



PlanToConnect mid-term workshop

"Alpine Ecological Networks: Integrating Connectivity into Spatial Planning"

Obergurgl (AT), 26th of November 2024



Objectives of the workshop

- **Support the elaboration of an *Alpine Planning Strategy on Green Infrastructure and Ecological Connectivity planning*** by bringing together project partners, observers, other European projects, EUSALP Action Groups and Alpine Convention Working Groups
- **Give a creative push for the *Alpine Planning Strategy on Green Infrastructure and Ecological Connectivity planning***



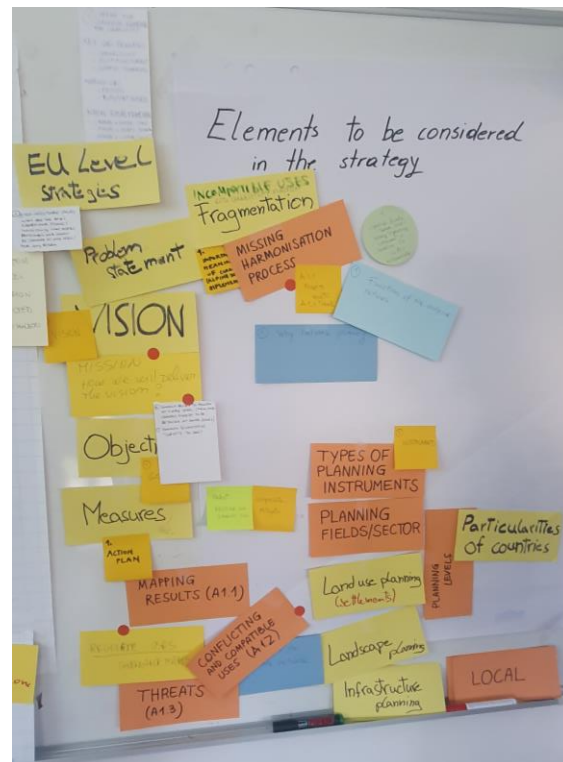
A strategy for ecological connectivity (EC) planning

- Addressed to decision makers, public administrations, planning professionals, organisations.
- What should spatial planners do to improve the ecological alpine network and prevent upcoming risks?
- Starting from the problem statements (weaknesses, risks)
- Turn problem statement and weaknesses into options for improving the ecological network



Structure of strategy for EC planning

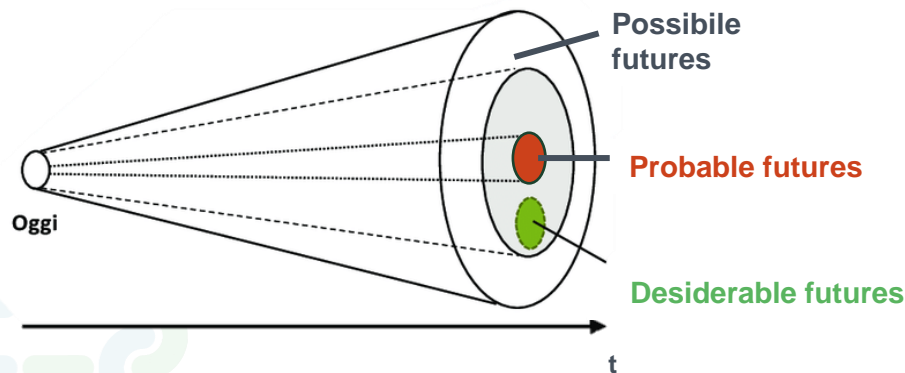
- Internal workshop in April 2024
- An Alpine **Vision** for connectivity planning, existing scenarios, and the contribution of the Alps to the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N).
- Connectivity **objectives** in the fields of
 - land-use planning (settlement development),
 - transport & energy infrastructure planning,
 - intensive agricultural areas and
 - protected areas.





Future lab - Vision

Beyond the continuation of business-as-usual trajectories, it is possible to actively shape different future outcomes, **for that it is essential to have a clear, collectively defined vision of the desired conditions**—one that is shared by a significant part of the community.



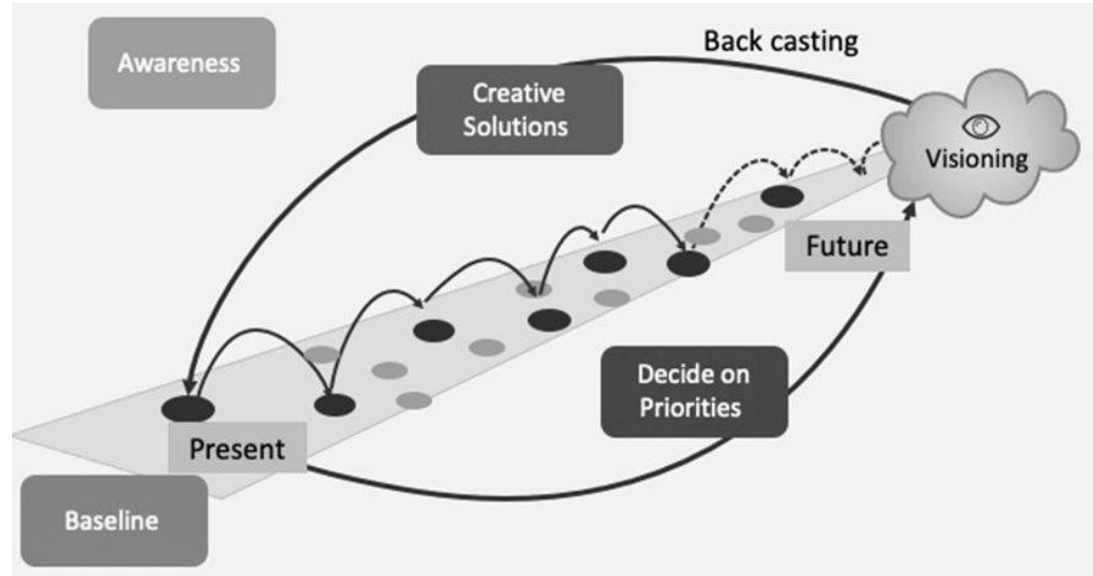
«A necessary ingredient to making changes in a positive and specific direction is having a clear vision that is shared by a large fraction of the members of the organization or community. A shared vision can change the world.»

Costanza & Kubiszewski, 2014



Future lab – Backcasting method

Backcasting is a structured scenario analysis approach, where participants develop explicitly scenarios together, share their visions of the desirable future and identify the steps needed to realize those visions





Future lab – Expected results - Vision

The result should be a **detailed vision** of a desirable future in terms of ecological connectivity in the Alps and a set of **plausible steps enabling its realization**.

Vision:

A narrative of a desirable future among possible ones (preferably made up of evocative, precise, and concrete images).

From our experience the **storytelling** approach and the positive framing of the vision can **foster political and social acceptance**.

In the case of the PlanToConnect project we want to apply this approach for measures to proactively **integrate ecological connectivity objectives into planning processes and investment decisions**.



Agenda – November 26th

14.00-14.20 Introduction to the workshop

14.20-15.30 **First working session – Vision 2050**

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-16.45 **Second working session – Enabling conditions to 2040**

16.45-17.15 **Third working session - Enabling conditions to 2030**

17.15- 17.45 Short presentation of the working groups and final discussion



Working groups

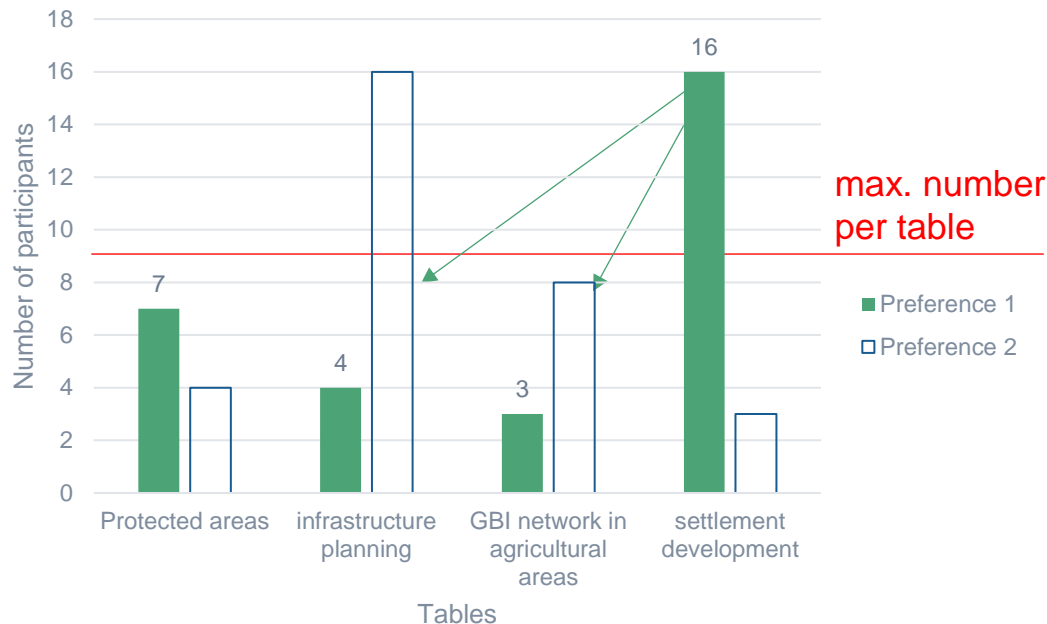
1. Protection of ecological linkages by land-use planning, focusing on settlement development
2. GBI network planning in agricultural areas as part of landscape planning
3. Ecological connectivity in the light of infrastructure planning, mainly considering transport, energy and tourism infrastructure
4. Ecological networks and connectivity planning from the point of view of nature protection and protected areas



Working groups

Among those who put their first priority on the table 1 - settlement development, are there volunteers who would like to go to their second priority table?

We would need participants for infrastructure planning and agricultural areas.





Rooms

- 1 conference room - 2 tables
- 2 seminar rooms - 1 table in each room





Roles on the working tables

1. Facilitators:

- Sergeja: Land-use planning of settlement development
- Peter: GBI network planning in agricultural areas
- Andrea: Infrastructure planning
- Filippo: Protected areas

2. One person who is available to report the main points in the plenary session. (For Wrap – up session). (please bring the poster to the plenary session.)
3. One person who will take notes on the “recommendations” during the discussion to share with other groups?
4. To everyone, please give support to ensure that everyone understands if there are any language barriers!



First working session – Vision 2050

Imagine the year 2050 and you are living in a region that has restored a coherent ecological network in the Alps

- As a representative of your organization, how do you envision the Alps in 2050 in terms of land-use planning, transport & energy & touristic infrastructure planning, agricultural and protected areas?
- What is the contribution of the Alps to the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N) in 2050?

Time: 45 min.





First expected output

- Template A0 + recommendation letter
- Please write and draw, your VISION here
- It is better not to use adjectives (e.g., sustainable) or verbs (e.g., improve); it is preferable to describe concrete **conditions**.

Example: *Each region in the Alps has an official ecological connectivity concept integrated in the regional landscape plan or regional development plan.*

Recommendations from
working group _____
to working group _____

...

eurac research

interreg Alpine Space

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Alpine ecological network

LAND USE PLANNING OF SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

In the year 2050 ...

Elements:

- Text, Drawings, Title, Slogan, etc.

Enabling conditions at

2040

2030

Participants at the working table:

Alpine Ecological Networks: Integrating Connectivity into Spatial Planning

Future Lab, 20 November 2024



Second working session – Enabling conditions to 2040

What are the enabling conditions to 2040 that make the vision to 2050 achievable?

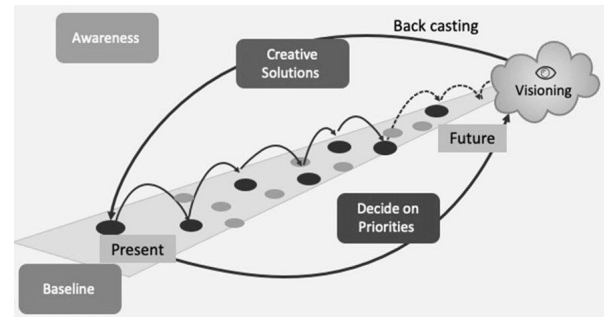
What should be achieved by 2040 to reach the desired state by 2050?

Enabling conditions:

The "how" to achieve the vision (actions, decisions, resource allocation) expressed through indicators, measurements, etc.

Think of SMART objectives:

Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound.



Time: 45 min.





Third working session—Enabling conditions to 2030

What are the enabling conditions to 2030 that make the vision to 2050 achievable?

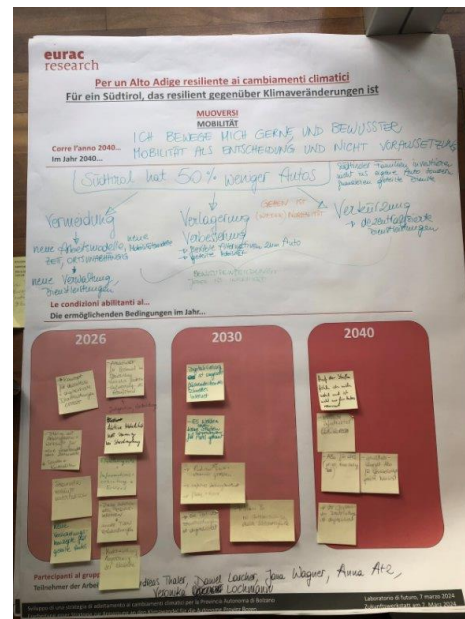
Time: 30 min.



Presentation of the groups in plenary and final discussion

- Discuss the relevance of proposed visions and comment on them

Time: 30 min.





Interreg



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Thank you for your attention!
Danke für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!
Hvala za pozornost!
Merci pour votre attention!
Grazie per l'attenzione!