

JOINT PAPER ON SPATIAL PLANNING

A common spatial development perspective for the EUSALP Region



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TABLE OF CONTENT

Table of content.....	2
1. Background	3
1.1. A joint paper on spatial planning within the framework of AlpGov2 project.....	3
1.2. Scientific basis and preliminary assumptions by Alpgov2 partners	5
2. From the spatial planning concept to the joint paper for the EUSALP region	7
2.1. Objectives of the EUSALP joint paper on spatial planning	7
3. Strategic implementation initiatives of the JPSP	8
3.1. Future proofing of transport infrastructure (AG4).....	8
3.2. Enhancing an Alpine Green Infrastructure network (AG7).....	9
3.3. Climate resilient development foster adaptation through spatial planning in the EUSALP area (AG8)	10
4. The EUSALP joint paper on spatial planning: sharing common Territorial priorities ...	11
4.1 Policy recommendations to the EUSALP stakeholders and policy makers on spatial planning	11
4.2. Policy recommendations from the EUSALP Action Groups 4, 7 and 8.....	12
4.2.1 Policy recommendations for spatial planning from cross-border Alpine transports and infrastructures (AG4)	12
4.2.2. Policy recommendations for Spatial Planning from the alpine Green Infrastructures network (AG7).....	13
4.2.3. Policy recommendation: climate resilient development foster adaptation through spatial planning in the EUSALP area (AG8)	13
4.3 Policy recommendations for a common spatial perspective of the EUSALP region	14
4.3.1 A fair EUSALP region.....	14
4.3.2. A green EUSALP region	15
Annex - Bibliography and Preamble reference documents.....	17

1. Background

1.1. A joint paper on spatial planning within the framework of AlpGov2 project

The Macroregional Strategy (MRS) for the Alpine area EUSALP was endorsed by the Council of the European Union on November 27, 2015 and on June 28, 2016 by the EU Council. The core of the implementation level of the EUSALP MRS is represented by nine Action Groups (AGs), headed by the Action Group Leaders having a primary role in giving effectiveness to the Strategy's aims. Currently, the activity of the AGs is mainly supported by the **Project AlpGov2** approved under the Programme Interreg V Alpine Space 2014-2020. It represents the follow up of the previous project Interreg Alpine Space AlpGov 2016-2019, supporting the first phase after the launch of the Action Plan of the EUSALP MRS. The Project AlpGov2, running from January 2020 to June 2022, supports the governance of the EUSALP MRS by promoting concrete actions and putting much stronger focus on the policy cycle and on initiatives across the AGs. This step reflects very well the phases described in the COWI-Study of the European Commission on MRS and their links to cohesion policy (EC, 2018) with a much more strategic approach.

Within AlpGov2, the Action Group Leaders agreed to collaborate on **5 Strategic priority policy areas** (Spatial Planning, Innovation Hub for Green Business, Innovation Facility, Smart Village and Carbon Neutral) and to carry out Strategic Cross-sectoral implementation initiatives, which are linked to them.

The Strategic cross-sectoral implementation initiatives shall “*demonstrate the power of the territorial cooperation at macro-regional level to correctly meet the needs of the territories and to address the relevant policies for the development of the Alpine areas, thus supporting the setting of policy recommendations (WP-T-3 of AlpGov 2)*”. (AlpGov2 Application Form). The Strategic cross-sectoral implementation initiatives aim to demonstrate the capacity of EUSALP to integrate policies, sharing a vision and joint actions between the AG's. In the AlpGov2 project, strategic priority policy areas are part of WPT.2 – “Strategic Direction and Implementation Monitoring”, where the results of horizontal collaboration between AGs feeds into the policy cycle as defined in WP.T.3 and thus supports and sustains the policy recommendations of the AlpGov2 project.

In the informal meeting of February 5th, 2020 in Lyon, the project partners of AlpGov2 agreed on the selection of five policy areas in coherence to the Cross-sectoral implementation initiatives. One of the five agreed topics is referred to Spatial planning. The AlpGov2 project assumed the mandate to prepare a concept for this strategic priority policy area as one of the cross-sectoral implementation activities.

The assigned tasks had been implemented and the draft concept on Spatial planning was submitted and agreed by the EUSALP Executive Board on September 29th, 2020 where inputs and recommendations from the representatives of the EB and AGs leaders were assumed.

The present **Joint Paper on Spatial Planning (SPSP)** represents the final statement of a shared concept on spatial planning for the EUSALP macro-region elaborated within the AlpGov2 framework, including suggestions from the bodies involved in the MRS. It

considers the results of collaboration with other stakeholders involved and the evolution of the EU policy context.

Moreover, it aims to be more effective as possible in exploiting its aims according to the opportunities emerging in the European context, mainly from the **Green Deal**, pervading the EU programming period 2021-2027, the **Interreg VI Alpine Space Programme** and the **Territorial Agenda 2030**. To this end, a comprehensive approach to spatial issues is proposed in order to tackle the great challenges the Alpine region is going to face.

The starting of the **EU programming period 2021-2027** represents a strategic *momentum* to promote initiatives improving integration and an effective coordination between different operative policy instruments and in the spirit of collaboration amongst the diverse bodies acting in the Alpine region, involved in spatial planning matters. It is further important to pursue the activities in the field of spatial planning from AlpGov2, in a collaborative way with other representative Alpine organizations with a consolidated role in the area, such as the Alpine Convention.

The added value of a comprehensive, integrated and place-based approach will help to implement operative policies coherently with the recommendations of the European Commission on the implementation of EU Macro-Regional Strategies, embedding their priorities in the relevant EU Programs 2021-2027. This should lead to draft a shared spatial development perspective of the vast Alpine Region with a flywheel effect to the local level, giving more effectiveness to the Strategy.

Moreover, it's important to support the cooperation and coordination with other bodies involved in designing a common spatial planning feature of the Alpine area. This is particularly referred to the Working Group on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development of the Alpine Convention (AC WGSPSD) currently working on the document "Cross-border spatial development in the Alpine Convention area", and to the Climate Action Plan 2.0 implementation pathway on spatial planning and on a contribution to the 9th report on the State of the Alps about "Alpine towns".

Moreover, great potential will be possible by a multiplier effect thanks to the embedding of the MRS with the ERDF Programs (EC, 2020) and the implementation of the Interreg VI Alpine Space Program as well as the creation of a Technical Support Structure (TSS) for the EUSALP.

1.2. Scientific basis and preliminary assumptions by Alpgov2 partners

The main scientific document referred to the Alpine whole region space at territorial level agreed by the member of the EB and AGs leader is the ESPON targeted analysis *Alps2050 Common Spatial Perspective for the Alpine Area. Towards a Common Vision* and the related *Alps2050 Atlas* (ESPON, 2019).

This targeted analysis, in the view of a common vision of the alpine area, had as an outcome four main scenarios drafting possible futures for the Alps. This document represented the basis for the making of a Spatial Planning Concept agreed on September 29, 2020 by the EUSALP EB members and AGs.

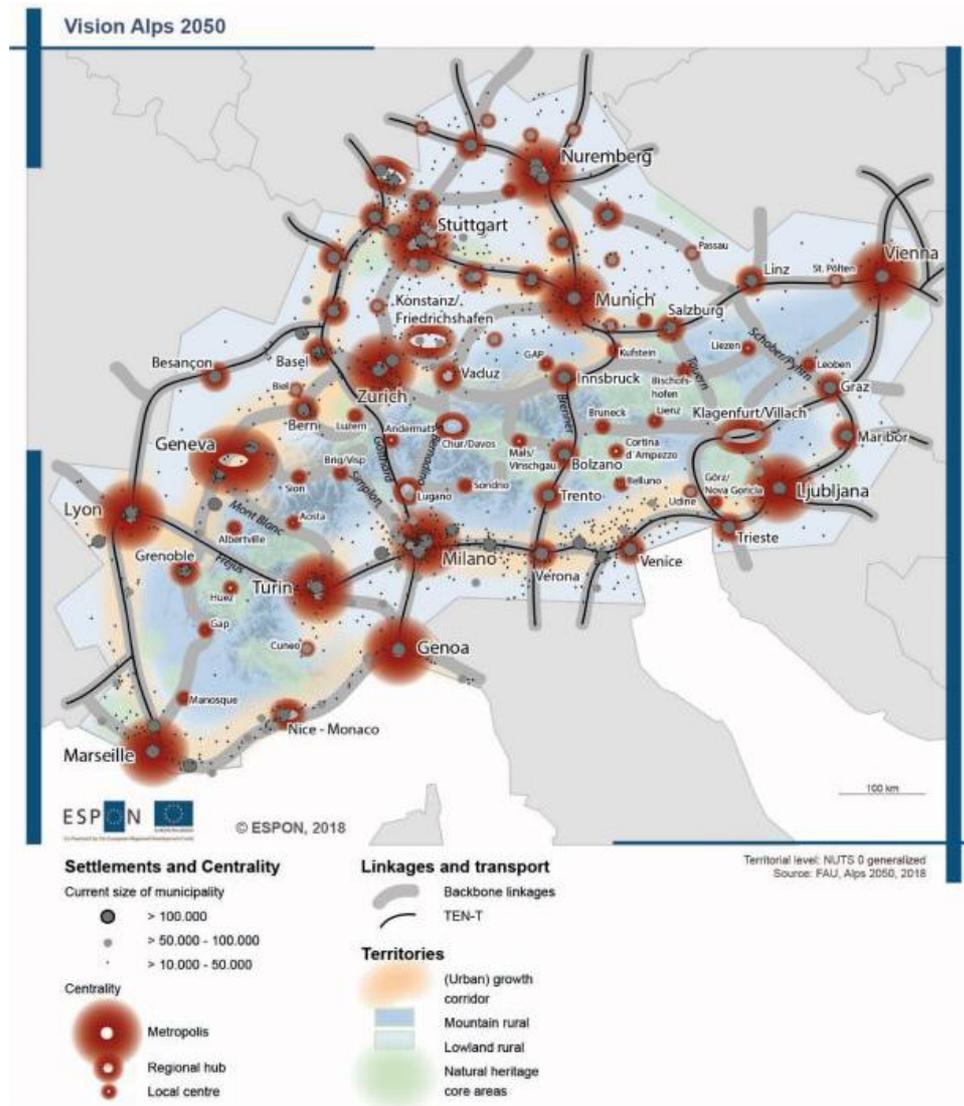


FIGURE 1
Vision Alps2050 (ESPON Targeted analysis)

The preliminary results of the debate amongst the AGs and EB within the AlpGov2 project, in developing this Strategic priority policy area, were identified the following **fields of action**:

✓ **GOVERNANCE**

- ⊖ To prepare a common territorial perspective for the Alpine area, giving a concrete contribution to the implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2030
- ⊖ To reinforce Cross-border spatial planning.
- To reinforce urban development (as a multiscale relationship concept), in a balance and cooperative relationship with the mountain area.
- To strengthen the management and planning of the exploitation of the natural resources of the Alps and the analysis of trade-offs in their use minimising possible negative interactions.
- To digitalize the services of general interest to make them more affordable and available.
- To establish sustainable and balanced models of resource management.
- To strengthen nature & biodiversity conservation and valorisation.

✓ **PLANNING**

- To foster rural-urban / peri-urban linkages.
- To define a strategic set of priority projects aiming at strengthening the relationship between the urban and rural areas of the Alpine Space.
- To enhance a network of green and blue multifunctional infrastructures in the whole Alpine area.
- To enhance potentials of green infrastructures and nature based solutions in spatial planning also in relationship with forest multifunctionality.
- To use the potentials of cultural & natural heritage for spatial planning.
- To develop improved climate resilience concepts for the municipal level in the Alpine Territory.

Within this framework, the **main aims of the AlpGov2** partners addressing the JPSP are as follows:

1. orientating public authorities with competence on territorial development strategies towards a common Alpine spatial development perspective as a contribute to the EUSALP MRS;
2. contributing to the EU policy and MRS objectives in the line of the EU Green Deal and with the Territorial Agenda 2030 and the Agenda for Sustainable development of the UN 2030;
3. drafting policy recommendations and a roadmap for the implementation of the Joint Paper on Spatial Planning also by the mean of actions and pilots, and in collaboration with other representative organizations of the Alpine region.



2. From the spatial planning concept to the joint paper for the EUSALP region

EUSALP is composed of a complex mosaic of territories and administrative units. In their variety and richness, they represent all regional typologies listed in the article 174 of the Lisbon Treaty, such as capital regions, metropolitan areas, small and medium-sized cities and town, peri-urban areas, rural areas, inner peripheries, peripheral areas, sparsely populated areas, coastal areas, mountainous areas. Moreover, in the EUSALP region the strict proximity of such different territorial typologies represents both a potential and a threat for an environmental unique and valuable space with a strong social and economic potential. In brief, the EUSALP region is a concentrate of diversity, richness, albeit unbalance and under risk territories for the complex blend of which is composed.

For this reason, sharing a common spatial perspective amongst States and Regions involved in the EUSALP region is important as well as to drive towards a balanced development of this region characterized by common geographical and environmental characters, history and where environmental and socio-economic phenomena occur beyond frontiers and administrative borders. Having regard to the historical background in territorial cooperation, the aim of the JPSP is to enhance the potential of the different areas composing the Alpine Space with a bottom-up approach, and to trigger activities aiming at exploiting the potential of territories, based on a cooperative and place-based approach.

2.1. Objectives of the EUSALP joint paper on spatial planning

The EUSALP MRS should be the framework for promoting policies for good governance and to support the coordination of actions where all administrative levels are potentially represented.

In this context the Joint Paper on Spatial Planning for the EUSALP region aims at outlining and promoting a common spatial perspective for the whole Alpine region by all territorial authorities' representatives involved in the MRS, sketching a common path for sharing outputs and implementation initiatives. The Paper should represent a starting point for strengthening a resilient and eco-competitive Alpine region, giving technical directives and guidelines for stakeholders and territorial authorities and triggering for operative actions, according to the AGs activities and the EUSALP Action Plan, also in coordination with other bodies and initiatives. It should foster a shared and effective spatial development in the EUSALP region in a collaborative spirit, in the following main areas of interest:

- steering the EUSALP region towards a sustainable and resilient territorial development and an attractive place for a sustainable living in the large metropolises and the valuable mountain area;
- generating cross-cutting, transnational initiatives able to trigger synergies at multi-level scale;
- ensuring collaboration and generating synergies between the Joint Paper of the EUSALP Region and the activity of the AC WGSPSD on "*Cross-border spatial development in the Alpine Convention area*" as well as the collaboration with the Alpine Climate Board of the Alpine Convention, working on the intensification of the

relationship and the implementation of specific pathways for spatial planning towards climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps 2050, exploiting the positive potential for the whole Alpine Region;

- exploiting the potential of the EU programs to promote actions and projects for a harmonized and sustainable spatial development;
- identifying and supporting territorial players with different levels of planning competences;
- making the EUSALP region a model for the Territorial Agenda 2030, and for the EU 2050 Carbon Neutral, orientating spatial development strategies and plans in a multi-scalar level.

The Joint Paper on Spatial Planning is the result of a sharing work with some key EUSALP stakeholders and Action Groups. It has been presented in a first draft version during the EB of October 8th 2021 and shared with the Alpine Convention working group on spatial planning and sustainable development on March 17th 2021. The Paper has been revised and integrated by those Action Groups working on spatial planning issues (AG4, AG6, AG7, AG8) and by a number of public bodies (the Italian national coordination of EUSALP, Lombardy Region, Veneto Region, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Europa Region/Euroregion, the German Federal Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Construction, the Slovenia's spatial development strategy). The paper was presented in several public events¹.

3. Strategic implementation initiatives of the JPSP

In order to support the governance of the EUSALP strategy, AGs activity is fundamental. In this frame, one of the main outputs of the JPSP is based on the collaboration of three AGs strictly committed to deliver their contributions on spatial planning by **three cross-sectoral operative initiatives**, namely:

1. Future proofing of transport infrastructure (coordinated by **AG4** Mobility).
2. Enhancing an Alpine Green Infrastructure Network (coordinated by **AG7** Green Infrastructure).
3. Study on climate resilient spatial planning (coordinated by **AG8** Risk Governance).

These cross-cutting initiatives are established in the present document and represent parallel, albeit preliminary examples of the JPSP implementation through a cross-cutting approach.

3.1. Future proofing of transport infrastructure (AG4)

This cross-sectoral activity aims to support the transformation of cross-border Alpine transport infrastructures and of infrastructures linking the Alpine Region with the rest of Europe. These infrastructures need to be further improved to meet the challenges of a climate-neutral and climate-resilient development in the Alps (resilience of transport services and networks) and resilience towards other catastrophic risks as well as to meet the challenges of digitalisation. This could include the development of secondary transport

¹ 2021 Annual Forum in Nice; Road Show on Spatial Planning on May 24th in Bozen; AlpGov final event on June 23rd in Trento; 2022 Annual Forum in Trento

networks that link the Alpine Region to the TEN-T in a sustainable way to ensure accessibility on the regional and local level.

AG4 aims at identifying the missing links in the Alpine Region that are not included in the TEN-T core and comprehensive network which need to be developed in a sustainable way, i.e. by building new or upgrading / electrifying existing local and regional railway lines, especially cross-border connections; charging stations for alternative fuels on the secondary road network; to close infrastructure gaps across mountain ranges by various means of transport including cableways. This should be part of a wider spatial strategy in which land use and transport planning are coordinated in a transdisciplinary approach.

AG4 contribute is based on the following activities:

- Identification and mapping of capacity constraints, missing links and new transport infrastructure needs in the Alpine Region, in particular on rail;
- Criteria for selecting the best mode of transport to close a gap, in line with sustainability and socio-economic efficiency objectives;
- Comparing and coordinating existing national/regional infrastructure plans in the EUSALP macro-region.

Outputs:

- Methodology to identify infrastructure projects with macroregional added value.
- Map of the Alpine Region with missing links in the secondary network and concrete transport projects that require a political initiative at macro-regional level.
- Cross-border spatial development strategies and plans taking into account the transport dimension.

3.2. Enhancing an Alpine Green Infrastructure network (AG7)

With the political declaration “*Alpine Green Infrastructure – Joining forces for nature, people and the economy*” as of 2017, 27 EUSALP environmental ministers set the landmarks for “Making the Alpine region a model region for Green Infrastructure” and entrusted AG 7 with:

- developing criteria for selecting those priority areas and related EU relevant Alpine Green Infrastructure projects and
- setting up pilot cases of EU relevant Alpine Green Infrastructure projects to elaborate appropriate governance mechanisms for an improved transnational and cross-sectoral coordination, based on comparable experiences, such as the existing Trans-European Networks TEN-T and TEN-E.

With this strategic initiative, AG 7 intends to develop a first approach towards an Alpine Green Infrastructure concept demonstrating the spatial dimension and the potential of Green Infrastructure in a transnational context. For concrete Green Infrastructure elements tailor-made governance approaches will be elaborated while specifically taking into account experiences made in setting up trans-European Networks in the fields of transport and energy. This will not only allow to make use appropriate knowledge and experiences to the Green Infrastructure networks but also to better embed the topics in European policies and financial instruments.

Integrating these results into the cross-sectorial development of a common spatial development perspective enables first time a comprehensive and innovative approach and therefore supports the ambition for improving the frame-conditions for a new European

governance in the field of biodiversity conservation, also underlined in the recent EU Biodiversity Strategy.

AG7 contribute is based on the following activities:

- Capitalising on existing spatial approaches for Green Infrastructure in the Alpine territory by synthesising them into an Alpine GI concept as AG7 discussion basis.
- Identification of Green Infrastructure elements with highest trans-European relevance.
- Characterising Green Infrastructure elements (e.g. urban Green Infrastructure, rural-urban relationships, transnational open spaces, trans-European river basins) as spatial patterns.

Outputs:

- Green Infrastructure pattern handbook
- Illustration of GI elements of trans-European relevance

3.3. Climate resilient development foster adaptation through spatial planning in the EUSALP area (AG8)

AG8 study on climate resilience was based on the following activities:

- Desk research to identify the framework conditions as well as environmental/climatic factors for climate-sensitive and climate resilient spatial planning in the macro-regional territory.
- Identification of the need for action and implementation based on interviews and a workshop.
- Assessment on the existing possibilities for climate resilient spatial planning in the Alpine countries.

The outputs can be summarized as follows:

- Comparison and description of different existing approaches to integrate climate resilience in spatial planning to derive recommendations for action. Identification of future framework conditions in the macro-region under a constantly changing climate, which will essentially define necessary services to be safeguarded by spatial planning.
- Evaluation of the potentials and limitations of spatial planning to use climate scenarios and deal with dynamics and uncertainties.
- Identifying synergies of spatial planning from other sectoral domains and green infrastructure – such as forest that provides protection while being challenged by climate change itself.

4. The EUSALP joint paper on spatial planning: sharing common Territorial priorities

The JPSP have assumed the three main strands of the premise (point 1.2) in its tasks for proposing addresses and suggestions for a common spatial perspective of the EUSALP region, being them the following:

1. orientating public authorities with competence on territorial development strategies towards a common Alpine spatial development perspective as a contribute to the EUSALP MRS;
2. contributing to the EU policy and MRS objectives in the line of the EU Green Deal and with the Territorial Agenda 2030 and the Agenda for Sustainable development of the UN 2030;
3. drafting policy recommendations and a roadmap for the implementation of the Joint Paper on Spatial Planning also by the mean of actions and pilots, and in collaboration with other representative organizations of the Alpine region.

To this end the three main line of actions related to areas afferent the addresses of the JPSP are:

1. Policy recommendations to the EUSALP stakeholders and policymakers on spatial planning;
2. Operative outputs from the AGs 4, 7 and 8
3. Policy recommendations for the implementation of the JPSP

4.1 Policy recommendations to the EUSALP stakeholders and policy makers on spatial planning

Policy makers and technicians involved in spatial planning policies of the Alpine region are the target groups mainly addressed to the output of the JPSP in sharing a common territorial perspective for the EUSALP area. Being the competence on territorial matters mainly in the hands of regional and local authorities they can act to promote actively a common spatial vision. In doing so they can be supported by EU instruments like the Structural Funds that can help to face common problem and issues at transnational scale overcoming administrative borders and burdens

According to the premise of the JPSP (point 1.2), the two main policy areas: “Governance” and “Planning” are considered for the following recommendations.

GOVERNANCE

- To gather and coordinate projects at different territorial level and impact, able to provide for a common Spatial Perspective for the Alpine area, implementing the TA2030 and UN2030 Agenda and for a 2050 Climate Neutral EU;
- To strengthening Cross-border and transnational spatial planning by promoting pilots (plans and projects) also by the ERDF instruments;
- To improving instruments and concepts to strengthen urban and mountain development in a balanced and cooperative relationships (fostering intermunicipal planning);



- To improve operative policies for ensuring services of general interest, broadband, digital infrastructures and metaverse, to safeguard and improve living condition in the Alpine area;
- To promote operative policy to make nature, biodiversity, landscape and natural assets to be protected and valorised as potential for the Alpine territory (make nature the engine for a new development concept).

PLANNING

- To promote plans and projects fostering rural-urban / peri-urban linkages, improving the role of open space and green and blue multifunctional infrastructures at different territorial scale and administrative planning level.
- To promote projects to enhance a network of green and blue multifunctional infrastructures at cross-border and transnational level in the Alpine region to give continuity for a large scale Alpine open spaces.
- To promote potentials of green and blue infrastructures, nature-based solutions and implementing ecosystem services at all level of operative planning also in relationship with forest multifunctionality.
- To include operative solutions and projects to enhance potentials of cultural and natural heritage at different territorial scale and administrative planning levels.
- To include climate resilience concepts for the municipal and territorial level in the Alpine region.

4.2. Policy recommendations from the EUSALP Action Groups 4, 7 and 8

According to the assignments assumed in the cross-cutting policy areas, the outputs of the three Action Groups involved in the preparation of the JPSP have been formulated by the mean of the following Policy Recommendations, which should be taken on board in operative spatial planning policy

4.2.1 Policy recommendations for spatial planning from cross-border Alpine transports and infrastructures (AG4)

- 1. Installing an institutional Alpine political dialogue on cross-border commuting.**
To this end, it is recommended:
 - to share knowledge, starting from the creation of a homogenous, Alpine wide statistical database on cross-border commuting;
 - to improve cross-border infrastructure networks;
 - to improve services in existing cross-border networks.
- 2. Abolishing negative regulatory frameworks.** To this end, it is recommended:
 - to invite regions and states to search for special arrangements to reduce regulatory framework and red tapes;
- 3. Using the potentials of digitalization to reduce physical cross-border mobility.**
To this end, it is recommended:
 - to invite regions and states to use the potential of technology to reduce physical mobility, also using innovation procurement;
 - to integrate innovation in the planning instruments used by Public Administrations.
- 2. Supporting behaviour change.** To this end, it is recommended:



- to encourage sustainable cross-border spatial and mobility planning as well as management;
- to sensitize enterprises and commuters to more sustainable ways of commuting and build up an exchange of experiences.

4.2.2. Policy recommendations for Spatial Planning from the alpine Green Infrastructures network (AG7)

1. Making the governance and management of Green Infrastructure a political hot topic. To this end, it is recommended:

- to set up TEN-GI coordinators as in other European TEN-fields, taking the patronage to promote transnationally significant alpine Green Infrastructure elements;
- to agree in 2nd EUSALP Environmental Ministerial Conference on Alpine Green Infrastructure on next milestones for making EUSALP a European frontrunner in Green Infrastructure.

2. Mainstreaming the topic of "Green Infrastructure" as a core element of "services of general interest in green" towards a greener Europe. To this end, it is recommended:

- to embed GI as a core topic in the EU funding programmes and to make AG7 a hub for developing coordinated actions;
- to identify Green Infrastructure elements with highest trans-European relevance;
- to implement at least one EUSALP flagship project in the appropriate regional ERDF programs as well as in the transnational Territorial Cooperation Programmes and LIFE program;
- to provide the necessary national co-funding, either by single funding approach or by setting up or adapting national funding programmes accordingly.

3. Making the benefits of Green Infrastructure tangible for decision-makers and citizens at multi-scalar level. To this end, it is recommended to:

- to design plans and projects helping to improve the individual citizen's quality of life;
- to promote awards for innovative solutions by competitions/call for ideas;
- to build up the Alpine GI cities network and enhance rural-urban partnerships.

4.2.3. Policy recommendation: climate resilient development foster adaptation through spatial planning in the EUSALP area (AG8)

The overall conducted analysis in the study supports the development of three major fields of action concerning climate resilient spatial planning in the Alpine region. These fields are rather action than science orientated to help develop concrete adaptation action and not only elaborate on the understanding of climate resilience and adaptation pathways. A general and important statement concerning the effectivity of integrating adaptation action in planning by many interviewed experts was the necessity to acknowledge climate change adaptation as imperative. It should not be a question of political priorities if it is acknowledged as an essential aspect within spatial planning. The Alpine states have already widely adopted CCA as a principle in their planning laws but improvements to highlight the urgency are possible.

The following recommendations can be formulated on basis of the conducted study and analysis:

1. TO DEVELOP ADAPTATION PATHWAYS AND IMPROVE SECTORAL

COOPERATION: planning has to be integrated in a problem driven development of adaptation measures that is based on cross-sectoral cooperation.

2. TO IDENTIFY DEPENDENCIES OF NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS: Planning has to display and co-manage natural features that provide hazard protection and climate services, especially mountain forests.

3. TO ESTABLISH AN ITERATIVE LEARNING PROCESS: implementation experience has to be monitored and evaluated to displays the effectiveness and efficiency of CCA measures implemented through spatial planning.

4.3 Policy recommendations for a common spatial perspective of the EUSALP region

The field of actions identified by the AGs leaders in the preliminary draft of the strategic priority policy area have been opportunely finalized according to the EU five Policy Objectives of the Cohesion Policy for the programming period 2021- 2027. They are the following:

1. a smarter Europe,
2. a greener, carbon free Europe,
3. a more connected Europe,
4. a more social Europe,
5. a Europe closer to citizens.

In particular, the first list of actions approved by the EUSALP EB in the meeting on September 29th 2020, and the following discussion on October 8th 2021 were opportunely aligned according to the EU guidelines and directives, that recommend to strongly focus on the Policy Objectives 1 and 2: Smarter and Greener Europe. A further improvement has been done linking the JPSP to the Territorial Agenda 2030, being this the cornerstone document for a common spatial development at pan-European level, agreed by all European States and Regions and endorsed by the European Commission on December 1th, 2020. Amongst the five already cited, the TA2030 identifies two main Political Objectives in the light for a future for all the places: “Just Europe” and “Green Europe”. For this reason, the Joint Paper aims at finalizing its recommendations according to the two main priorities of the TA2030, tailored on the Alpine area: “A Just EUSALP Region” and “A Green EUSALP Region”.

4.3.1 A fair EUSALP region

Policy recommendations for action

- Defining a strategic set of priority projects aiming at strengthening the relationship between urban and remote areas of the EUSALP region, as well as rural-urban / peri-urban linkages.
- Identifying common strategies and methods at transnational level to plan a shared ecological network.
- Reinforcing urban development (as a multiscalar relationship concept);
- Enhancing the potentials of Interactions between spatial planning/natural heritage management plans and the development of cultural assets and sustainable tourism measures.

- Improving quality of life through spatial planning/development policies, taking into account the aspirations and needs of territorial communities and population.
- Promoting the development of digital infrastructures in Alpine areas and the mobile coverage of the territories, of peripheral, peri-urban and rural areas, (eg.: supporting the "smart village" approach).
- Balancing the use of technology as a tool for innovation and modernization with the respect for the landscape as a lever for attractiveness and quality of life in any part of the Alpine area.
- Improving the quality of life by facilitating equal opportunities for the local population in their social, cultural and economic development, considering services of general interest (peripheral areas) through digitalization.

In order to give concrete example for further developments, are also suggested the following activities and possible pilots:

- ✓ Drafting operative scenarios for the EUSALP macro-region: toward an "ALPS2050plus".
- ✓ Implementing schemes of payment for ecosystem services;
- ✓ Establishing living lab: 1) supporting citizen-centric approaches in policy making. and spatial planning in the Alps; 2) developing and monitoring indicators for quality of life in the alpine cities, towns and rural areas as part of spatial planning policies development.
- ✓ Further pilot/s emerging from the AGs mandate and partners (starting from the AGs 4, 7, 8 outputs).

4.3.2. A green EUSALP region

Policy recommendations for action

- Enhancing a network of green and blue multifunctional infrastructures in the whole Alpine area.
- Strengthening nature & biodiversity conservation and valorisation in the spatial planning policymaking.
- Establishing sustainable and balanced models of resource management.
- Promote nature-based solutions in spatial planning processes.
- Enhancing a transnational strategic planning process for a slow mobility network, by a multi-scalar approach with regional and local authorities.
- Enhancing the linkages between forest functions and spatial planning.
- Developing improved concepts for climate-neutrality and climate resilience for the municipal level in the Alpine territory.
- Considering the need of a Healthy Environment in spatial planning policy making.
- Promoting the principles of circular economy and resources efficiency in spatial planning policy making.

In order to give concrete example for further developments, are also suggested the following activities and possible pilots:

- ✓ Transnational cooperation pilots with the Alpine Convention and/or other relevant Alpine actors in specific thematic fields (e.g: transnational rivers or adjacent protected areas Green Infrastructures of trans-European relevance, harmonization and consolidation of local ecological networks at cross-border level, developing



multifunctional GI networks in spatial planning instruments at multi-scalar territorial level (cross-border/transnational).

- ✓ Offering a platform for Alpine countries to coordinate the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in the Alps (cross-border spatial planning for ecosystem restoration, habitat protection, etc.) and to reach the EU biodiversity targets in the Alps.
- ✓ Further pilot/s emerging from the AGs mandate and partners (starting from the AGs 4, 7, 8 outputs).



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