

## **FRACTAL - FosteRing green infrAstruCTure in the Alps**

### **GI-pACT for Public Administrations and Institutions**

On the basis of the collaboration between the ..... and the .....within the activities of the project FRACTAL - Fostering green Infrastructures in the Alps, the subscribing bodies

#### **AWARE THAT**

the FRACTAL - Fostering green Infrastructures in the Alps project (Interreg Alpine Space) promotes the improvement of connectivity of green spaces in small urban and peri-urban areas;

the project is based on transalpine cooperation between the Free University of Bolzano (Italy), the National Institute of Biology (Slovenia), the Triglav National Park (Slovenia) and the Burgenland Business Agency (Austria) and boasts the cooperation with authorities in the various territories;

the project uses an innovative approach by directly involving citizens in the process of building the GI-pACT, an agreement that sets out a series of actions and intentions that citizens, associations, territorial bodies and municipalities, commit themselves to carrying out forward as actions or as a guide for future actions;

FRACTAL aims to stimulate Alpine communities to actively participate in the local implementation of green infrastructure, promoting a transformative connection transformative connection between nature, education and governance;

FRACTAL intends to unify the vision of Alpine communities through a process of co-constructed and standardized planning process. The 'Transalpine GI Pact' emerges as a collective commitment, creating a shared vision of sustainable development. By signing the document, each municipality, entity, association and citizen, commits to implement and promote the actions needed to increase the number of green infrastructures and their interconnection. Citizens and associations are also encouraged to sign Pact, pledging, for example, to improve private and community gardens.

#### **GIVEN THAT**

in recent months, through the FRACTAL project, the Authority has worked actively with the most of the social and economic categories in its territory; therefore, all the actions contained in the document are the fruit of work carried out and of a strong territorial sharing.

#### **AWARE THAT**

the methodology provides for the GI-pACT to be signed as a commitment, more moral and guideline for future actions and is without charge as well as a way to increase motivation to pursue the goals of improving the ecosystems, so as to ensure a more sustainable future.

#### **WHEREAS:**

**Green infrastructure** has been defined by the European Union as 'a planned network of strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental characteristics designed and managed for ecosystem services, such as water purification, air quality, recreational air, space for recreation, climate mitigation and adaptation" (EC, 2013).

The EU Green Infrastructure Strategy aims to preserve, restore and enhance green infrastructure (GI) to help halt the loss of biodiversity and enable ecosystems to provide their services to people.

There are synergies between green infrastructure and environmental policies on land, freshwater and marine environment. Green infrastructure comprises interconnected networks of different green spaces, ranging from urban parks to rural agricultural areas, from forests to small green spaces to footpaths.

Green infrastructure is part of the so-called nature-based solutions (NBS) and make the environment and ecosystems more resilient by increasing their potential to mitigate and adapt to climate change, making disaster prevention and risk reduction more effective through increased functionality (e.g. through natural flood management and flooding and water retention measures).

The development of the green infrastructure network can be facilitated by their further integration in spatial planning tools, but also through local synergies, bottom-up actions and the commitment of all citizens through actions aimed at:

- o Promoting and launching actions and initiatives to improve the knowledge of green infrastructures and their role in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- o Promoting and launching initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the role of infrastructures in coping with the effects of climate change;
- o Promote and launch actions and tools to increase the network of green infrastructure network in Alpine areas;
- o Promote and launch activities and initiatives to raise awareness and civil society in concrete actions to increase the connectivity of the green infrastructure network.

In line with the above priorities, there are solutions and behaviors for increasing the green infrastructure network that each of us in our own small way can implement to safeguard biodiversity and support ecosystems and their associated services.

In this context, the synergic action with the local administrations, local authorities, associations and businesses, etc. can introduce projects and cultural actions to raise awareness on the issue.

Having read and considered the above and being aware of the role that each body plays in planning the sustainability of the Alpine valleys, the bodies and associations through this subscription undertake to put greater effort into promoting:

Activity 1.1	Commit to involving schools of all levels active in their area in small-scale projects for the creation of organically managed gardens and gardens with high biodiversity, sowing and/or planting native species and ancient varieties.
Activity 1.2	Commit themselves, as far as possible, to participating in awareness-raising and training organised in the geographical area of reference and to promote their dissemination
Activity 1.3	Commit to promoting synergies between nascent projects (through mechanisms of sharing, activation and promotion) or continue the actions of projects already underway.
Activity 1.4	Undertake to promote the identification, within the valley's municipal territories, of areas where plants of autochthonous species can be sown thus supporting solitary and wild pollinators; near these areas set up where possible, 'insect hotels', artificial 'huts/shelters' for bee species nesting in cavities, but also for other insects useful for maintaining biodiversity.
Activity 1.5	Undertake to promote the identification, within the valley's municipal territories, of areas where green cover can be increased by planting shrubs or trees of native and indigenous and suitable species to increase shading, create refuge areas for birds and for pollinating insects
Activity 1.6	Undertake to promote the identification, within the valley's municipal territories, of areas where they can experiment actions such as “depaving” and creating small green areas that favour the drainage of rainwater.
Activity 1.7	Undertaking to promote the identification of green areas where it is possible to reduced or no mowing of wild grasses (this excludes areas where mowing is necessary to avoid the spread of invasive alien species)
Activity 1.8	Undertake to promote the identification of peripheral areas or areas close to water bodies, in which to propose actions to protect and safeguard riparian and river biodiversity also through delayed mowing, active monitoring and re-naturalisation works (where possible)
Activity 1.9	Commitment to make their experience available in relation to the project FRACTAL with other municipalities potentially interested in promoting activities for the dissemination of green infrastructure.
Activity 1.10	Commit to collaborating with experienced territorial bodies (such as cultural associations dedicated to the protection and knowledge of the environment and biodiversity, etc.) for the realization of specific content to spread awareness of the role of green infrastructures and of how it is possible to increase their network also at a local level.
Activity 1.11	Commit To promote awareness-raising initiatives on the topic within one's own municipality (evenings for the population, seed delivery and bee hotels)
Activity 1.12	Commit to collaborate with local expert bodies and associations (such as for example: Beekeepers Association, Young Farmers Association, etc.) for the design and implementation of awareness-raising initiatives for residents and guests, and promote all possible collaboration in the realization of awareness raising also specific
Activity 1.13	undertake to collaborate with expert territorial bodies in the conception and design of moments of awareness-raising for the population, with particular interest in citizens and especially schools and young people

PAs and Institutions' signatures

Date