LOS DAMA! International Autumn School

The LOS DAMA! International Autumn School kicked off in Salzburg with a warm welcome for the 24 participants from the Alpine region and beyond who had gathered together. The first two days were dedicated to familiarisation with the issues surrounding green space development in peri-urban Alpine regions. At the Salzburg meeting, local experts gave an explanation of green space development projects and the accompanying processes. In Munich, participants visited the Dachauer Moos wetlands, where local experts described its historical development, the land use pressures on this landscape, and the successes and failures of initiatives to safeguard the area.

After a workshop on communicative planning, using examples taken from the City of Munich, the participants split in three groups and spent the next three days working on a special assignment.

Eco-Vision
Group A's task was to work on a landscape Eco-Vision for the region of Salzburg, to support the Eco-Pool being established by SIR (the Salzburg Institute for Regional Planning). The participants identified good quality existing green corridors and open spaces, areas with potential for green space development, and corridors to connect these areas. The aim is to develop a vision that not only supports ecological connectivity, but also improves liveability. Thus, examples of various green space developments are explained by fictional characters, who describe how the Eco-Vision will benefit them personally. In this way, the participants want to show the importance of communicating the added value of the Eco-Pool to a wider public.

Living Lab
Despite its many layers of history, for many people the area of Dachauer Moos, north of Munich, is a blank spot on the map that is under pressure from urban expansion. Group B's aim was to raise the profile of the Dachauer Moos in the eyes of a range of target groups. The participants designated the area as a living lab to test prototype solutions to landscape perception and develop a number of solutions for improving leisure and biodiversity in harmony with each other, thereby building on the ecosystem benefits already identified for the Dachauer Moos.

Landscape Governance Game
Group C played a simulation game to gain insight into stakeholder conflicts in peri-urban Alpine regions. The participants came up with a fictitious, although typical, conflict scenario. Based on this scenario and through a series of role plays, they defined stakeholder profiles plus their motivations and arguments, which were presented at the end of the session as a video. By reflecting on the simulation process as a whole, participants were able to provide recommendations for planning practitioners on how to deal with similar stakeholder conflicts and how simulation games like these can support landscape governance.

On Friday 28 September, after an intensive 6-day programme, the final results were enthusiastically received by a wide audience made up of project partners, local experts and academics. The results will be published online on the LOS-DAMA! social media channels as well as during the 2nd EUSALP Annual Forum taking place on 20-21 November in Innsbruck.

More info:
https://www.facebook.com/Los_dama-
187167938572951/
http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/los_dama/
en/pilots-results/autumn-school/description
Transnational Learning and Exchange: Job shadowing

A very important factor for the transnational learning and exchange approach undertaken by LOS_DAMA is the job shadowing programme. The first shadowing exchanges between partner cities and regions took place in the summer of 2018.

During these visits, which generally last one week, officials become involved in the administration of everyday landscape and urban planning for the host city. They learn different planning philosophies and gain new knowledge and skills. Each visit experience is summarised in an individual job shadowing report, and these written and visual contributions are then evaluated and reviewed in a separate summary report.

Linda MERTELMEYER (City of Munich) and Alessandro BETTA from Trento visited Grenoble-Alpes Métropole (GAM) from 9-13 July 2018. Here is an example of Linda’s conclusions:

“...it seems like our systems are very different and, maybe for this reason, so are the spatial planning “philosophies”, as we discovered. At the end of the day, however, we still have the same issues, so using similar strategies may help to solve them. It seems like the most important thing is simply to talk to people, do so regularly, and allow time for the processes that are needed to make landscape approaches.”

Christina STOCKINGER (City of Vienna) visited the Department of Urban Planning, Traffic and Nature Protection of the City of Salzburg, the SIR (Salzburg Institute for Regional Planning and Housing) and the RVS (Regional Association City of Salzburg and Surrounding Communities) from 24-28 September 2018. Here is an example of how Christina summed up her visit:

“My meeting with the Managing Director of the Regional Association City of Salzburg and Surrounding Communities gave me interesting insights into the cooperation between the city and the outlying communities and the implementation of the inter-communal green belt.”

Claudia PATTON, Giovanna ULRICI, Alessandro BETTA and Stefano BORTOLOTTI (City of Trento) visited the City of Munich from 22-26 September 2018. They were particularly interested in the management and maintenance of urban parks. For Alessandro, the highlight was the hippo that still lives in the Weissenseepark after this public park was renovated!

Field trip to the Weissenseepark in Munich to learn more about urban regeneration in Obergiesing.
Promoted by the LOS_DAMA! Project, the Alpine macro-regional network for enhanced peri-urban landscapes is growing

On 19 September 2018, an event organised by the Piedmont region and the City of Bergamo was held at the Palazzo della Ragione in Bergamo, as part of the international meeting “I Maestri del Paesaggio”. In the context of this event, the Metropolitan City of Milan and the City of Bergamo signed the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation, thereby growing our network. In addition to the signatories, other cities were present on a political level, including Munich, Milan, Verona, Trento, Bolzano and the Metropolitan City of Turin.

This was a useful opportunity for strengthening the links between cities that recognise the importance of green infrastructures, their qualities and the multiple functions they fulfil for urban and peri-urban areas throughout the entire Alpine area. As Leila Ciaga, Environment Councillor for the City of Bergamo, stated: “It is important to be part of this network, not only to share good land management practices but, more importantly, to weave together relationships at international level and share projects.” The participants had the chance to exchange information and share experiences and reflect on future development prospects for the network. For LOS_DAMA! partners it was confirmation of the importance of the work being carried out with a view to fostering a common vision and long-term relationships between urban and regional authorities on the themes promoted by the project and contained in the MoU. http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/los_dama/en/pilots-results/results/mou

The event also provided an opportunity for participants to visit the historic centre of Bergamo and the Valley of Biodiversity in Astino where nature, culture and agriculture come together: in the western peri-urban area of Bergamo, a former ancient monastic latifundium has miraculously survived; in 2015, the Orto Botanico section of Astino, dedicated to edible plants, was inaugurated, with over 1000 varieties of vegetables alternating over the course of a growing season, in addition to 250 varieties of fruit plants. See https://www.ortobotanicodibergamo.it/en/visita/valle-biodiversita/

You can find more information about the event and the presentations in the Italian language at the following link: http://www.imaestridelpaesaggio.it/2018/educational/dettaglio/Infrastrutture-Verdi-e-Blu/19-settembre/?__locale=it

On the 20th November 2018 the City of Innsbruck joined the Metropolitan Alpine City Network as the 12th City now. MThe Mayor Georg Willi signed the MoU at the EUSALP Annual Forum. http://www.innsbruckinformiert.at/blitzlicht/2015/november/261115_neue-mitarbeiterinnen/ (EU-KOPERATION 20.NOV)

If you would like to join the Metropolitan Alpine City network, please do not hesitate to contact us.