



# Alpine Green Infrastructure *Green Infrastructure: a cross-cutting approach for a common challenge*



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Source: EUSALP A7 Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection

# *ACTING IN A COMPLEX SPATIAL SYSTEM*

Despite the common vision, the **Alpine region isn't a homogeneous region**. It is composed of a complex **mosaic of territories, natural and cultural environments and administrative units**.

In its variety and richness, are represented all regional typologies of the **article 174 of the Lisbon Treaty** (capital regions, metropolitan areas, small and medium-sized cities and towns, peri-urban areas, rural areas, inner peripheries, peripheral areas, sparsely populated areas, coastal areas, mountainous areas).

To reach the EU main target of the **climate-neutral by 2050**, is important the role of the **Green (and Blue) Infrastructures** and the way to declining them in policy and projects.

To be more effective in facing the main challenges is important a **trans-scalar approach tailored to Alpine territorial specificities** and acting according to the different roles, rules, competences and territorial scales, by **spatial planning** tools

# *The frame of spatial planning in the Alpine region*

*In the playground operate diverse bodies with different competencies in spatial management and governance, according to their mandate and territorial scale*

EU level (Directives, regulations)	<b><i>Pan-European and transnational</i></b> UN 2030 Sustainable goals EU MRS EUSALP EU CAP, ERDF and ETC Programmes (Interreg A, B, C) Associations (EUROMONTANA, CIPRA, ARGEAlp, AlpeAdria, Alcotra, ...) Cross-border territorial instruments such as EGCT (mandatory agreement) ALPINE CONVENTION (Treaty)	SOFT PLANNING Cooperative approach
		MANDATORY Cross-border/transnational agreement
	<b><i>National, regional and local</i></b> Plans, laws and rules	MANDATORY/BINDING

## Contribute to spatial planning and protected areas

Alpine Convention (AC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>. Mandate of the Alpine Convention WG SPSP (2023-2024): <b>“Alpine Spatial Development Perspective”</b></li><li>. Mandate of the Italian Presidency (2025-2026) Collaboration Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB) &amp; Spatial Planning Sustainable Development (SPSD) WGs</li><li>Collaboration <b>PlanToConnect</b> (joint event 2025) link between spatial planning and ecological network, GI</li></ul>
MRS EUSALP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>“Joint Paper on Spatial Planning” JPSP (AG7, AG4 AG9) (IT presidency 2022)</li><li>«Political declaration on GI in EUSALP region» (AG7 Bavarian presidency 2017)</li><li>Declaration “Sustainable Land Use and Soil Protection” (2018) AG6</li></ul>
EU Territorial Cooperation INTERREG and ESPON	<b>PlanToConnect</b> <b>InterAlp</b> <small>PlanToConnect / Partner FPM</small>

# The wide Alpine region

*“Soft planning”*



## Alpine Convention WG SPSD

“Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development”

- “*Alpine Spatial Development Perspective*” (transnational/cross-border SPP) (2023-2024)
- IT Presidency (2025-2026) focus on Biodiversity and Culture

## EUSALP MRS

- “*Joint Paper on Spatial Planning*” JPSP(2022) with AG7, AG4 AG9
- «*Political declaration on GI in EUSALP region*» (2017) AG7 Bavarian presidency
- *Declaration “Sustainable Land Use and Soil Protection”* (2018) AG6

## Outcome



Improve cross-border cooperation and coordination of spatial planning in the Alpine Convention ACTS 2050  
Implementation pathways contribution

Policy recommendations at macro-regional level addressing policies of public bodies operating in the EUSALP area

**Focus on G&B infrastructure**

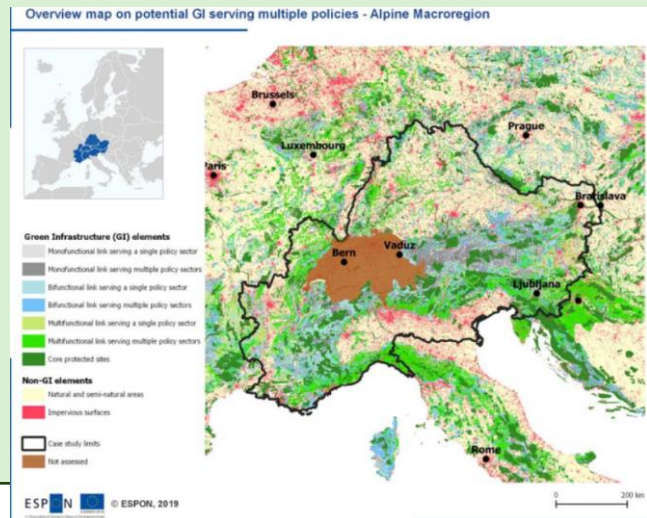


# Alpine Convention

## WG SPSP mandate (2023-2024) *Alpine Spatial Development Perspective* (transnational/cross-border SPP)

One of the three items of the document is  
***Linking Spatial development and Green Infrastructure***

Key topics Climate change, adaptation,  
biodiversity, land use risk mitigation, conflict  
in use of renewable resources (energy)  
Agriculture  
& forestry



## Italian Presidency (2025-2026)

Areas of action:

- Biodiversity (BI)
- Climate Change (CC)
- Population and Alpine Culture (PC)
- Cooperation with other mountain regions (CM)
- ABB will prepare an **Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan** (sectoral and transectoral actions) based on Four biodiversity pillars: monitoring, restoration, connectivity and protection (*Policy Brief*)
- Dialogue with local authorities on **climate adaptation initiatives** (share methods, principles, projects and experiences)
- Collaboration WGs ABB (IT) and SPSP (DE) **Spatial planning and Biodiversity**

# EU Programmes

**The wide Alpine region** Territorial cooperation as a key instrument to link

...

*“Cooperative approach”*



ESPN project  
**InTerAlp**  
(2025)

INTERREG Alpine  
Space Project  
**PlanToConnect**  
(2025)

**Output**

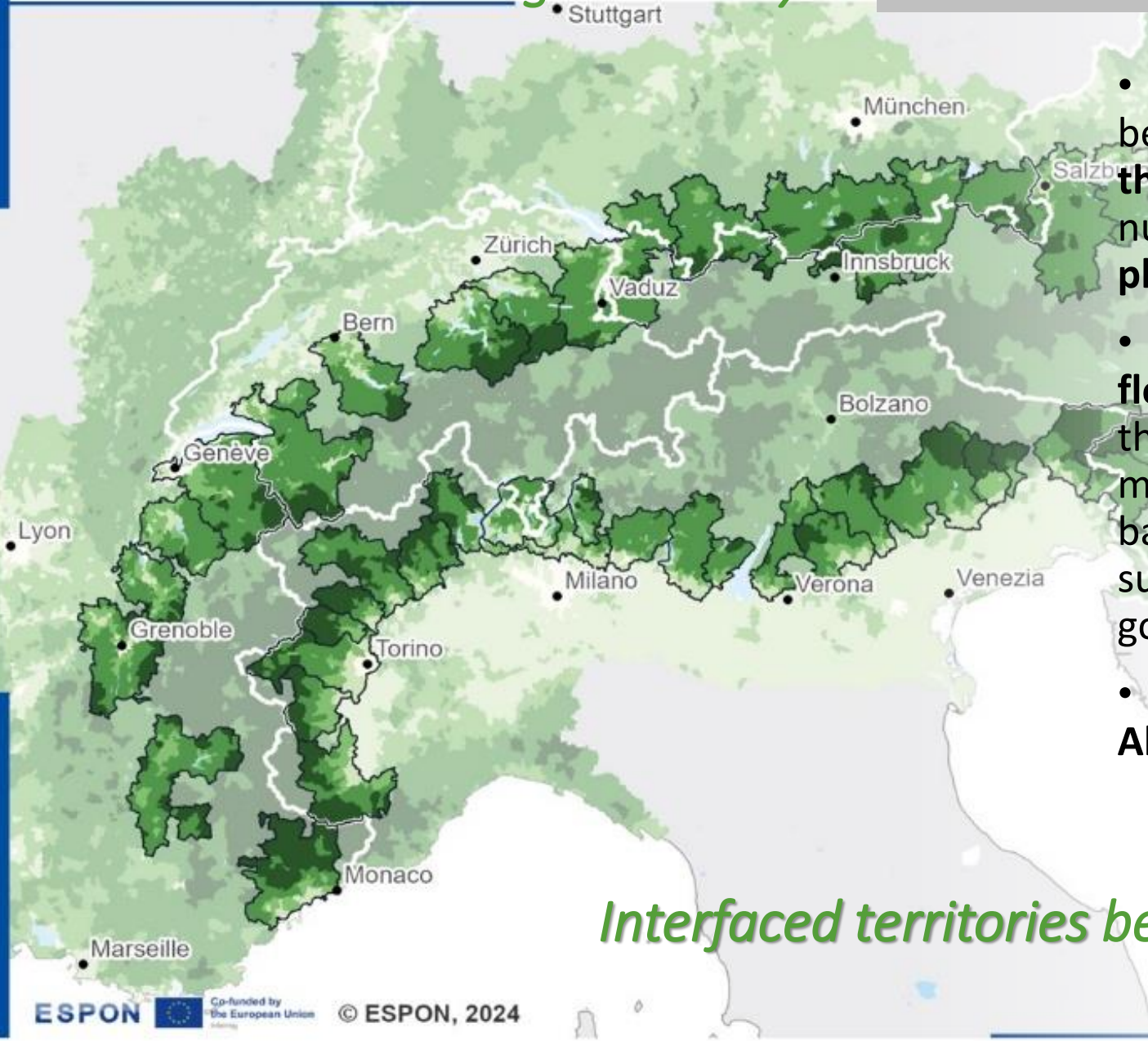


**Flows and relationship** between the inner and outer Alpine territories (Interface territories) between the mountainous inner Alpine area and the metropolitan pre-Alpine low-land (partners: DE, IT, AT, CH)

**integrate** biodiversity, climate adaptation and ecological connectivity issues **into the spatial planning** and policies of the Alpine Space (Partners: SLO, FR, DE, AT, IT)

**Focus on G&B infrastructure**





- “Interface territories across the Alpine region” between the mountainous inner Alpine area and the metropolitan pre-Alpine low-land with a high number of interlinkages and flows needing effective planning instruments.
- The project considers those interlinkages and flows, their challenges and governance solutions thereby addressing general questions, how to manage issues across political perimeters, how to balance functional complementarities and achieve sustainable development through territorial governance in non-standard geographies.
- The project will contribute to the discourse of an Alpine spatial development perspective.

*48 spatial typologies*  
*Interfaced territories between AC and EUSALP important for*  
*naturalness and biodiversity*



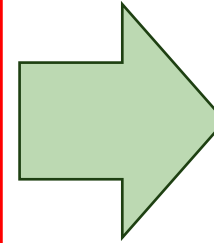
# *PlanToConnect Project Alpine Space Programme*

## Outcomes

Alpine planning strategy **for ecological connectivity**,  
harmonized and integrated planning of **GBI networks** in  
priority areas

Case studies of integrated planning of GBI connectivity  
networks in pilot sites across administrative boundaries  
and cross-border areas

Training and capacity building system on integrated  
spatial planning of GBI networks for ecological  
connectivity

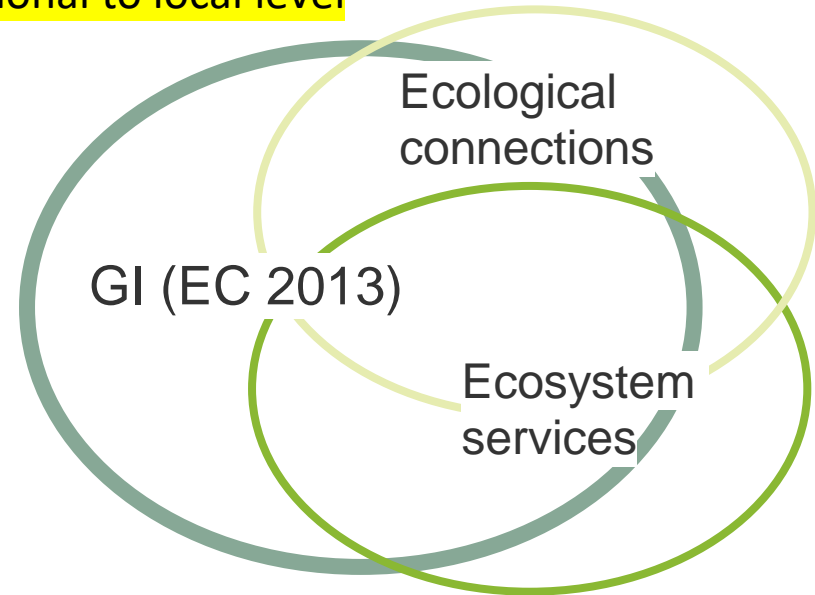


*Green Infrastructure  
A focus on  
multifunctionality and  
ecosystem services*

# *Relationship between G&BI, ecosystem services and ecological connectivity*



trans-scalar operational planning  
From transnational to local level



Multifunctionality in its various aspects is crucial to reach the **climate goals**, with a tran-scalar approach (from local to transnational), designing a G&B Infrastructure network tailored to the different territorial features, specificities and according to planning instruments



# GI key element of connection between environmental issues and planning

## The contribute of Pilot FPM

## GBI strategic frameworks

- *Conservative*

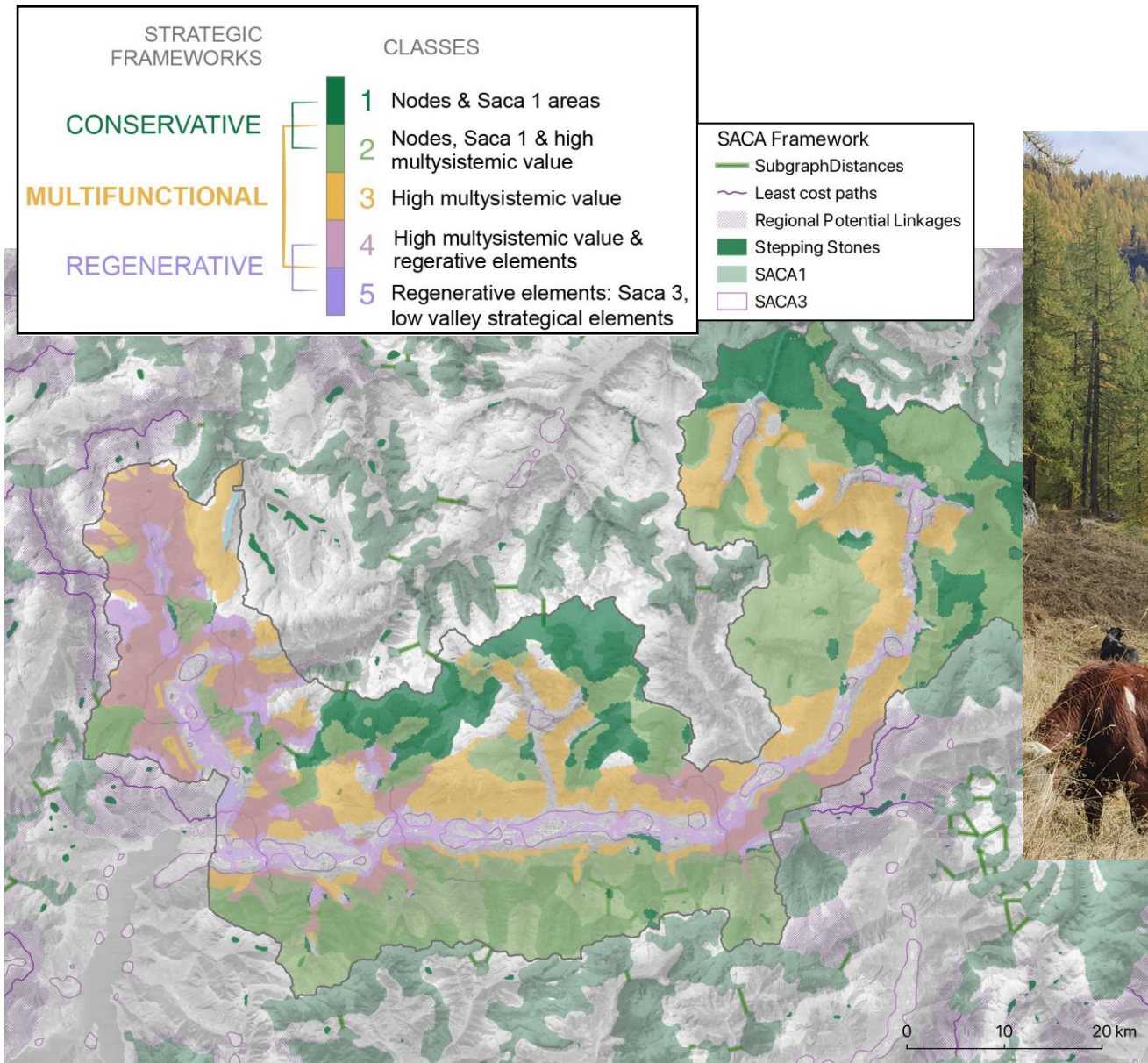
Composed of areas with high naturalistic and ecological value, as well as high biodiversity (SACA 1, Nodes) to preserve and maintain.

- *Multifunctional*

Areas of high ecosystemic, landscape, cultural, and touristic value (SACA 1, landscape routes, agricultural activities, recreational infrastructures, valuable ecosystemical areas).

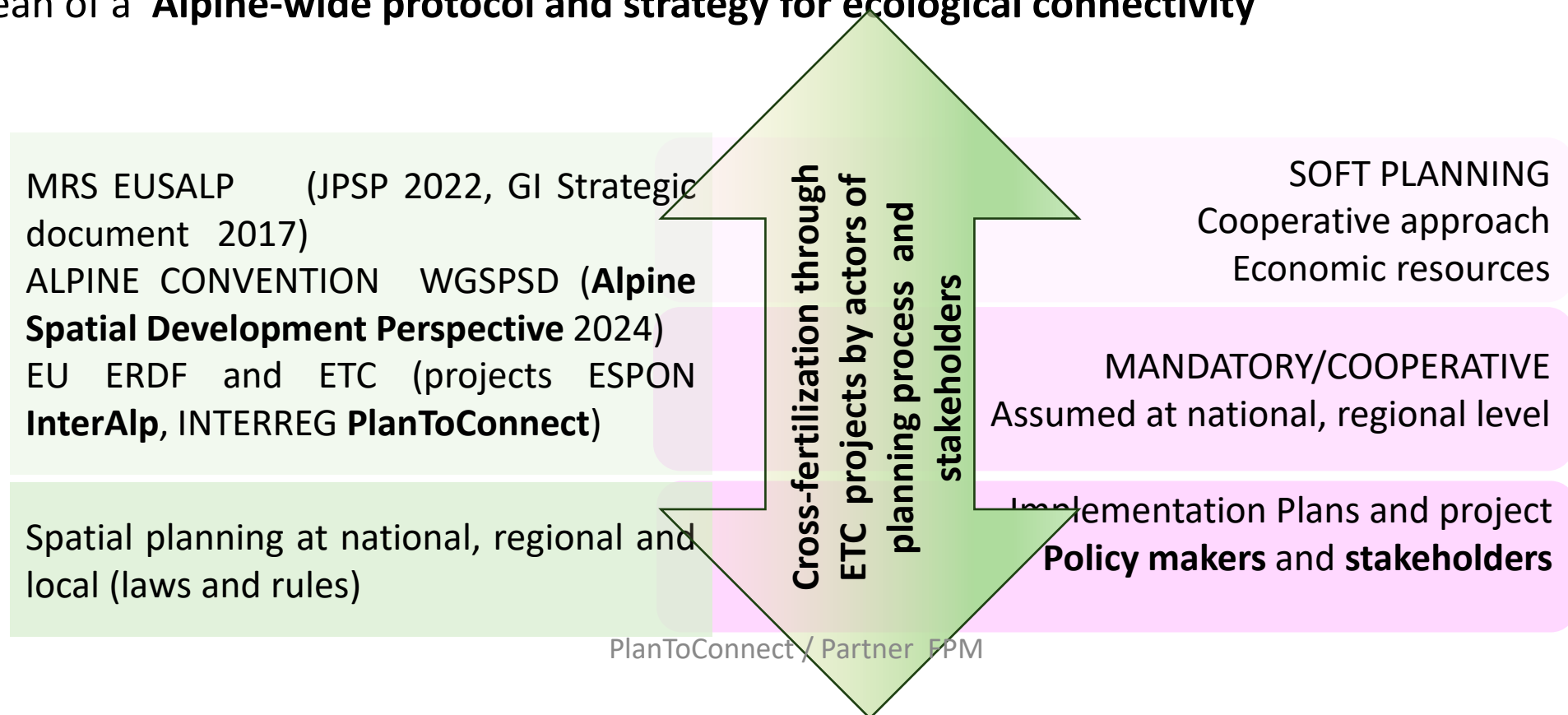
- *Regenerative*

Valley floor areas with significant regeneration potential aimed at restoring ecological connectivity between the two slopes. Specifically, these include riverine areas, strategic agricultural lands, terraced landscapes, and potential ecological corridors (REP).



# *Synergies and Cross-fertilization by a transcalar and cross-cutting approach: PlanToConnect*

- ❑ Shorten the chain between strategy and operative policy (Strategy, Planning, Projects)
- ❑ Innovation by the ground/sharing experiences (e.g.: tailored GI multifunctional, cultural ecosystem services as part of the environmental system and planning instruments)
- ❑ Finding the most appropriate spatial feature to deal with complex environmental phenomena (from the SACA network to the Local connectivity)
- ❑ Synergies and multiplier effect with the diverse bodies and stakeholders (e.g.: EUSALP Ags, AC) by the mean of a **Alpine-wide protocol and strategy for ecological connectivity**





Thank you!

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**PlanTocConnect** <https://www.alpine-space.eu/project/plantoconnect/>

**ESPON** <https://www.espon.eu/governance-new-geographies>

**Alpine Convention**

[<<https://www.alpconv.org/en/home/topics/spatial-planning/](https://www.alpconv.org/en/home/topics/spatial-planning/)

