The LOS_DAMA! final conference took place on October 10th 2019 in Munich and October 11th in Freising in line with the annual Weihenstephaner Forum for Landscape Planners and Architects. By combining these events, we reached out not only to our project partners but involved researchers, academic staff, local planning experts and young professionals as well. On both days, we involved local and metropolitan politicians through presentations and discussions. In total more than 120 persons attended. Many thanks to all the participants that you jointly created the inspiring atmosphere of transnational learning with us!

Day 1 – main results of LOS_DAMA!

Job Shadowing – Transnational cooperation at its best

Last impressions of Job shadowing

An important part of LOS_DAMA’s transnational learning and exchange approach is the Job Shadowing program, on which we already reported on in Newsletter 3 and 5. Through mutual visits by representatives of the planning authorities, the program aimed to enable participants to acquire insights, knowledge and competences of different planning approaches in other cities. At the final conference, Manuela Brückler and Karsten Berr wanted to find out and evaluate whether this claim was actually fulfilled. Therefore, they interviewed some of the Job Shadowers and Job Shadow hosts regarding their positive and negative experiences.

Three pairs, each consisting of one host and one Shadower, were selected as examples:

- Andrej Gulič from the ‘Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia’ (UIRS) in Ljubljana and Alessandro Betta from the City of Trento;
- Philipp Vesely from the ‘Salzburger Institute for Regional Planning and Housing’ (SIR) and Alexandre Mignotte from the ‘Grenoble-Alps Metropolis’ (GAM);
- Christina Stockinger from the City of Vienna and Matthias Lampert from the City of Munich.

To break the ice, Manuela and Karsten began with personal questions, such as the Shadower’s favourite food and drink in their host city or the workload of the hosts. Then the Shadower and host were challenged to self-reflect on their experiences. The Shadowers were asked what they learnt for themselves as well as for the interests of their administrations, which experiences they wanted to take home and possibly implement in their own practice, and to which extent the exchange had questioned their own thinking and actions. A recurring positive aspect about the Job Shadowing, was that the visits were inspiring and allowed to gain new points of view and expand one’s own horizon in a surprising way. Also the hosts were questioned if the exchange and discussion with the Shadower was inspiring and provided them with new perspectives on planning approaches.
Moreover, they were asked whether they too would like to participate in such a program and be a Shadower in another city of the Alpine region. Here, too, the answers were consistently positive.

The exchanges were rated by the hosts as very inspiring. They recommended the program as worthwhile to include in other projects as well.

EU and the local – setting up turntables between different levels

EU policies and strategies require capacity for the implementation at local level to be anchored. At local and metropolitan level, it becomes clear if and how these policies can touch ground through local policies and measures. As a kind of turntable, LOS_DAMA! provided the opportunity to exchange and co-operate in both directions – from the local level to the transnational and from there back into local piloting. To achieve this, we linked our pilot activities in seven areas on the one hand, with our active membership within Action Group 7 of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region, on the other hand.

Based on these actions and experiences, LOS_DAMA! knowledge partners, in close cooperation with pilot practitioners, provided a set of policy recommendations for the local level. During this session, Aurore Meyfroidt (University of Grenoble Alps) and Alessandro Betta (Trento) presented representatives of Grenoble Alps Métropole (Jérome Dutroncy) and the City of Munich (Matthias Lampert) with policy recommendations for the local level.

For Munich, keeping the initiated momentum and continue working in close cooperation with intermunicipal landscape associations is advisable. This could be supported by dedicating staff time directly for the support of the association. “Assign landscape and biodiversity officers with the role of intermediate facilitators between departments within the metropolitan authority and beyond” was one of the recommendations for Grenoble Alps.

One of the general recommendations to enhance green infrastructure in metropolitan areas is to keep or even increase engaging in multilevel governance. In the context of LOS_DAMA! this is specifically targeted at local and metropolitan involvement in implementing the EUSALP. Within the framework of Action Group 7, LOS_DAMA! representatives can deliver feedback on barriers and drivers for implementing green infrastructure objectives at local level.

Moreover, they were asked whether they too would like to participate in such a program and be a Shadower in another city of the Alpine region. Here, too, the answers were consistently positive.

The exchanges were rated by the hosts as very inspiring. They recommended the program as worthwhile to include in other projects as well.

EU and the local – setting up turntables between different levels

EU policies and strategies require capacity for the implementation at local level to be anchored. At local and metropolitan level, it becomes clear if and how these policies can touch ground through local policies and measures. As a kind of turntable, LOS_DAMA! provided the opportunity to exchange and co-operate in both directions – from the local level to the transnational and from there back into local piloting. To achieve this, we linked our pilot activities in seven areas on the one hand, with our active membership within Action Group 7 of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region, on the other hand.

Based on these actions and experiences, LOS_DAMA! knowledge partners, in close cooperation with pilot practitioners, provided a set of policy recommendations for the local level. During this session, Aurore Meyfroidt (University of Grenoble Alps) and Alessandro Betta (Trento) presented representatives of Grenoble Alps Métropole (Jérome Dutroncy) and the City of Munich (Matthias Lampert) with policy recommendations for the local level.

For Munich, keeping the initiated momentum and continue working in close cooperation with intermunicipal landscape associations is advisable. This could be supported by dedicating staff time directly for the support of the association. “Assign landscape and biodiversity officers with the role of intermediate facilitators between departments within the metropolitan authority and beyond” was one of the recommendations for Grenoble Alps.

One of the general recommendations to enhance green infrastructure in metropolitan areas is to keep or even increase engaging in multilevel governance. In the context of LOS_DAMA! this is specifically targeted at local and metropolitan involvement in implementing the EUSALP. Within the framework of Action Group 7, LOS_DAMA! representatives can deliver feedback on barriers and drivers for implementing green infrastructure objectives at local level.

Moreover, they were asked whether they too would like to participate in such a program and be a Shadower in another city of the Alpine region. Here, too, the answers were consistently positive.

The exchanges were rated by the hosts as very inspiring. They recommended the program as worthwhile to include in other projects as well.

EU and the local – setting up turntables between different levels

EU policies and strategies require capacity for the implementation at local level to be anchored. At local and metropolitan level, it becomes clear if and how these policies can touch ground through local policies and measures. As a kind of turntable, LOS_DAMA! provided the opportunity to exchange and co-operate in both directions – from the local level to the transnational and from there back into local piloting. To achieve this, we linked our pilot activities in seven areas on the one hand, with our active membership within Action Group 7 of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region, on the other hand.

Based on these actions and experiences, LOS_DAMA! knowledge partners, in close cooperation with pilot practitioners, provided a set of policy recommendations for the local level. During this session, Aurore Meyfroidt (University of Grenoble Alps) and Alessandro Betta (Trento) presented representatives of Grenoble Alps Métropole (Jérome Dutroncy) and the City of Munich (Matthias Lampert) with policy recommendations for the local level.

For Munich, keeping the initiated momentum and continue working in close cooperation with intermunicipal landscape associations is advisable. This could be supported by dedicating staff time directly for the support of the association. “Assign landscape and biodiversity officers with the role of intermediate facilitators between departments within the metropolitan authority and beyond” was one of the recommendations for Grenoble Alps.

One of the general recommendations to enhance green infrastructure in metropolitan areas is to keep or even increase engaging in multilevel governance. In the context of LOS_DAMA! this is specifically targeted at local and metropolitan involvement in implementing the EUSALP. Within the framework of Action Group 7, LOS_DAMA! representatives can deliver feedback on barriers and drivers for implementing green infrastructure objectives at local level.

Moreover, they were asked whether they too would like to participate in such a program and be a Shadower in another city of the Alpine region. Here, too, the answers were consistently positive.

The exchanges were rated by the hosts as very inspiring. They recommended the program as worthwhile to include in other projects as well.

EU and the local – setting up turntables between different levels

EU policies and strategies require capacity for the implementation at local level to be anchored. At local and metropolitan level, it becomes clear if and how these policies can touch ground through local policies and measures. As a kind of turntable, LOS_DAMA! provided the opportunity to exchange and co-operate in both directions – from the local level to the transnational and from there back into local piloting. To achieve this, we linked our pilot activities in seven areas on the one hand, with our active membership within Action Group 7 of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region, on the other hand.

Based on these actions and experiences, LOS_DAMA! knowledge partners, in close cooperation with pilot practitioners, provided a set of policy recommendations for the local level. During this session, Aurore Meyfroidt (University of Grenoble Alps) and Alessandro Betta (Trento) presented representatives of Grenoble Alps Métropole (Jérome Dutroncy) and the City of Munich (Matthias Lampert) with policy recommendations for the local level.

For Munich, keeping the initiated momentum and continue working in close cooperation with intermunicipal landscape associations is advisable. This could be supported by dedicating staff time directly for the support of the association. “Assign landscape and biodiversity officers with the role of intermediate facilitators between departments within the metropolitan authority and beyond” was one of the recommendations for Grenoble Alps.

One of the general recommendations to enhance green infrastructure in metropolitan areas is to keep or even increase engaging in multilevel governance. In the context of LOS_DAMA! this is specifically targeted at local and metropolitan involvement in implementing the EUSALP. Within the framework of Action Group 7, LOS_DAMA! representatives can deliver feedback on barriers and drivers for implementing green infrastructure objectives at local level.

Moreover, they were asked whether they too would like to participate in such a program and be a Shadower in another city of the Alpine region. Here, too, the answers were consistently positive.

The exchanges were rated by the hosts as very inspiring. They recommended the program as worthwhile to include in other projects as well.
The cooperation during the last years was fruitful and even resulted in the new Interreg project LUIGI. It will not only further enhance green infrastructure with a special focus on orchard meadows but also help to sustain the LOS_DAMA! city network. Nevertheless, there are only few cities and metropolitan areas that give the transnational and European dimension an important role in local policies.

Grenoble Alps Métropole, on the contrary, is increasingly active and will host multilevel events during the upcoming French presidency of the EUSALP in 2020. It seems that the urgency of local action to keep and enhance the ecosystem services of green infrastructure and biodiversity has hit ground in this truly Alpine metropolis.

Tapping into potentials - Tools for Implementing Green Infrastructure

“Learning from the experiences of other cities and regions” was the motto of the Toolbox session at the Final Conference in Munich. This session, led by Martina van Lierop, TU Munich, and Christina Stockinger, City of Vienna, gave an overview of the diversity of tools that have been developed and tested within the LOS_DAMA! pilot projects: tools to support city-regional cooperation, tools to involve stakeholders, and tools to raise awareness regarding “ordinary” peri-urban landscapes.

Designed for city- and regional administrations, the Toolbox describes not only the tools, but provides the project partners’ experiences in using the tools and their tips for application. At the Toolbox session, the floor was therefore giving to five project partners to present one of their tools. In such way, the audience got an overview of different type of tools. Via online voting participants could choose the tool, they found the most interesting and the tool they wanted to know more about it.

Within “LOS_DAMA!”, the municipality experimented with the agreement to use it for re-designing abandoned plots and pathways. For instance, the agreement was applied to facilitate the participation of school classes in a design workshop, and to develop an educational project for the enhancement of vegetable gardens and public green.

To see all the tools from the seven pilot projects, have a look at the Toolbox publication. It is available in hardcopy in English and can be downloaded in German, Italian, French and Slovenian: https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/los_dama/en/pilots-results/results/final-publications
Expo of Experiences – insight into our local projects!

The Expo of Experiences provided insight in the LOS_DAMA! local pilot projects and gave room for exchanging major experiences on how to best enhance Green Infrastructure for better living. Dorothea Palenberg as facilitator, led the group through the exhibition with a lottery on who will present next.

Linda Mertelmeyer (City of Munich) made the start and presented the landscape treasure map that was jointly developed with the local association “Regional management Munich Southwest”. Philipp Vesely (Salzburg Institute for Regional Planning and Housing) explained Ecopool Salzburg which aims to use compensation measures and spot suitable areas to enhance green infrastructure in a strategic way. Sarah Braccio (Piedmont Region) gave a short insight into the Corona Verde project, that serves as testbed for a new planning system for green infrastructure for the City of Turin and its surrounding municipalities. Guillaume Tournaire (Grenoble Alps Métropolee) presented local projects to increase the appreciation of peri-urban landscapes: four Master Classes for technical officers and politicians and a landscape treasure hunt for citizens. Christine Joas (Heathland association, Munich) introduced the story map as digital visualization tool for a complex landscape development plan.

In a nutshell, Alessandro Betta (City of Trento) presented new pathway systems in peri-urban Trento and a GIS analysis for sustainable agriculture on public and private plots. Damjana Gantar (Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia) gave an insight on the activities in Ljubljana Marsh Nature Park, including an analysis of usage patterns and a green infrastructure concept. Robert Rossa (Dachau fen association, Munich) shed light on the intermunicipal landscape conference “Let’s do Moor” and its benefits, which was jointly organized with the City of Munich and the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection. Finally, Christina Stockinger (City of Vienna) introduced the new regional park “Dreianger” which is on its way to realization based on a multi-stakeholder landscape and action plan.
Improvising is key for successful EU-project management and implementation. Before the evening reception, the group “Bühnenpolka” wrapped up the intense, sometimes difficult, yet fruitful LOS_DAMA! experiences. They exceeded in the most convincing and funny way with their improvisation performance.

Do you want to learn more?
Our publication “Discovering landscapes on the urban fringe” contains postcards and a short description of each local pilot project. The LOS_DAMA! compendium gives an overview of the whole project and our answers to the challenges for enhancing green infrastructure, the LOS_DAMA! toolbox and the LOS_DAMA! Public synthesis report gives deeper insight for practitioners and academics.

You can find these publications online at: https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/los_dama/en/pilots-results/results/final-publications

If you wish to receive a printed version, please contact us: los_dama@muenchen.de
Day 2 - Connecting people, knowledge and regions

The 12. Weihenstephaner Forum stood in focus of the Interreg LOS_DAMA! project with topics on green infrastructure (GI) implementation, peri-urban landscapes, knowledge transfer, and transdisciplinary collaboration across the alpine region.

After a great first day of the final LOS_DAMA! conference at the Vorhoelzer Forum in Munich, this second day of the Weihenstephaner Forum also promised to be a success. Even the weather was on our side. After days of rain, the sun broke through and the Alps were even visible from Freising. Though the day would have a more academic character with lectures than the first day, the organizers felt it important to stay in the spirit of LOS_DAMA! This meant that next to speakers with an academic background, also people from the practice – from municipalities, local associations and politics – were invited to speak.

After a welcome introduction by Prof. Stephan Pauleit (TUM), Prof. Paul Opdam of Wageningen University in the Netherlands opened with a lecture on linking science and practice. Through the examples of three case studies in the Netherlands, he explained how knowledge can play a role in transdisciplinary projects.

Prof. Mark Michaeli of the TUM Chair of Sustainable Urbanism provided us with more insights about linkages between rural and urban areas, while trying to bust some myths about the drivers of urbanization. He also showed how the cores of rural settlements can be revitalized to avoid further outward sprawl.

Giovanna Ulrici of the City of Trento and Ass. Prof. Sara Favargiotti of Trento University brought a synergized talk about how practice and research, city administration and university, can collaborate in organizing public participation and looking for planning solutions for the development of the green infrastructure in the heavily urbanized North of Trento.

Prof. Henrik Schultz proceeded after the lunch on how images can support co-creation and transdisciplinarity through communicating planning solutions, explaining landscapes and making visions comprehensible.

How European projects can support local actors and initiatives was explained by Linda Mertelmeyer of the City of Munich with the local partners Robert Rossa of the Dachauer Moos Association and Christine Joas of the Heathland Association presented through the examples of the LOS_DAMA! pilot activities.

The final lectures brought the viewpoint from local politics.

Stefan Löwl, Head of the District Authority of Dachau, discussed the importance of landscape, yet also the need for more willingness for collaboration, open discussion and innovative integrative solutions to be able to meet the needs from different parties.

Peter Felbermeier, Mayor of Haimhausen, talked about the importance, yet also the challenges of inter-municipal collaboration through the example of the cooperation in the local Dachauer Moos Association.
The atmosphere was good. Despite, or maybe because, the different backgrounds of the speakers, the overall event was well balanced. Each of the visitors was able to find a topic of interest and to gain new ideas. What the Weihenstephaner Forum learned us about the GI developments is that, like GI solutions, also GI implementation processes need to be locally adapted. This requires rethinking and adapting ways of communication with knowledge and images to better reach local actors. New types of collaboration and new partnerships are needed across scale levels, but also across disciplines. It also asks for including local knowledge and solution-oriented studies as well as room and openness for experiment and different views. We might need therefore a diversity of tools. Yet, as the different presentations showed, the tools are available.

If you missed the 12th Weihenstephaner Forum or you want to review it, the lectures are online available at: http://www.landschaft.wzw.tum.de/archiv/weihenstephaner-forum/12-weihenstephaner-forum-2019.html