services

In the last six months workpackage leader ifuplan has laid the main foundations of the first Work Package T1 „Ecosystem services - Alpine concept“, developing background information material and questionnaires for the project partners. Through a fruitful cooperation with the other project partners, they collected and synthesised essential Alpine country-specific information on existing/planned issues concerning Ecosystem Services...

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WIKIALps: inviting articles on ecosystem services in the Alpine Space

In the first AlpES newsletter we have introduced the updated WIKIALps: the knowledge and information platform for everyone interested in a sustainable, balanced, and shared territorial development in the Alpine Space. The AlpES partners are currently hard at work writing WIKIALps articles about the AlpES project and about ES and natural capital in the Alpine Space in general.

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Mapping and Assessment of Alpine Ecosystem Services

The mapping and assessment of ecosystem services (ES) is listed as one of the key actions of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. ES maps are useful tools for the practical application of the ES concept in decision-making processes. Using specific indicators, maps can render ES visible and locate them in space, thus allowing for an estimation of their presence and intensity in different areas, as well as for the identification of synergies and conflicts (trade-offs) between different ES through their proximity, interactions and overlaps (Maes et al., 2013).

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AlpES WebGIS

The Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (IGF/OAW) is responsible for the AlpES project work package “T3 WebGIS and WIKIALps”. Part of the work package is the development of an interactive and interoperable AlpES WebGIS through which ecosystem services (ES) indicators and their metadata are made available.

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Interviews with project observers

What do you see as the most critical challenges of applying the ES approach at different levels of decision-making? What do you see as key actions for bridging the gap between the ES concept in theory and its actual applicability? What would be the added value of the ES-concept implementation concerning regional environmental governance?

Read the interviews with representatives of ISPRA Ambiente, WWF and the Umweltbundesamt.

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