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Realising the potential of peri-urban landscapes in Alpine metropolitan areas

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

between cities and metropolitan authorities  
in the Alpine region to improve the  
development, design and maintenance of  
peri-urban green spaces and landscapes,  
acknowledging the importance of their  
qualities and functions for urban areas and  
for the Alpine region as a whole



# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

between



COMUNE DI TRENTO



Comune di  
Milano



**INNS'  
BRUCK**

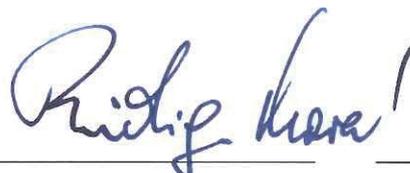


Initiative based on the cooperation within the Interreg VB EU-Project 'LOS\_DAMA! - Landscape and Open Space Development in Alpine Metropolitan Areas'.  
The EU-project LOS\_DAMA! is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme.

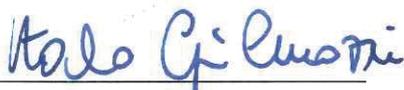
As the mayors and representatives of the undersigned cities and metropolitan authorities, we speak for a considerable share of the population in the Alpine region. In signing this Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation, we acknowledge the increasing need for attractive, well-managed urban and peri-urban open spaces and commit to creating a solid basis for collaboration as we strive to protect, enhance and sustainably manage our open spaces as landscapes and as green infrastructure.

Munich, 2nd October, 2017; Graz, 27th November 2017; Verona, 21st March 2018;  
Milano, 10th April 2018; Bergamo, 19th September 2018;  
Innsbruck, 20th November 2018

  
LANDESHAUPTSTADT  
MÜNCHEN

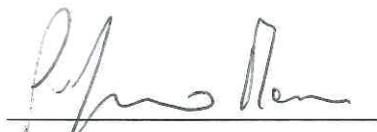
  
STADT WIEN

  
GRENOBLE - ALPES  
MÉTROPOLE

  
COMUNE DI TRENTO

  
CITTÀ METROPOLITANA  
DI TORINO

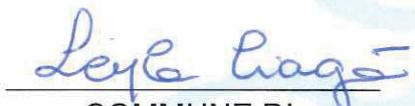
  
STADT SALZBURG

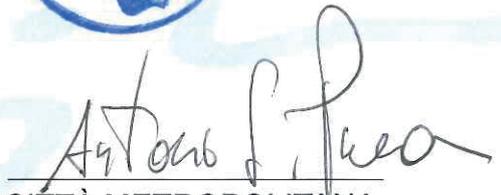
  
COMUNE DI MILANO

  
STADT GRAZ

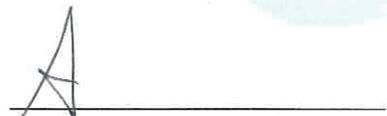
  
COMUNE DI VERONA

  
CITTÀ DI TORINO

  
COMMUNE DI  
BERGAMO

  
CITTÀ METROPOLITANA  
DI MILANO

  
STADT INNSBRUCK



As representatives of the undersigned authorities, institutions and organisations, we will support the aims of this Memorandum and the cooperation between all parties to the best of our abilities



*Alberto Clavetta*  
REGIONE PIEMONTE

date



*M. P. Rossi*  
PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DI  
TRENTO

date



*Oliver J. Müller*  
BAYERISCHES STAATS-  
MINISTERIUM FÜR UMWELT  
UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ  
(STMUV)

date



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE  
POUR LA PROTECTION DES  
ALPES (CIRRA)

date



Aree protette  
Po e Collina Torinese

ENTE DI GESTIONE DELLE  
AREE PROTETTE DEL PO E  
DELLA COLLINA TORINESE

date



*A. G. Müller*  
EBERHARD KARLS  
UNIVERSITÄT TÜBINGEN  
(EKUT)

20. DEZ. 2018

date



*Peter J. Müller*  
SALZBURGER INSTITUT FÜR  
RAUMORDNUNG UND WOHNEN

date

As of 2nd October, 2017 the above authorities, institutions and organisations have already pledged to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation.

As representatives of the undersigned authorities, institutions and organisations, we will support the aims of this Memorandum and the cooperation between all parties to the best of our abilities



A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a circular stamp. The stamp contains the text 'Urbanistični inštitut R Slovenija' around the perimeter and 'Ljubljana' in the center.

URBANISTIČNI INŠTITUT  
REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE

15.11.2017

date



A handwritten signature in blue ink.

VEREIN AGGLOMERATION  
RHEINTAL

18.10.2018

date



A handwritten signature in black ink is written over the text 'LAND TIROL'.

21.11.2018

date

As of 2nd October, 2017 the above authorities, institutions and organisations have already pledged to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation.

## PREAMBLE

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Alpine region is home to unique natural and cultural diversity, exceptional on the European scale, to which our metropolitan areas contribute significant impulses and a variety of open spaces and landscapes;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the globally attractive cities and metropolitan areas in and around the Alpine core – in all their variety – face common challenges: Growth and transformation result in land use pressure, urban sprawl and sociodemographic changes with strong effects on open spaces, especially in peri-urban areas;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance and the special challenges of rural Alpine areas;

ACKNOWLEDGING the interdependency of all Alpine areas, resulting in opportunities and barriers for sustainable development;

ACKNOWLEDGING that peri-urban areas possess significant potential to enhance quality of life. In caring for peri-urban landscapes as links between urban, rural and near natural areas, we also protect Alpine cultural and natural assets;

SPECIFICALLY NOTING that green spaces and bodies of water such as streams, rivers and lakes have the potential to constitute green and blue infrastructure for a better environment and a higher quality of life. These infrastructures fulfil important provisioning, regulating and supporting functions. They supply food, water and energy, help to mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce disaster risks. They also provide for recreation and human well-being, as well as creating physical space and scope for biodiversity.

The undersigned partners have reached the following understanding:

SPECIFICALLY NOTING that climate change presents a huge challenge to the whole territory of the Alpine region and demands collaboration and joint action;

SPECIFICALLY NOTING that accessible and inclusive open spaces contribute to environmental justice and social integration;

SPECIFICALLY NOTING that peri-urban open spaces, perceived as landscapes, are vehicles of identity, values and meaning;

RECOGNISING that, within the green infrastructure network in the Alpine region, urban and peri-urban open spaces need special attention because

- they offer significant potential for multifunctional use, for sustainable development and for the quality of life in metropolitan areas;
- they are valuable and vulnerable, despite their often unspectacular appearance, and they are indispensable to citizens as everyday landscapes;
- they are a scarce resource in comparison to the high pressure for utilisation through different groups and uses;
- they are necessary to complement the demand for housing, business and transport development;
- they help to better tackle and ease the pressure on Alpine core landscapes by contributing to the provision of recreation, fresh air and more;

RECOGNISING that these spaces also require special management to enhance their qualities as green infrastructure in an environment of complex ownership patterns, stakeholders with non-excludable interests, engaged citizens and users.

## COMMITMENT

We hereby declare our commitment to providing a durable basis for collaboration between the above-mentioned partners in striving to protect, enhance and sustainably manage our open spaces as landscapes and as green infrastructure.

To this end, we agree

- to recognise the functional importance and value of urban and peri-urban green infrastructure;
- to cooperate with all public authorities in the metropolitan context in order to build territorial alliances and achieve mutual benefits for urban, peri-urban and rural areas;
- to cooperate with stakeholders and citizens;
- to strive for legal frameworks to effectively put supporting measures into practice on all levels;
- to develop instruments and procedures to adequately address the multifunctional and collective character of urban and peri-urban open spaces;
- to identify areas and infrastructure suitable for improvement or for transformation into green infrastructure;
- to allocate and raise sufficient funds for investment and ongoing maintenance, as well as seeking new models of financing.

## CENTRAL FIELDS OF COOPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Building on our extensive experience and successful policies, we trust in collaboration to even better protect, enhance and manage our open spaces with their natural and cultural assets.

We will

- mutually exchange and learn from each other and

- pool the experience emerging from our continuous work on the regional and local levels with specific regard to

- \* implementation and management approaches, advanced tools, financing and instruments, in particular adequate instruments to achieve consensual solutions;
- \* holistic, integrated and cross-sectorial planning, implementation and evaluation;
- \* valorising landscapes to tap into their natural, cultural and socioeconomic potential;
- \* improved governance, stakeholder involvement, citizens' empowerment and co-creation;
- \* effective communication.

- increase broader awareness of the importance of our concerns and strive for greater impetus for open space issues in the context of cooperation between cities and regions;

- give input to policymaking at transnational and European level, with special emphasis on the EUSALP process. We explicitly welcome the initiative of the representatives responsible for environmental policies of the states and regions in the EUSALP territory to make the Alpine region a model region for green infrastructure;

We will actively seek to deepen and enlarge our network beyond the LOS\_DAMA! project, and we are

INVITING all other interested cities and metropolitan authorities to join this Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation; and

INVITING all other interested authorities, institutions and organisations to publicly support our efforts as declared in this Memorandum.

## **EMBEDDING OF COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN A MACROREGIONAL AND EUROPEAN CONTEXT**

Our collaboration and agreed activities will contribute to the successful implementation of European policies.

Within the multilevel governance approach adopted by EUSALP, we acknowledge our responsibility to contribute to its successful implementation throughout the whole Alpine region. European and transnational strategies require capacity for implementation at local level to be anchored. Our metropolitan areas are willing to co-design the peri-urban and urban dimensions of these strategies.

In particular, we acknowledge and will contribute to the further development of

- the EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure, which aims to promote the development of green infrastructure across the EU in order to deliver economic, social and ecological benefits and contribute to sustainable growth;
- the Territorial Agenda of the EU (2011), which aims to integrate and balance spatial development and to manage and connect the ecological, landscape and cultural assets and values of regions;
- the Urban Agenda for the EU (2016), which strives to involve urban authorities in the design of policies, to mobilise them for the implementation of EU policies, and to strengthen the urban dimension in these policies;
- the EUSALP process and, specifically, the joint declaration by the regional and national environmental ministers in the Alpine region: ‘Alpine Green Infrastructure – Joining forces for nature, people and the economy’.

Based on our current understanding of the challenges we face together and our common objectives, we consciously place our trust in ongoing multilevel cooperation. To be able to fully contribute to EUSALP, we are confident that the regional, national and European levels will

- continue to cooperate with the local and metropolitan regional levels within the framework of EUSALP;
- enhance the legal and other supportive frameworks to put suitable policies and measures into practice and to involve stakeholders in the processes;
- incorporate peri-urban green infrastructure requirements in regional policies and support our approach through their own strong commitment to integrated and cross-sectorial planning and implementation in cooperation with stakeholders;
- set up funding schemes for the development and implementation of green infrastructure and adequate instruments and tools for finance and maintenance;
- establish the Alpine region as a model for the development of a European Network for Green Infrastructure (TEN-G), as envisaged, which will include our peri-urban green infrastructure;
- sustain and increase support for pilot projects and exchange;
- help to bridge the gaps between knowledge and practice through funding for relevant activities;
- invest in the transfer of good practise and broad dissemination;
- develop and implement communication activities to reach out to citizens in order to showcase the success of EU policies and multilevel cooperation;
- support civil society and acknowledge its great importance to landscape and open space development.

## **EFFECTIVENESS AND DURATION**

The Memorandum will take effect on the day when it is signed by all parties. It is open to the signature or support of all authorities, institutions and organisations which are interested in contributing. This Memorandum has permanent validity and may be periodically reviewed. It can be terminated subject to six months’ written notice.

Identity records of the signatories and supporters are listed as annexes and are to be understood as part of this document.



### **LOS\_DAMA! facts**

Duration: 11.2016 - 10.2019

Lead: City of Munich

10 partners:

City of Munich

Grenoble-Alps Metropolis

City of Vienna

Salzburg Institute for Regional  
Planning and Housing

City of Trento

Piedmonte Region

Urban Planning Institute of the  
Republic of Slovenia

Technical University of Munich

University of Grenoble-Alps

Eberhard Karls University Tübingen

22 observers including the Cities of  
Ljubljana, Salzburg, Zurich, Graz,  
Milano and Bergamo as well as the  
Metropolitan City of Turin

European Regional Development Fund

Support from the European Union:

€ 2,208,742

Cooperation with EUSALP AG7 "To  
develop ecological connectivity in  
the whole EUSALP territory" on the  
development of Green Infrastructure

[www.alpine-space.eu/projects/los\\_dama](http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/los_dama)