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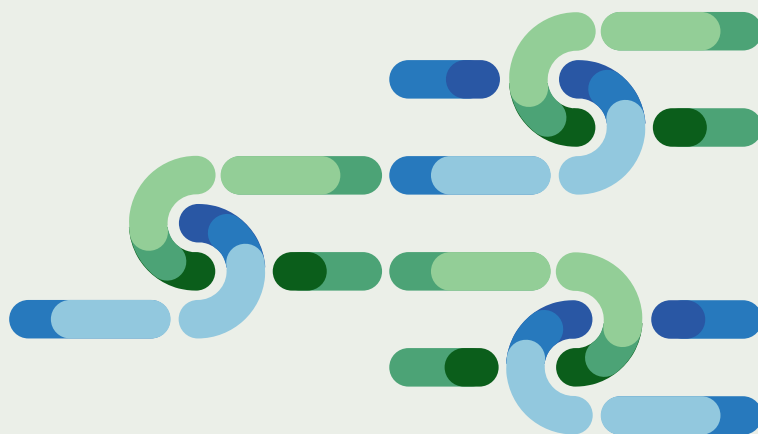
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Alpine Space

PlanToConnect

D.1.3.1 Analysis of upcoming sectoral policy developments

**Policy screening on alpine ecological connectivity, renewable energies
and upcoming spatial needs**



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D.1.3.1 Analysis of upcoming sectoral policy developments

Policy screening on alpine ecological connectivity, renewable energies and upcoming spatial needs

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1 Introduction

As part of Activity 1.3 and its Deliverable 1.3.1, this report presents the results of a policy screening at European level, national level of Alpine countries as well as selected federal state level. It is based on a policy screening conducted in the first half of 2024. The purpose of this policy screening is to outline the framework conditions and current and future impacts on ecological connectivity related to policies and projects in the fields of (renewable) energy, transport, nature protection, spatial planning and selected other policy fields.

Project partners collected 112 policy documents at EU, national and regional level across the Alps. Given the nature and limited scope of the desktop analysis and breadth of policy fields screened, the results are not comprehensive but provide a solid overview over the current policy framework. As policies are rapidly evolving on these topics, the timestamp of the data collection is important to be kept in mind. Nonetheless, the policy screening provides a current overview of policies that have either been recently adopted or that are particularly relevant and influential regarding PlanToConnect's objective to promote ecological connectivity through instruments of spatial planning and other land-related policy fields.

This policy screening has to be seen in context with the threats report elaborated under the same Deliverable 1.3.1. Threats identified in this parallel report are partly the result of the policies outlined below. On the other hand, policies are evolving to increasingly mitigate associated threats.



2 Screening of EU and national policies' implications on GBI

Activity 1.3 foresees the analysis of current and upcoming sectoral policy developments. This chapter outlines the relevant policy framework at the EU as well as at the national level of Contracting Parties to the Alpine Convention. The analysis focusses on the policy fields of energy, transport, while also taking into account relevant policy frameworks in other policy fields.

Table 1 Policies collected and analysed

Spatial level	Number of policies collected	Number or policies analysed
EU	14	10
Austria	18	8
France	6	6
Germany	15	13
Italy	47	17
Slovenia	7	6
Switzerland	5	4
Total	112	64

The extent of collected and analysed policies are illustrated in Table 1. Out of the total of 112 instruments collected by project partners in all Alpine countries except Liechtenstein and Monaco, 64 were deemed particularly relevant and outlined in more detail in this report. For an overview of the total number of instruments, please refer to Annex 1.

The policy screening focussed on energy, nature protection and spatial planning policies, which is reflected in the thematic categorisation illustrated in Table 2.



Table 2 Instruments by country and sector

Level	Agriculture	Climate Protection	Energy	Nature Protection	Settlement	Spatial Planning	Transport	Water	Other	Total
EU		1	6	4				2	1	14
AT	1	1	3	5	2		3	2	1	18
FR		1	2	2			1			6
DE	2		4	5			3	1		15
IT	5	6	11	5		5	5	5	5	47
SI		1	2	1			1	2		7
CH			5							5
Total	8	10	33	22	2	5	13	12	7	112

The policy research was conducted by members of the PlanToConnect partnership for their respective countries, based on a template spreadsheet and a preliminary collection of policies for the EU and German national and federal state level conducted by ifuplan. The preliminary assessment of the specific policy's potential effect on ecological connectivity has been made by the respective project partner.



3 EU policies

3.1 Energy

EU Emergency regulation to accelerate renewable energy deployment (COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2022/2577 of 22 December 2022)

Initiated as a response to Russia's attack on Ukraine and subsequent efforts on behalf of the EU to become independent from Russian fossil fuels, the emergency council regulation creates framework conditions to accelerate the deployment of renewable energies in the EU. The following objectives respectively new framework conditions were defined:

- **Overriding public interest:** The regulation stipulates that the planning, construction and operation of plants and installations for the production of energy from renewable sources, and their connection to the grid, the related grid itself and storage assets shall be presumed as being in the overriding public interest and serving public health and safety when balancing legal interests in the individual case. In the case of species protection, the overriding public interest shall be limited to cases where appropriate species conservation measures contributing to the maintenance or restoration of the populations of the species at a favourable conservation status are undertaken and sufficient financial resources as well as areas are made available for that purpose.
- **Accelerating the permit-granting procedure for the installation of solar energy equipment**
- **Repowering of existing renewable energy power plants:** Environmental impact assessment shall be limited to the potential significant impacts stemming from the change or extension compared to the original project.
- **Acceleration of the permit-granting procedure of renewable energy projects and for related grid infrastructure which is necessary to integrate renewables into the system**

If a project is located in a dedicated renewable or grid area for a related grid infrastructure which is necessary to integrate renewable energy into the electricity system, it shall be exempt from EIA and species protection assessments under the condition that the zoning of the dedicated area has undergone a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Originally, the application period of the emergency regulation was limited to 18 months after its entry into force, expiring on June 30th 2024.

With the Council Regulation (EU) 2024/223 amending Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy, the application period of (EU) 2022/2577 was prolonged by one year until 2025. Furthermore Article 3 was amended to allow "implementing compensatory measures for a project, a plant or installation for the production of energy from renewable sources, and the related grid infrastructures. Member States may allow for such compensatory measures to be carried out in parallel with

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the implementation of the project, unless there is clear evidence that a specific project would irreversibly affect the ecological processes essential for maintaining the structure and functions of the site and would compromise the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network before compensatory measures are put into place. Member States may allow for those compensatory measures to be adapted over time, depending on whether the significant negative effects are expected to arise in the short, medium or long term.

Type of document: Regulation	In force since: 2022 Latest revision in: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022R2577	

EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED)

Introduced in 2009 (2009/28/EC), the Renewable Energy Directive represents the legal framework for the development of clean energy across all sectors of the EU economy and promotes cooperation between EU countries towards this goal. In the course of the envisaged transition to clean energy, the Directive is regularly revised. To speed up the EU's clean energy transition, the Directive was revised in 2018 (Directive (EU) 2018/2001), establishing a common system to promote energy from renewable sources across the different sectors. The 2018 revision particularly set a binding EU target for the renewable share of 32% in the energy mix in 2030. Besides other measures, the directive foresees protection of support schemes from modifications that put existing projects at risk and simplification of administrative procedures for renewables projects, including one-stop-shops (concentration of process and decision-making competences in one agency), time limits and digitalisation. For the transport sector, the directive foresaw caps on conventional biofuels and the gradual phase-out of biofuels with a high risk of not saving emissions.

By providing long-term certainty for investors and speeding up procedures for permits to build projects, the revision created conditions for an accelerated renewable energy deployment.

In July 2021, the European Commission proposed another revision of the directive (COM/2022/222 final), raising the 32% by 2030 target to 40% as part of its "Fit for 55" package.

Type of document: Directive	In force since: 2009 Latest revision in: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202302413	

Provisional agreement to reinforce the EU Renewable Energy Directive

In the light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Commission proposed to further increase the target to 45%. Ultimately, a provisional agreement reached on March 30 2023 - which still requires formal adoption by the European Parliament and the Council - set the binding target of at least 42.5% by 2030 (while aiming for 45%). These provisions have ultimately been included in the RED III outlined below.

At the heart of the provisional agreement are measures to accelerate and simplify permit-granting procedures. Renewable energies are foreseen to be recognised as an overriding public interest, with the provision that a high level of environmental protection should be preserved.

In areas with high renewables potential and low environmental risks, Member States are foreseen to put in place dedicated acceleration areas for renewables, with particularly short and simple permit-granting processes. The provisional agreement also enhances cross-border cooperation on renewables.

In respect to bioenergy, the provisional agreement strengthens the bioenergy sustainability criteria by extending their applicability to smaller installations equal or above 7.5 MW. The agreement includes provisions to ensure that forest biomass is not sourced from certain areas with a particular importance from a biodiversity and carbon stock perspective.

With the Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (RED III), the above-listed measures entered into force, supplementing Regulation 2019/807 and Commission Implementing Regulation 2022/996. RED III stipulates the following measures and framework conditions:

- By 21 May 2025, Member States shall carry out a coordinated mapping for the deployment of renewable energy in their territory to identify the domestic potential and the available land surface, sub-surface, sea or inland water areas that are necessary for the installation of renewable energy plants and their related infrastructure, such as grid and storage facilities, including thermal storage, that are required in order to meet at least their national contributions towards the overall Union renewable energy target for 2030 set in Article 3(1) of [the] Directive” (Art. 15b). Ecological aspects are not included in aspects that specifically need to be taken into account in this exercise.
- By 21 February 2026, Member States shall ensure that competent authorities adopt one or more plans designating, as a sub-set of the areas referred to in Article 15b(1), renewables acceleration areas [i.e. “go-to-areas”] for one or more types of renewable energy sources. Member States may exclude biomass combustion and hydropower plants. When identifying these areas, Member States shall:
 - “give priority to artificial and built surfaces, such as rooftops, transport infrastructure areas parking areas, waste sites, industrial sites, mines, artificial inland water bodies, lakes or reservoirs, and, where appropriate, urban waste water treatment sites, as well as degraded land not usable for agriculture;

- exclude Natura 2000 sites and nature parks and reserves, the identified bird migratory routes as well as other areas identified based on sensitivity maps and the tools referred to in the next point, except for artificial and built surfaces located in those areas such as rooftops, parking areas or transport infrastructure;
- use all appropriate tools and datasets to identify the areas where the renewable energy plants would not have a significant environmental impact, including wildlife sensitivity mapping.”¹

The identification of Go-to-areas is therefore not limited to excluding protected or Natura 2000 areas, but can also take into consideration the sensitivity and vulnerability of areas in regard to e.g. wildlife corridors. At European level, the Energy and Industry Geography Lab (see below) provides a visual representation of consolidated information on a wide range of relevant energy and environmental factors.

Type of document: Directive	In force since: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/03/30/council-and-parliament-reach-provisional-deal-on-renewable-energy-directive/	

Commission recommendation on speeding up permit-granting procedures for renewable energy projects and facilitating Power Purchase Agreements (C/2022/3219)

Recommendations include measures

- to accelerate procedures by Member States selecting the most favourable procedures in their planning and permit-granting procedures and by assuming an overriding public interest for plants and grids for renewable energy production
- to facilitate citizen and community participation by passing benefits of the energy transition on to local communities to enhance public acceptance and engagement.
- improve internal coordination by ensuring effective coordination between different spatial levels and design a one-stop-shop for granting permits for renewable energy projects, taking into account inter alia the benefits of concentrating technological, environmental and legal expertise.

¹ Source: https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab/acceleration-areas-renewables_en

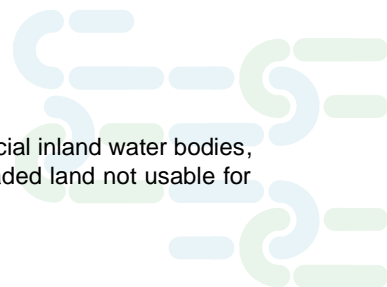


The most relevant provisions are outlined under the objective of better identification and planning of locations of projects, including

- a mapping process to designate limited and clearly defined areas as particularly suitable for the development of renewable energy (renewable go-to areas), making use of the updated datasets available in the Energy and Industry Geography Lab (EIGL). When identifying “Renewable Go-To-Areas”, Member States shall
 - prioritise artificial and built surfaces²
 - exclude Natura 2000 sites and nature parks and reserves, bird migratory routes as well as other areas identified based on sensitivity maps and the tools referred to in the next point,
 - use all appropriate tools and datasets to identify the areas where the renewable energy plants would not have a significant environmental impact, including wildlife sensitivity mapping
- The limitation of “exclusion zones” for renewable energy to a necessary minimum, stipulating that restrictions should be evidence-based to fulfil their intended purpose while maximising the availability of space for the development of projects, taking into account other spatial planning constraints.
- Streamlining of EIA requirements for renewable energy projects, applying technical guidance on reconciling renewable energy deployment with the EU’s environmental legislation.
- Ensuring that killing or disturbance of individual specimens under the EU Habitats Directive is not an obstacle to the development of renewable energy projects. Projects are required to integrate mitigation measures to prevent possible killing or disturbance, monitor their effectiveness and take further measures based on monitoring results.
- Early public involvement to define spatial plans, promote multiple use of sites and coordinated planning of grids and renewable energy generation capacities at all levels, including regional cooperation.

Type of document: Directive	In force since: 2022
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=PI_COM:C(2022)3219	

² Rooftops, transport infrastructure areas, parking areas, waste sites, industrial sites, mines, artificial inland water bodies, lakes or reservoirs, and, where appropriate, urban waste water treatment sites, as well as degraded land not usable for agriculture



REPowerEU Commission communication of 18 May 2022

With the target to increase the EU's independence from Russian fossil fuels, the REPowerEU Plan builds on the Fit for 55 Package and puts forward additional actions to save energy, diversify supplies, substitute fossil fuels by accelerating Europe's clean energy transition and combine investments and reforms.

Particularly relevant in regard to spatial planning is the target to boost renewable energy by raising the target in the Renewable Energy Directive to 45% by 2030. This will increase the total EU renewable energy generation capacities to 1,236 Gigawatt (GW) by 2030 compared to 1,067 GW envisaged under the "Fit for 55"-package. For the solar photovoltaics sector, the Plan sets the REPowerEU target of over 320 GW of solar photovoltaic newly installed by 2025, more than doubling the level at the time of its adoption, to be further increased to 600 GW by 2030.

Type of document: Plan	In force since: 2022
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0230#footnote16	

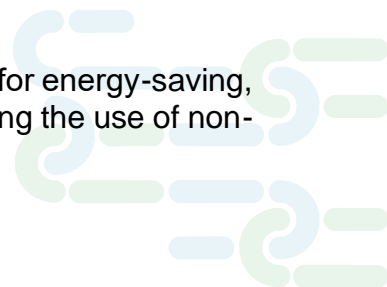
EU Solar Energy Strategy COM(2022) 221 final

Besides actions in regard to rooftops financing instruments, the EU Solar Energy Strategy as part of the REPowerEU Plan also addresses the designation of go-to areas and the multiple use of space as innovative form of solar power deployment. The latter includes agrivoltaics, floating PV-solutions on water surfaces (onshore most notably artificial lakes for hydropower), and transport infrastructure in the form of retrofitting noise barriers along roads and railway lines with photovoltaics.

Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2022
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0221	

Alpine Convention Implementation Protocol on Energy

The Alpine Convention's contracting parties commit to harmonizing plans for energy-saving, a more efficient use of the energy by making use of technologies, optimising the use of non-renewable energy and to expand the use of renewable energy sources.



While ecological connectivity is not specifically addressed, one of the commitments of the contracting parties is to safeguard protected areas, quiet zones and other non-disturbed or less disturbed natural areas.

Type of document: Treaty	In force since: 2002 (drafted in 1991)
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.alpconv.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Convention/EN/Protocol_Energy_EN.pdf	

3.2 Transport

Smart TEN-T Directive (EU) 2021/1187

The directive aims to streamline measures to advance the realisation of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). It also aims to make the procedural process clearer for project promoters, in particular as regards permit-granting procedures and public procurement.

Projects covered by the directive include pre-identified cross-border links and missing links of the TEN-T core network corridors, as set out in the directive's Annex I and projects on the core network corridors exceeding €300 million. The core TEN-T network includes the most important connections on the network, linking the most important nodes, and is to be completed by 2030. EU member states can choose to extend the Directive's scope to include all projects on the core network or even of the comprehensive network.

The directive focuses on three topics:

- **Prioritisation:** Member states shall ensure that national authorities give priority to projects covered by the directive in permit-granting procedures
- **Designated authority:** By August 2023, Member States must establish a designated authority which will take responsibility for projects, including point of contact for project promoter and relevant authorities and taking authorising decisions.
- **Approval procedures:** Approval procedures are simplified by setting a maximum of four years for permit-granting procedures (which can be extended in duly justified cases) and giving Member States the option to incorporate states into the permit-granting procedure under national law. Steps undertaken at strategic level that do not refer to a specific project such as Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) do not fall under these stipulations, while Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) do.

Furthermore, the directive foresees that designated authorities shall cooperate on cross-border procedures, with the assistance and oversight of EU coordinators, with a view to coordinating their timetables and agreeing on a joint schedule concerning the permit-granting procedure.

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Type of document: Directive	In force since: 2021
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021L1187	

Proposal for a Regulation on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network TEN-T Revision (COM(2021) 812 final)

The regulation sets the timeline for completing the EU's TEN-T core network by 2030 as well as for completing an extended core network and delivering upgraded requirements for speed and quality by 2040. By 2050, a fully operational and modernised TEN-T network is to be realised. The regulation identifies European Transport Corridors that shall replace the Rail Freight Corridors and Core Network Corridors to better align both corridor instruments. The following corridors travers parts of the Alps (see Annex III, COM(2021) 812 final):

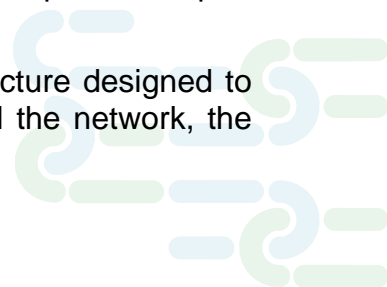
- Western Balkans Corridor (Salzburg – Ljubljana resp. Linz-Graz-Maribor-Ljubljana)
- Mediterranean Corridor (Lyon/Grenoble-Torino-Milano-Verona-Trieste-Ljubljana and Nice-Genova)
- Rhine-Danube-Corridor (Munich-Salzburg-Linz-Vienna)
- Baltic Sea – Adriatic Sea Corridor (Graz-Klagenfurt-Udine resp. Graz-Maribor-Trieste)
- Scandinavian – Mediterranean Corridor (Munich-Innsbruck-Bolzano-Verona)
- North Sea – Alpine Corridor (Mulhouse-Milano)

Annex I of COM(2021) 812 final features maps for the core, extended core and comprehensive networks. These include the existing transport infrastructure network as well as new or projected construction projects for road, railway (conventional and high-speed), inland waterways, and airports and intermodal infrastructure such as rail/road terminals (RRT). New high-speed railway construction e.g. includes the Brenner Base Tunnel, Torino-Lyon, Klagenfurt-Graz, Milano-Brescia-Verona-Vicenza-Padova-Venezia-Trieste-Ljubljana, and Nice-Toulon.

Besides organisational improvements (lorry parking, alternative fuels), upgraded requirements include infrastructural improvements on the main TEN-T-stretches to allow trains to travel 160 km/h or faster by 2040. Related measures are potentially also affecting the barrier effect of the respective infrastructure.

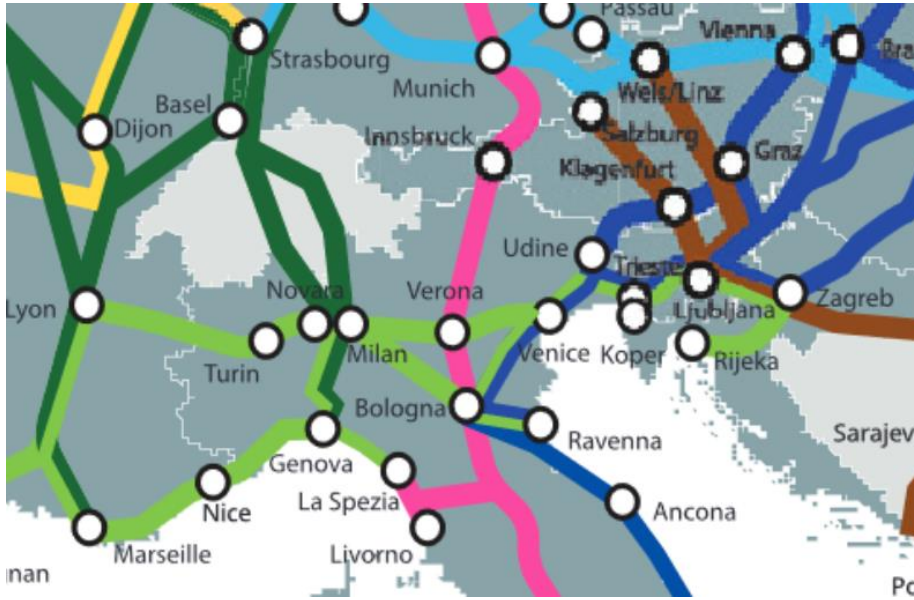
Article 5 of the Regulation lays out resource-efficiency and environmental protection criteria that shall guide the planning, development and operation of the trans-European transport network, including:

- the development of green, sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure designed to minimise the negative impact on the health of citizens living around the network, the environment and degradation of ecosystems (Art. 5, 1 (g));



- the adequate consideration of the resilience of the transport network and its infrastructure with regard to a changing climate as well as natural hazards Art. 5, 1 (h).

Interestingly, while aspects of environmental and climate protection are included in the general priorities (Art. 12/13), nature protection, biodiversity or ecological connectivity are not addressed among the numerous criteria.



Source: European Commission 2021

Figure 1 Alignment of the European Transport corridors crossing the Alps

Type of document: Regulation	In force since: 2021
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM%3A2021%3A812%3AFIN	

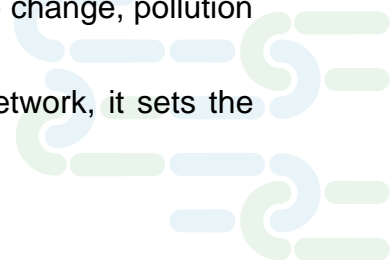
3.3 Nature Protection

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

The EU Biodiversity Strategy (COM (2020) 380 final) addresses the five main drivers of biodiversity loss – changes in land and sea use, overexploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species - and sets out a governance framework.

As part of the effort to establish a coherent Trans-European Nature Network, it sets the following key commitments by 2030:

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- Legal protection of a minimum of 30% of the EU’s land area and integrate ecological corridors
- Strict protection of at least a third of the EU’s protected areas, including all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests.

In the sphere of a new EU Nature Restoration Plan, the strategy foresees to:

- strengthen the EU legal framework for nature restoration (legally binding targets, no deterioration in conservation trends),
- bring nature back to agricultural land (at least 10% of agricultural area should be brought back under high-diversity landscape features³ organic farming on 25% of EU’s agricultural land). In this segment, connectivity is specifically addressed, as Member States are called upon to translate the 10% EU target to a lower geographical scale to ensure connectivity among habitats, especially through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) instruments and CAP Strategic Plans,
- address land take and restoring soil ecosystems,
- increase the quantity of forests and improving their health and resilience,
- enable win-win solutions for energy generation (new sustainability criteria on forest biomass for energy),
- restore freshwater ecosystems (restoring freshwater ecosystems and natural functions of rivers, restoration of 25.000 km of rivers into free-flowing rivers by 2030),
- green urban and peri-urban areas.

As part of the new governance framework, the strategy foresees to complete the Natura 2000 network and the effective management of all sites, species-protection provisions and species and habitats that show declining trends.

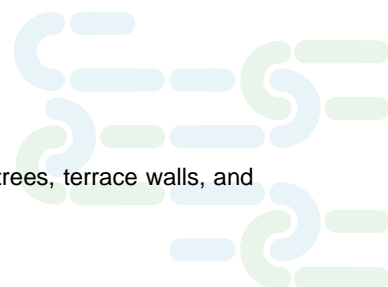
Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2020
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0380	

Nature Restoration Law

On November 11 2023, the EU Parliament has adopted the Nature Restoration Law. The law outlines the following quantitative targets that are expected to significantly affect environmental policies in EU countries:

³ Features include buffer strips, rotational or non-rotational fallow land, hedges, non-productive trees, terrace walls, and ponds.

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- Restoration of at least 20% of EU's land and sea areas by 2030
- Restoration of 30% of Annex I and II ecosystems that are currently in poor condition by 2030 (focus on Natura 2000 sites), 60% by 2040 and 90% by 2050
- Ecosystem-specific obligations:
 - Agriculture: Increase in 2 of 3 indicators (grassland butterfly index (GBI), share of agricultural land with High Diversity Landscape Features (HDLF), stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soil),
 - Forest ecosystems: Increase in deadwood, common forest bird index,
 - Urban ecosystems: No net loss of urban green areas and urban tree canopy,
 - River connectivity: Restore 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers and maintain river connectivity.
- Regular submission of National Restoration Plans, monitoring and progress reporting
- Financing restoration measures

The Nature Restoration Law addresses ecological connectivity in the following contexts (EU Nature Restoration Law Regulation (EU) 2024/1991):

- In the reference section, it underscores
 - the connectivity benefits of target 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework of putting at least 30% of areas of degraded land under effective restoration (paragraph 4),
 - the connectivity needed between the habitats addressed in Directives 92/43/EEC (Habitat Directive) and 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive) (paragraph 29),
 - that restoration measures improve connectivity between these habitats (paragraph 33),
 - efforts in the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to restore the natural connectivity of rivers as well as their riparian areas and floodplains (paragraph 50),
 - opportunities to facilitate connectivity of wetland areas and of associated species populations in the EU in paludiculture practices related to the LULUCF sector reporting in national greenhouse gas inventories by Member States submitted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (paragraph 60)
 - forest connectivity⁴ as monitoring indicator for specific restoration targets for forest ecosystems and the general obligation to improve biodiversity in forest ecosystems
 - that Member states should in their nature restoration plans cooperate to ensure connectivity across borders (paragraph 65)

Connectivity is explicitly addressed through the following articles of the Nature Restoration Law:

- Article 4 (7): Member States shall put in place restoration measures for the terrestrial, coastal and freshwater habitats of the species listed in Annex II, IV and IV of the Habitat-Directive and bird habitats that fall within the scope of the Birds-Directive that are necessary to among others enhance connectivity until sufficient quality and quantity of those habitats is achieved

⁴ Defined as degree of compactness of forest covered areas in the range of 0 to 100 (see Regulation (EU) 2024/1991, Annex VI).



- Article 9: Restoration of the natural connectivity of rivers and natural functions of the related floodplains, including an inventory of artificial barriers to the connectivity of surface waters and identify barriers that need to be improved to contribute to meeting the restoration targets (restoring 25,000 km of rivers into free-flowing rivers). Member States shall remove the barriers identified in the inventory, primarily obsolete barriers, and maintain the restored natural connectivity.
- Article 12 Restoration of forest ecosystems: Member states shall achieve an increasing trend of at least six out of seven indicators for forest ecosystems, including forest connectivity (3d)
- Article 13 Planting three billion trees: Measures shall aim to increase ecological connectivity
- Article 14 Preparation of the national restoration plans: Members states shall quantify the area that needs to be restored based on criteria including sufficient quality and quantity of the habitats of the species required for reaching their favourable conservation status, taking into account the connectivity needed between them in order for the species population to thrive, as well as ongoing and projected changes to environmental conditions (climate change, presence of high nature value farmland). Member States shall identify and map agricultural and forest areas in need of restoration, particularly areas that due to intensification or other management factors are in need of enhanced connectivity
- Article 20 Monitoring: Monitoring shall be carried out at least every six years, forest connectivity being among the indicators.
- Annex VII lists examples of restoration measures referred to in Article 14, including (22) improving connectivity across habitats to enable the development of populations of species, and to allow for sufficient individual or genetic exchange as well as for species' migration and adaptation to climate change.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2024
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0304	

Alpine Convention Implementation Protocol on Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation

The protocol pursues the conservation of the natural environment and of the landscape, with a view to guaranteeing the preservation of animal and plant species and their natural habitats and to ensuring the reproduction of natural resources (art. 1). The Parties undertake to enhance the international cooperation to attain such objectives (art. 3), including interconnecting a network of biotopes

Chapter II of the Protocol lays down specific measures to be applied for the above-mentioned purposes. In particular, the signatories undertake to submit, within three years

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Florian Lintzmeyer / Monika Marzelli, October 2024

from the entry into force of this Protocol, a report relating to the status of the protection of the landscape and the natural environment, as regards the matters listed out in Annex I (which covers, among others, conditions of wild animals and wild plants, hunting, fisheries, agriculture and grazing, protected areas and nature parks). In regard to landscape and territorial planning, Articles 7 and 8 address the intervals and contents of landscape plans and the alignment of landscape and territorial planning. According to Article 12 Ecological network, Contracting Parties shall pursue measures appropriate for creating a national and cross-border network of protected areas, biotopes and other environmental assets. In regard to the Nature Restoration Law of 2024, the 1991 protocol in Article 13 already foresaw the re-naturalisation of impaired habitats.

In Annex II priority subjects for research are being outlined, including (D) extended territorial importance of protection and of agricultural and forestry uses, including “productions caring for [...] biotope networks”.

Type of document: Treaty	In force since: 2002 (drafted in 1991)
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link: "https://www.alpconv.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Convention/EN/Protocol_Energy_EN.pdf" 	

3.4 Water

European Water Framework Directive (WFD, 2000/60/EC)

According to environmental objectives laid out in Article 4 of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD), a good ecological condition respectively potential of all surface water and groundwater shall be reached by 2027 (i.e. 15 years after date of entry into force of the Directive in 2012). For rivers as important connectivity elements, the WFD in Annex V sets out quality elements including hydro-morphological features such as river continuity, allowing migration of aquatic organisms and sediment transport, and morphological conditions of riparian zones. The quality criteria, however, do not address connectivity functions of river courses for terrestrial life.

To reach these quality criteria, Member States according to Article 4 shall implement measures to prevent deterioration, protect, enhance and restore all bodies of surface water and protect and enhance all artificial and heavily modified bodies of water.

The WFD requires reporting of river basin management plans for the 180 European river basins every six years, the most recent being the reporting period of 2022. Included in the above-mentioned quality criteria, river continuity is one of the assessment criteria for the ecological status of surface waters. The Alps include the following international river basin districts: Rhone, Po, Rhine, Eastern Alps, and Danube.

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Type of document: Directive	In force since: 2012
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:5c835afb-2ec6-4577-bdf8-756d3d694eeb.0004.02/DOC_1&format=PDF	

3.5 Climate Protection

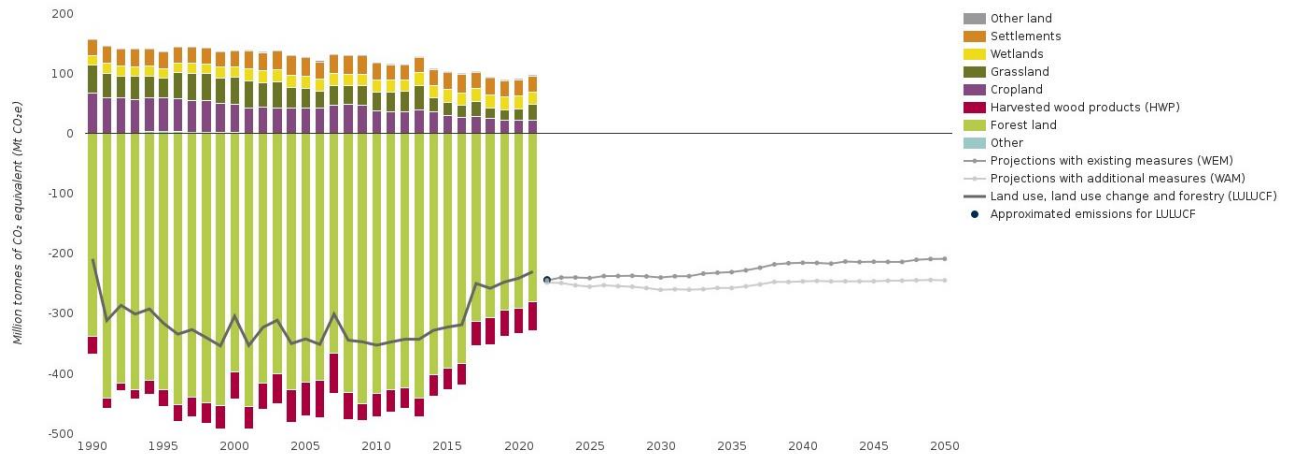
Fit for 55-package

As implementation step for the European Green Deal, the Fit for 55-package represents a set of revisions of EU regulations in order to achieve the EU target of reducing emissions by 55% by 2030 (legal obligation of the European Climate Law). It is part of an effort-sharing approach to involve “diffuse” sectors such as agriculture, housing or road transport that are not covered by the EU’s Emission Trading System (EU-ETS). Part of it is the revision of the EU Regulation on land, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) that sets out how the land use sector is expected to contribute to the EU’s climate goals. In 2023, the regulation was revised for the period up to 2030, incorporating a separate land-based net carbon removal target of 310 million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent by 2030, to be implemented through binding net removal national targets for the LULUCF sector. Carbon sink measures include sustainable forest management or peatland rewetting. The most recent monitoring report, the EU Climate Action Progress Report 2023 (European Commission 2023), concludes that carbon removals have declined at a worrying speed in recent years due to a decrease in forest-related removals triggered by increased harvesting, reduced carbon sequestration in ageing forests and climate-change related disturbances such as wind throws, insect and fungus outbreaks, forest fires and droughts (see decreasing CO₂ removals for forest land and harvested wood products in Figure 2).

Projections with existing measures adopted by the Member States suggest that the EU is not on track to meet its 2030 net removal target for the LULUCF sector (see Figure 2). For 2021, the latest year depicted in Figure 2, the net removal (removals (= negative values in the chart) minus emissions (positive values)) in the LULUCF sector amounted to -230 Mio tonnes of CO₂-equivalent. Hence, a ramping up of measures for net carbon removal in the LULUCF sector can be expected for the future if the 2030 target of 310 Mio. tonnes net removal is to be met. To ensure EU-certified carbon removals, the EU has proposed a



regulatory EU framework to transparently identify and certify carbon farming and industrial solutions that remove CO2 from the atmosphere.



Source: https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/daviz/eu-emissions-and-removals-of-2#tab-chart_2

Figure 2 LULUCF sector emissions and removals in the EU, by main land use category

Type of document: Regulation	In force since: 2021
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/green-deal/fit-for-55-the-eu-plan-for-a-green-transition/	



4 National policy levels

4.1 Germany

4.1.1 National policy level

4.1.1.1 Energy

Onshore Wind Law (Gesetz zur Erhöhung und Beschleunigung des Ausbaus von Windenergieanlagen an Land - WaLG) / Wind Energy Land Requirements Act (Windbedarfsgesetz - WindBG)

The law implements the target of the coalition treaty to designate 2% of the German national territory for the use of wind power and to resolve the lack of available land for the accelerated expansion of onshore wind power. § 3 requires every German federal state to designate a fixed percentage of its territory for wind power use in a two-step timeline. Proclaimed on July 28th 2022, the law entered into force on February 1st 2023.

For Bavaria as well as Baden-Württemberg, the target is 1.1% of its territory⁵⁵ until 2027 and ultimately 1.8% until 2032. The federal states need to fulfil the requirement by designating respective shares in state programmes or through regional or municipal plans.

The law also encompasses changes to the Federal Building Code (Baugesetzbuch - BauGB) and the Federal Nature Protection Law (Bundesnaturschutzgesetz - BNatSchG) by waiving the need for EIA or Species Protection Assessment in Wind Energy Areas in case these have been carried out when establishing the Wind Energy Areas.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2022
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.bgbl.de/xaver/bgbl/start.xav?startbk=Bundesanzeiger_BGBI&start=//%5b@attr_id=%27bgbl122s1353.pdf%27%5d#__bgbl__%2F%2F%5B%40attr_id%3D%27bgbl122s1353.pdf%27%5D__1723736145114	

⁵⁵ Total state size: Bavaria 70,541.57 sqkm, Baden-Württemberg 35,747.82 sqkm.



4.1.1.2 Nature Protection

Nature-Land-Law (Natur-Flächen-Gesetz, NFG)

As part of a 2023 Federal Government's coalition decision entitled "Modernisation Package for Climate Protection and Planning Acceleration", a "consultation process with associations, practice and science" should be initiated in order to elaborate a law to quickly and effectively secure areas of particular importance for the protection of ecosystem functions⁶: "In order to legally secure sufficient and interconnected areas for restoration and nature conservation in terms of spatial planning, the possibility of defining a contiguous biotope network across state borders as a priority area is to be created. To this end, the Federal Government will initiate a Land Requirements Act."

Applying the approach of the Wind Energy Land Requirements Act to the NFG, areas could be designated, in which (1) nature is given priority and (2) legal adjustments apply that facilitate and accelerate the protection and restoration of nature. The focus seems to be on the national biotope network and achieving international and national targets for increasing surface area for nature protection. The environmental NGO Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V. (NABU) commissioned a legal expertise⁷ on the feasibility of legal acceleration processes.

Type of document: Law	Proposal, not yet enacted
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://blogs.nabu.de/naturschaetze-retten/nfg/	

⁶ Section based on <https://blogs.nabu.de/naturschaetze-retten/nfg/>; <https://www.nabude.de/magazin/archiv/aenderungen-im-naturschutzrecht-nach-dem-koalitionsausschuss,QUIEPTc1MzM3OTEEmTUIEPTgyMDMw.html>

⁷ <https://www.nabu.de/imperia/md/content/nabude/230202-nabu-stellungnahme-renaturierung.pdf>



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4.1.1.3 Transport

Planning Acceleration Law (Genehmigungsbeschleunigungsgesetz, GBeschlG)

As national implementation of EU Directive 221/1187 (see Smart TEN-T directive above), the draft legislation 20/6879 of the German Parliament (Genehmigungsbeschleunigungsgesetz GBeschlG) aims at accelerating permit-granting procedures in the transport sector in order to implement investments in a “fast, efficient and targeted way” (Bundestags-Drucksache 20/6879).

The draft legislation applies acceleration regulations of the Liquid Natural Gas (LNG)-acceleration law (LNG-Beschleunigungsgesetz – LNGG of May 24 2022) to the transport sector. It foresees an overriding public interest for particularly important higher-ranking road infrastructure and rail infrastructure projects. Changes to the Federal Highway Act include the regulation of wind power and solar panel installations along highways. On previously identified areas, these will be implemented in the course of constructing or renewing highways.

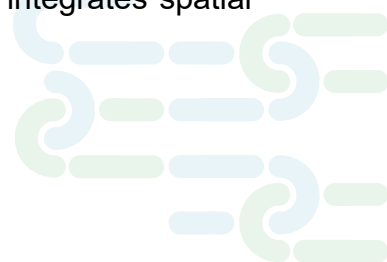
In the process of passing the GBeschlG, the German Parliament adopted a position paper on Species Protection and Rail Infrastructure (BMDV 2023). In regard to selected and in respect to rail infrastructure particularly relevant species (e.g. sand and wall lizards), the BMDV-paper stipulates standardization and simplification of procedures without lowering protection for the respective species.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://bmdv.bund.de/DE/Themen/Mobilitaet/Infrastrukturplanung-Investitionen/Planungsbeschleunigung/planungsbeschleunigung.html	

4.1.1.4 Spatial Planning

Act amending the Spatial Planning Act and other regulations (Gesetz zur Änderung des Raumordnungsgesetzes und anderer Vorschriften, ROGÄndG)

As part of the Accelerator for Wind Power and Grid Expansion and referring to EU 2022/2577, the ROGÄndG amends the Spatial Planning Act. It facilitates accelerated planning and permission procedures in the field of spatial planning and approval of wind power plants in “go-to-areas” expands target deviation procedures, and integrates spatial planning and plan permit-granting procedures to avoid duplicating EIA.



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Type of document: Law	In force since: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://dip.bundestag.de/vorgang/gesetz-zur-%C3%A4nderung-des-raumordnungsgesetzes-und-anderer-vorschriften-rog%C3%A4ndg/292384	

4.1.2 Regional level

4.1.2.1 Energy

Bavarian Law on Climate Protection (Bayerisches Klimaschutzgesetz - BayKlimG)

Enacted in 2021 and revised in 2023, the BayKlimG sets the target to reduce GHG-emissions until 2030 by 65% compared to the reference year 1990 and achieve climate-neutrality in Bavaria by 2040. Besides energy savings and efficiency gains, the deployment of new renewable energy generation is one of the key approaches to achieve these targets. The law assigns an overriding public interest and public security interest to the installation and operation of renewable energy generation facilities and their related infrastructure (grids).

Furthermore and starting in 2028, the BayKlimG Art. 4 foresees the compensation of remaining GHG-emissions caused by the Bavarian public sector (state agencies, state administration) through appropriate measures. Municipalities are called upon to similarly compensate their GHG-emissions. The Bavarian State Agency for the Environment is foreseen to act as a facilitator and monitoring institution.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2021 Latest revision in: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://www.stmuv.bayern.de/themen/klimaschutz/klimaschutzgesetz/ and https://www.gesetze-bayern.de/Content/Document/BayKlimaG	

Bavarian Wind Energy Offensive (Bayerische Windenergieoffensive - AUFWIND)

Established in 2020, the Bavarian Wind Energy Offensive (Bayerische Windenergieoffensive AUFWIND) promotes the deployment of wind energy through financing “wind caretakers (“Windkümmerer”)” that provide support to regions and municipalities, the adaptation of national and state regulations, the promotion of new

technologies (e.g. pilot project on camera-based shut-down devices in forest-based wind turbines to minimise bird collisions), and other facilitating measures.

Type of document: Initiative	In force since: 2020
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://www.stmwi.bayern.de/energie/energiewende/aufwind/	

Designation of wind power priority areas in regional plans (Regionalplanerische Ausweisung von Windenergieflächen)

The Bavarian State Development Programme requires regional planning levels to designate priority areas for wind power installations in the course of area-wide management concepts. Additionally, these concepts may entail areas to be reserved for wind power (Vorbehaltsgebiete) or where wind power is excluded (Ausschlussgebiete). According to the binding quantitative targets set forth in the WindBG (see above), Bavaria needs to designate 1.1% of its surface cover as wind energy priority area by 2027 and 1.8% by 2032. Regional or municipal targets may be established by the German federal states, but for Bavaria this step is not foreseen until 2027⁸.

If planning regions meet the 2027 respectively 2032 targets, wind energy installations will only be permissible within wind energy priority areas. However, if they fail to meet the above-mentioned target, wind energy installations will be an unlimited privileged purpose according to the Federal Building Code (BauGB §35, Section 1, Nr. 5). Consequently, wind energy priority areas lose their concentrating effect and installations will be widely permissible with municipalities and planning regions losing their leverage to influence locations.

According to the 2023 Bavarian Status Report on the deployment of wind energy, 800 to 1.000 new wind turbines are planned in the coming years (see also Bavarian Coalition Treaty 2023-2028, chapter 5). Currently, 36,653 ha are designated for wind energy in state or regional planning, with an additional 389 ha currently in the process of being incorporated at the state or regional planning level and 3,853 ha at the municipal planning level. In total, adopted and planned wind energy areas account for roughly 41.000 ha resp. 0.58% of the Bavarian land area. Meeting the above-mentioned targets will require a doubling of priority areas by 2027 and a tripling by 2032 compared to the status quo of 2023.

⁸ https://www.pv-muenchen.de/fileadmin/Medien_PV/Veranstaltungen/Bauamtsleitertreffen/Klima_Energie_2022/02_VA_KlimaEnergie_Windkraft_Wissmann_DrSpiess.pdf



Additional information on the Bavarian framework for wind power generation can be obtained from the Bavarian state profile⁹ elaborated by the Federal Agency for On-Shore Wind Energy.

Type of document: Plan	In force since: 2013 Latest revision in: 2021
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Downloads/E/EEG-Kooperationsausschuss/2023/laenderbericht-bayern-2023.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4	

4.1.2.2 Nature Protection

Bavarian Nature Protection Law (Bayerisches Naturschutzgesetz - BayNatschG)

In an amendment to the Bavarian Nature Protection Law in 2019 – following an initiative for a state-wide referendum on improved species protection - Art. 19 was revised to include the establishment of state-wide network of spatially and functionally connected biotopes (biotope network) of at least 10% share of the total area non-forested area by 2023, 13% by 2027 and 15% by 2030.

The Federal (§ 21 BNatSchG) and the Bavarian Nature Protection Law (§ 19 BayNatSchG) define the characteristics of the biotope network, including core areas, connecting areas and connecting elements, which are to be secured legally with appropriate measures.

An annual status report¹⁰, drafted by the upper-level Nature Protection Agency of Bavaria (Oberste Naturschutzbehörde), will inform the state parliament and the interested public about progress made in regard to the biotope network. The status report 2021 draws attention to the former spatial planning categories of “Priority areas for Nature and Landscape” at the level of Regional Plans resp. Landscape Framework Plans, which have been abandoned in the course of the 2006 “deregulation” campaign of the Bavarian State Government. In line with the spatial planning objective for binding commitments in spatial plans, the status report proposes to consider whether a “Priority Area Biotopes Network”, analogous to the established category of “Green Corridors” or the above-mentioned priority area category could be (re)introduced.

⁹ https://www.fachagentur-windenergie.de/fileadmin/files/Laenderinformationen/FA_Wind_Laenderinfo_Windenergie_BY.pdf

¹⁰ Cf. <https://www.lfu.bayern.de/natur/bayaz/biotopverbund/index.htm> and status report for 2022 at https://www.naturvielfalt.bayern.de/arten_und_lebensraeume/biotopverbund/doc/statusbericht_2022.pdf

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Type of document: Law	In force since: 2011 Last revision in: 2024
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.gesetze-bayern.de/Content/Document/BayNatSchG , for status reports see https://www.naturvielfalt.bayern.de/arten_und_lebensraeume/biotopverbund/	

Bavarian Contractual Nature Conservation Programme for Open Land (Bayerisches Vertragsnaturschutzprogramm VNP) -

The Bavarian Contractual Nature Conservation Programme for Open Land (VNP) preserves and improves ecologically valuable habitats that are dependent on nature-friendly management. Farmers who voluntarily manage their land in accordance with nature conservation objectives receive appropriate compensation for the additional work and loss of income. The measures are generally concluded for a period of five years. The Bavarian Contractual Nature Conservation Programme for Open Land is an important instrument of the state government's nature conservation policy for the development of the European Natura 2000 network of protected areas and for the implementation of the Bavarian Biodiversity Strategy.

Type of document: Programme	In force since: 1983 Last revision in: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.stmuv.bayern.de/themen/naturschutz/naturschutzfoerderung/vertragsnaturschutzprogramm/index.htm	

Bavarian-wide Concept for Expanding the Biotope Network (Bayernweites Konzept zur Ausweitung des Biotopverbundes)

In order to achieve the objective of assigning 15% of open landscape (“Offenland”) until 2030, laid down in Art. 19 Paragraph 1 of the Bavarian Nature Protection Law, the Bavarian Species Protection Center (Bayerisches Artenschutzzentrum - BayAZ) is tasked with elaborating a state-wide concept for expansion of the biotope network.

The biotope network consists of core areas, connecting areas and connecting elements, which must be legally protected by suitable measures. Connecting areas and connecting elements are considered together from a technical point of view. The State of Bavaria is obliged to document the progress of the biotope network in an annual report (see BayNatSchG description above).

Type of document: Plan	In force since: 2022
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.lfu.bayern.de/natur/bayaz/biotopverbund/konzept_ausweitung/index.htm	

4.1.2.3 Spatial Planning

Bavarian State Development Programme (Landesentwicklungsprogramm – LEP)

As planning principle 7.1.6, the Bavarian State Development Programme (Landesentwicklungsprogramm LEP) stipulates that habitats for wild animal and plant species are to be secured and developed under the aspect of climate change. Terrestrial, aquatic and aerial corridors of wild species are to be secured and restored.

As planning target 7.1.6, a continuous network of biotopes shall be created and expanded.

The explanatory section related to this principle and target stresses the importance of migratory corridors. Artificial barriers such as transportation and energy infrastructure as well as transverse obstructions in watercourses cannot be overcome by some species and have a separating effect. The programme stresses that animal crossing aids can only minimise the ecological fragmentation effect of ribbon-like infrastructure facilities, in particular roads, high-speed roads and high-speed railroad lines when their hinterland connections, i.e. the corridors that connect them, are permanently maintained. Consequently, the programme stresses the importance of permanently safeguarding a functional hinterland connection to these structures.

Furthermore, the LEP stresses the importance of enabling avoidance and migratory movements and providing alternative corridors and habitats for wild animal and plant species as their responses to the effects of climate change (drought, landscape water balance). In this context, the LEP specifically mentions the Alps as being of outstanding importance due to their still intact biotope network and few artificial barriers.

For the designation of wind power priority areas in regional plans see above.



Type of document: Plan	In force since: 1976 Last revision in: 2023 Designation of wind power priority areas In force since:2013 Last revision:2021
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.stmwi.bayern.de/fileadmin/user_upload/stmwi/Landesentwicklung/Dokumente/Instrumente/Landesentwicklungsprogramm/LEP_2023/230601_LEP_Lesefassung.pdf	



4.2 Austria

4.2.1 National policy level

4.2.1.1 Energy

Amendment of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act of 2023 (UVPG-Novelle 2023)

The amendment that entered into force on March 23, 2023 provides the legal basis for procedural accelerations of energy transition projects. Additionally, it amends the consideration of project-related greenhouse gas emissions and use and soil sealing in EIA procedures. The protection of biodiversity is being strengthened through effective regulations regarding the implementation of EIA and SEA determination procedures and the EIA obligation of projects with significant environmental impacts.

Even though conservation areas (Natura2000, national conservation areas) are primarily being considered no-go areas for the implementation of wind turbines, the amendment potentially affects ecological connectivity as many open spaces are not well protected and can therefore qualify as potential areas for the development of wind turbines.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 1985 Latest revision in: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/Gesetzliche-Neuerungen/archiv-bgbl-2023/Umweltvertraeglichkeitspruefungsgesetz.html	

Renewable Energies Expansion Act (Erneuerbaren-Ausbau-Gesetz (EAG))

Adopted in 2021, the EAG set the objective of an increase in renewable energy capacity of 27 TWh by 2030. The target is to be achieved in consideration of strict ecological criteria in regard to funding eligibility, with photovoltaic (11 TWh) and wind (10 TWh) contributing the largest share, followed by hydropower (5 TWh) and biomass (1 TWh). § 56, 56a and 57 outline funding criteria for photovoltaic, hydropower, wind power and biomass projects, including ecological exclusion criteria such as deterioration of the state of preservation of natural habitats in the case of new or retrofitted hydropower installations.



Type of document: Law	In force since: 2021 Latest revision in: 2024
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20011619	

Electricity Industry and Organisation Act (Elektrizitätswirtschafts- und -organisationsgesetz (EiwG))

With the planned 2024 amendment of the EiwG, the framework conditions for renewable energy production and acceleration of network access of solar and wind power facilities is envisaged.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2010 Latest revision in: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20007045	

4.2.1.2 Nature Conservation

Biodiversity Strategy 2030+ (Biodiversitätsstrategie 2030+)

The Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2030+, enacted in 2022, defines strategic goals for Austria for the next ten years on the basis of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The strategy is a political document with relatively little binding content. Nevertheless, it provides a rough development framework for biodiversity in Austria.

In view of the envisaged 2030 target of 100% renewable energy (net sum at national level) and the phase-out of fossil energy generation by 2040, the Biodiversity Strategy formulates as targets to

- Find and implement synergistic solutions for expansion of renewable energies and biodiversity protection,
- And to facilitate the phase-out of fossil energy sources and energy transitions towards 100% renewables including transmission grid and storage in a way that safeguards biodiversity protection.

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Measures include (BMK 2022:88ff)

- Coordination of climate protection and biodiversity measures with focus on measures with synergies
- Safeguarding environmentally-compatible expansion of renewable energy through incentives and regulation
- Reduction of negative effects of surges and their effects on aquatic wildlife
- Incremental dismantling of unnecessary and energetically not usable grey infrastructure (transverse structures in waterbodies) with the objective to improve the ecological condition of habitats
- Elaboration of decision-making material (i.e. cost-effectiveness calculations, ecological impact analysis, biotope mapping, landscape assessments) for suitability and exclusion criteria for renewable energy installations in open spaces
- Designation of priority areas for renewable energy facilities with accelerated permit-granting procedures and possibly exclusion zones (e.g. for ecologically sensitive areas) using ecological, technical and economic criteria
- Implementation of ground-mounted photovoltaic using synergies with biodiversity measures

Short-term measures for the transport sector of the Biodiversity Strategy 2030+ include the reduction of barrier effects of transport infrastructure through crossing aids such as green bridges and passages/tunnels for small wildlife (ibid:91).

The Strategy outlines objectives and measures to achieve effective protection and a network of all ecologically valuable habitats. Objectives include the participatory development of a network of protected areas that is representative for Austria's habitats and which is connected and optimised through functioning Green Infrastructure. Measures for immediate implementation include assessing options to enhance habitat corridors through structural ecological improvements in the framework of contractual nature conservation arrangements and the targeted selection of compensation measures to connect protected areas.

Medium-term measures include the assessment and safeguarding of continuous areas with low light pollution and the delineation of habitat corridors at all levels of spatial planning in the respective planning documents and the best possible consideration in planning and decision making processes. Additionally, Green Infrastructure is supposed to be strengthened in an exemplary way through improving connectivity of protected areas along the European Green Belt.

Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2022
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima_umwelt/naturschutz/biol_vielfalt/biodiversitaetsstrategie/biodiversitaetsstrategie_2030.html	

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4.2.1.3 Water

Water Rights Act (Wasserrechtsgesetz)

The Water Rights Act is the central federal law for measures on and in bodies of water in Austria. In particular, it defines the public water assets that may not be impaired. Objectives for sustainable management, particularly protection and avoidance of pollution of water bodies are laid out in §30ff. This also includes the embankment area of bodies of water, however without specifically addressing the connectivity function of water bodies. Interventions require authorisation in accordance with this law.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 1959 Latest revision: 2018
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010290	

4.2.1.4 Agriculture

Austrian Programme for Environmentally Sound Agriculture (Österreichisches Programm für umweltgerechte Landwirtschaft (ÖPUL 2023))

As national implementation of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, the ÖPUL is a financing instrument for ecological services provided by Austrian agriculture with the objective to counter both abandonment as well as intensification of agricultural use. Contributions to the protection of biodiversity, improvement of ecosystem services and conservation of habitats and landscapes are among the five overriding ÖPUL targets.

In regard to ecological connectivity, the following funding measures are particularly relevant among the total of 25 categories for measures outlined in ÖPUL 2023:

- Environmentally-sound and biodiversity-supporting agricultural use
- Cultivation of Alpine meadows
- Nature protection
- Subsidies for agricultural activities in Natura 2000 and other protected areas
- Water Framework Directive – Agriculture



Individual fact sheets for each of the 25 measures outline the funding conditions and requirements, e.g. for “environmentally-sound and biodiversity-supporting agricultural use”¹¹ the required extent of biodiversity plots on cropland or pastures, landscape elements and hedgerows.

Type of document: Funding programme	In force since: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://info.bml.gv.at/themen/landwirtschaft/gemeinsame-agrarpolitik-foerderungen/nationaler-strategieplan/oepul-ab-2023/oepul-2023.html	

4.2.2 Federal state level

4.2.2.1 Spatial planning

Salzburg regional development programme (Salzburger Landesentwicklungsprogramm)

The programme defines guiding principles for desirable development with an orientation towards climate-friendly and sustainable spatial development for the province of Salzburg (Land Salzburg 2022). Chapter 6.6 designates open-space and connectivity corridors on a state-wide basis for Salzburg. A thematic map delineates corridors of supraregional importance as well as core habitats, representing continuous, non-fragmented landscape units outside the permanent settlement area. Connectivity corridors are described as “remaining network axes between core habitats”, which should be kept free from “additional hard barriers e.g. transport and infrastructure axes or certain forms of settlements”. Corridors connect habitats of large mammals and should allow for their natural migratory movements. Respecting the municipal planning authority, this objective concerns mainly supra-regional green and migratory corridors within the responsibility of supra-regional planning levels.

Chapter 6.9 outlines a criteria catalogue for the identification of conflict potential for zoning of ground-mounted solar panels (ibid:40, including in the sub-section on nature protection criteria “areas of relevance for the biotope network, with landscape structural elements or site-specific features”, to which it assigns a “high conflict potential”. In the sub-section on

¹¹ [https://www.ama.at/getattachment/3a7e8e0e-0dbf-4bdc-8ae9-e29c261c05bb/O6_1A_Umweltgerechte_und_biodiversitaetsfoerdernde_Bewirtschaftung_\(UBB\)_2024_03.pdf](https://www.ama.at/getattachment/3a7e8e0e-0dbf-4bdc-8ae9-e29c261c05bb/O6_1A_Umweltgerechte_und_biodiversitaetsfoerdernde_Bewirtschaftung_(UBB)_2024_03.pdf)



spatial planning, a high conflict potential is also assigned when open-space and migratory corridors as outline in chapter 6.10 are affected.

In chapter 6.10, the programme also includes a process towards the delineation of priority zones for wind power facilities. Part of this process is a criteria- and spatial analysis of conflict and synergy potentials. Natural spaces/ecology represents one of the five thematic criteria clusters that in the case of wind power priority zones need to be checked. Besides migratory routes for birds, none of the 25 sub-criteria explicitly refers to connectivity functions outside of protected areas (ibid:45).

Type of document: Programme	In force since: 1994 Latest revision in: 2022
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.salzburg.gv.at/bauenwohnen_/Documents/230118V2-Landesentwicklungsprogr_2022_O_.pdf	

4.2.2.2 Energy

Climate and energy strategy SALZBURG 2050 (Klima- und Energiestrategie Salzburg 2050)

The strategy sets medium and long-term targets for 2020, 2030 and 2040 and ultimately complete climate neutrality and energy autonomy by 2050. On the one hand, the strategy underlines the important task of limiting the effects of climate change for Salzburg's population, economy and natural environment. On the other hand, the expansion of renewable energies and infrastructure could pose a threat to natural habitats.

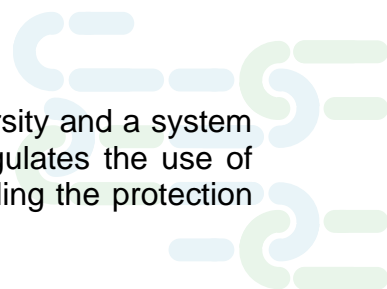
Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2021
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://www.salzburg.gv.at/themen/umwelt/salzburg2050/klima_energie	

4.2.2.3 Nature Conservation

Carinthian Nature Conservation Act (Kärntner Naturschutzgesetz)

The Nature Conservation Act specifies measures for conserving biodiversity and a system for protecting natural values to contribute to nature conservation. It regulates the use of natural environments and ensures their sustainable management, including the protection

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of wild plant and animal species, their genetic material, habitats, and ecosystems, while maintaining natural balance. The law puts in force several EU directives on wildlife and habitats protection.

Certain federal states such as Carinthia¹² have drafted thematic concepts for open spaces, identifying core areas and wildlife corridors and provide these geodata sets for spatial planning.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2002 (reviewed 2022)
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrK&Gesetzesnummer=20000118	

Local Development Concepts (Örtliche Entwicklungskonzepte (ÖEK))

Local Development Concepts in various Austrian states delineate “green connections” that are to be kept free from settlement development, either as descriptive category for the status quo as well as outlining planning objectives for strengthening green connections at the local and regional scale.

Type of document: Concepts	In force since: 1994
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	

¹² <https://lebensraumvernetzung.at/de/projects/6>.



4.3 France

4.3.1 National policy level

4.3.1.1 Energy

Decree n° 2024-318 for the development of agrivoltaics and the conditions for the installation of photovoltaic installations on agricultural, natural or forest land (Décret n° 2024-318 relatif au développement de l'agrivoltaïsme et aux conditions d'implantation des installations photovoltaïques sur des terrains agricoles, naturels ou forestiers)

The decree¹³ aims to promote the development of agrivoltaics by setting the rules and standards for the installation of solar panels while preserving agricultural, forest and natural areas. It does not specifically address ecological connectivity, but excludes protected landscapes from the development of the projects concerned by the decree and emphasizes the importance of safeguarding the multi-functionality of areas where agrivoltaics projects are planned.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2024
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000049386027	

Law for the acceleration of the production of renewable energies (Loi n° 2023-175 du 10 mars 2023 relative à l'accélération de la production d'énergies renouvelables) -

The law¹⁴ aims to accelerate the deployment of renewable energies in France, which implies a simplification of the authorisation processes, the identification of suitable or "acceleration zones" designated at the territorial level and the allocation of funds for the development of renewable energy production projects. The law represents a potential threat for ecological connectivity, as acceleration areas and the simplified approval processes applied for these areas can potentially impair connectivity functions.

¹³ <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000049386027>

¹⁴ <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/dossierlegislatif/JORFDOLE000046329719/>



Type of document: Law	In force since: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/dossierlegislatif/JORFDOLE000046329719/	

Climate and resilience law (Loi n° 2021-1104 du 22 août 2021 portant lutte contre le dérèglement climatique et renforcement de la résilience face à ses effets)

The Climate and Resilience Law¹⁵ represents the implementation framework to contribute to the European climate action and to achieve the goals set forth in the COP21 Paris Agreement. The law sets specific objectives for renewable energy production and provides a framework for the development of citizen-led renewable energy production communities, specifically promoting RE infrastructure on artificial surfaces.

The Climate and Resilience law also includes targets to reduce land take, with the long-term target to achieve zero net land take by 2050. Subordinate levels of spatial and urban planning are required to consecutively adopt land take reduction targets for their respective territories and it is expected that ecological connectivity will benefit from this stricter framework for future urban development.

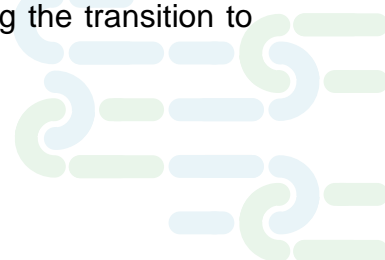
Type of document: Law	In force since: 2021
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043956924	

4.3.1.2 Spatial planning

Law designed to facilitate the implementation of objectives to reduce the artificialisation and to strengthen support for local elected representatives (Loi n° 2023-630 du 20 juillet 2023 visant à faciliter la mise en œuvre des objectifs de lutte contre l'artificialisation des sols et à renforcer l'accompagnement des élus locaux)

The law aims to reduce land take by regulating the conversion of natural, agricultural and forest land through tools (training, information, technical and budget tools) for local authorities and modifying the legal framework. The latter includes a recalibration of planning documents to better integrate the land-take reduction targets, supporting the transition to

¹⁵ <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043956924>



renewable energy and integrating sustainable land management practices into spatial planning. While the law does not specifically address ecological connectivity, it expands competences at the territorial level to minimise fragmentation caused by ongoing land-take.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000047866733	

4.3.1.3 Nature protection

Law for the recovery of biodiversity, nature and landscapes (Loi n° 2016-1087 du 8 août 2016 pour la reconquête de la biodiversité, de la nature et des paysages)

The law¹⁶ establishes the actions and the governance structure for preserving the biodiversity and the services it provides. It promotes the integration of renewable energy sources in urban planning and development. Environmental impact assessment is strengthened for the development of new projects that must consider the impacts on biodiversity following the "avoid, reduce and compensate" approach.

Ecological connectivity is directly addressed in the principles of the biodiversity strategy as well as in regard to the integration of GBI (Trame verte et bleu) in the urban planning legal framework.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2016
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000033016237	

¹⁶ <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000033016237>



4.3.2 Regional level

4.3.2.1 Nature protection

Law on the modernisation, development and protection of mountain territories Loi montagne (LOI n° 2016-1888 du 28 décembre 2016 de modernisation, de développement et de protection des territoires de montagne)

As a general framework for the French mountain areas, the law regulates sustainable development of mountain territories responding to the challenges of climate change, preservation of biodiversity and nature preservation. Regarding renewable energy, the law encourages the development and integration of renewable energy sources in mountain regions with a focus on improving energy efficiency. The development of these infrastructures is integrated into regional plans that are required to include assessments regarding compatibility of these RE energy facilities with current land uses and conservation goals. Thus, it in principle represents an opportunity to reconcile the expansion of renewable energy installations with aspects of ecological connectivity.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 1986 Latest revision: 2016
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000033717812	



4.4 Italy

4.4.1 National policy level

4.4.1.1 Energy

National integrated energy and climate plan (Piano Nazionale Integrato per l'Energia e il Clima (PNIEC)).

The PNIEC strategy (Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico/ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare/ Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti 2019) lays out the following main objectives regarding the share of energy from RES in the Italian gross final energy consumption by 2030:

- Increase to a total share of 30%, up from a 16%-share in 2016
- Annual increase of 1.3% for heating and cooling until 2030
- 22% share for the transport sector

Main measures with a territorial dimension include for RE energy producing facilities a consultation with local authorities to identify suitable area as well as an upgrading of the regional railway infrastructure.

The fact that the share of RE is supposed to be doubled between 2016 to 2030 could have a high spatial impact on the territory and the landscapes. However, the territorial dimension is rarely mentioned in the strategy which could be a threat to nature protection issues.

Among the Professional Units (PUs) considered to be most involved in the energy transition scenario, environmental engineers and Environment Monitoring Technicians are mentioned, but spatial planners are not considered.

Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2019
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/pniec_finale_17012020.pdf	

Principles and guiding criteria for the implementation of Directive (EU) 2018/2001, on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (LEGGE 22 aprile 2021, n. 53, Delega al Governo per il recepimento delle direttive europee e l'attuazione di altri atti dell'Unione europea - Legge di delegazione europea 2019-2020. Art.5: Principi e criteri direttivi per l'attuazione della direttiva (UE) 2018/2001, sulla promozione dell'uso dell'energia da fonti rinnovabili)

The law¹⁷ defines a framework of regulations, aimed at establishing criteria for the identification of suitable and not suitable areas for renewable energy installations, considering the values of the territory (taken over by the legislative decree 8 November 2021), and the demand for electric energy.

The regulation refers to renewable energy plants with a total capacity at least equal to that identified as necessary by the PNIEC and determines that the planning process for identifying suitable areas is to be carried out by each region or autonomous province. According to the law, the principles of minimising impacts on the environment, territory and landscape must be respected, without losing sight of the requirements necessary to achieve the decarbonisation targets by 2030. The law makes provisions for simplified authorisation procedures and defines a series of objectives to promote renewable energy installations.

As the framework is defined in a very general manner, its direct impact on ecological connectivity can hardly be assessed.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2021
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2021-04-22;53~art5-com1-letb	

Implementation of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. (ART. 20 - Regulations for the identification of surfaces and areas suitable for the installation of renewable energy plants) (DECRETO LEGISLATIVO 8 novembre 2021 , n. 199, Attuazione della direttiva (UE) 2018/2001 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, dell'11 dicembre 2018, sulla promozione dell'uso dell'energia da fonti rinnovabili. (ART. 20 - Disciplina per l'individuazione di superfici e aree idonee per l'installazione di impianti a fonti rinnovabili) "Legislative decree 8 November) 2021, no°199 -

As outlined in the PNIEC, Italy aims to achieve a minimum target of 30% as overall share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption. This law¹⁸ provides financial incentives for renewable energy installation.

According to Art. 20, when defining the regulations relating to suitable areas for renewable energy installations, the needs for the protection of cultural heritage and landscape, of

¹⁷ <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2021-04-22;53~art5-com1-letb>

¹⁸ https://www.gse.it/normativa_site/GSE%20Documenti%20normativa/ITALIA_DLGS_n199__08_11_2021.pdf



agricultural and forestry areas, air quality and water bodies must be taken into account. This entails favouring the use of surfaces of built structures such as industrial warehouses and car parks, and verifying the suitability of areas that cannot be used for other purposes, including high-quality agricultural land that cannot be used. The law obliges regions to identify suitable areas, also with the support of the GSE¹⁹ online platform (management of energy services).

However, areas not included among the suitable areas cannot be declared unsuitable for the installation of renewable energy production plants, either in the context of spatial planning or within the framework of individual proceedings, on the simple reason of non-inclusion in the list of suitable areas.

Disused, unrecovered or abandoned quarries and mines or those in an environmentally degraded condition are defined a priori as suitable for renewable energy installations.

With Art. 21, the national level commits itself to providing regions and provinces with a digital platform for the identification of suitable areas.

Art.22 determines that...

(a) in procedures for the authorisation of electricity production plants fuelled by renewable energy sources on suitable areas, the competent landscape authority shall provide a mandatory non-binding opinion. Once the time limit for the expression of the non-binding opinion has expired, the competent authority shall in any case decide on the request for authorisation;

(b) the time limits for authorisation procedures for installations in suitable areas are reduced by one third.

The law is supporting the installation of renewable energy installation focussing on areas that are already compromised by infrastructure and other anthropogenic uses and defining that the landscape should not be harmed. However, the following aspects could represent threats for connectivity:

- Ecological connectivity or protected areas are not explicitly mentioned.
- The fact that areas not included among the suitable areas cannot be declared unsuitable for the installation of renewable energy production plants is giving wide room for interpretation, favouring RE installations.
- The general definition of abandoned mineral extraction sites as suitable areas for renewable energy installation is reducing the importance of spatial planning with its competence to conduct an evaluation of best suitable land use.
- The platform which should provide information on suitable areas for energy installation is currently not considering protected areas or other areas, important to preserve Green Infrastructure networks.

¹⁹ Digital Platform for Suitable Areas (for renewable energy installations): <https://www.gse.it/en>



- There is a heterogeneity among Italian regions regarding methodologies to define suitable or unsuitable areas.

Type of document: Directive / legislative degree	In force since: 22/04/2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.gse.it/normativa_site/GSE%20Documenti%20normativa/ITALIA_DLGS_n199__08_11_2021.pdf	

“Eligible areas” for RES plants: transition to the RED III Directive, Italian legislation DECRETO 21 giugno 2024

Disciplina per l'individuazione di superfici e aree idonee per l'installazione di impianti a fonti rinnovabili. (24A03360) (GU Serie Generale n.153 del 02-07-2024))

For larger plants, it appears from the regulations indicated that the first step of the EIA, the verification of compatibility at the programmatic and planning level, has already been passed. The first step of making environmental assessments is always to assess their locational compatibility. The laws represent a (partial) ex ante environmental compatibility assessment, whereby the legislator has assumed that the level of anthropogenic use of these areas and/or their low ecosystem sensitivity allows them to be exploited a priori.

In July 2024, the “Eligible Area” Decree for renewable energy plants issued by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Safety and the Ministry of Agriculture outlined the framework for categorising areas for renewable energy plants (“DM Aree Idonee”). According to Article 1 of the DM, it pursues to identify the distribution of the national 2030 target of installing additional capacities of 80 GW from renewable sources among regions and autonomous provinces as well as establishes common criteria and methodologies for regions to identify suitable areas.

Regions are required to identify four types of categories:

- Suitable areas, where accelerated procedures and reduced approval requirements apply (including higher thresholds for screening resp. EIA of 12 MW/25 MW)
- Unsuitable areas, which due to their characteristics are considered incompatible with the installation of specific types of RE plants
- Ordinary areas, where ordinary authorisation schemes according to Legislative Decree no. 28 of 2011 apply
- Other areas, representing areas where the installation of ground-mounted photovoltaics is prohibited to secure their agricultural use

“Suitable areas” include the following sites:

- sites where power plants of the same source are already installed

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- contaminated sites which should be remediated
- Disused, unrecovered or abandoned quarries and mines
- sites of railway and motorway infrastructure, as well as airports

For solar power and biogas installations, in the absence of constraints of Part Two of the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code, the following areas are deemed suitable:

- agricultural areas in distance to 500 meters from settlements
- areas inside industrial zones
- areas near motorways within a distance of no more than 300m

"Protected areas" [unspecified] need to have a buffer distance of 500 m for solar power plants and 3,000 m for wind power plants. Suitable areas do not fall within the perimeter of assets subject to cultural and landscape constraints, imposing a buffer zone between the protected asset and the plants.

Passed in July 2024, the DM Aree Idonee sets a 180-day timeline for regions to identify "suitable" and "unsuitable" areas.

The decrees can potentially harm ecological connectivity, increasing the barrier effect of already infrastructurally compromised areas. Bottlenecks of ecological corridors located between settlement areas are at risk because the regulation defines such areas as suitable for renewable energy installations. It is questionable if areas outside of the above-mentioned protected areas, but relevant for ecological connectivity will be considered as "protected" or as "landscape constraint".

Type of document: Regulation / legislative decree and decree	In force since: 2022 resp. 2024 (DM Aree Idonee)
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/atto/serie_generale/caricaDettaglioAtto/originario?atto.dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=2024-07-02&atto.codiceRedazionale=24A03360&elenco30giorni=true , https://www.studiolegalesantiapichi.it/le-cd-aree-idonee-agli-impianti-fer-passaggio-alla-direttiva-red-iii-legislazione-italiana-a-confronto-con-la-disciplina-ue/	

4.4.1.2 Climate protection

Decree on Climate resilience transition (Decreto Clima)

The decree sets urgent measures for the development of a national strategic policy to address climate change and introduces urgent measures in all sectors considered vulnerable to climate change: water, agriculture, biodiversity, construction and

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infrastructure, energy, prevention of significant industrial risks, human health, soil and related uses, and transportation.

Particularly it incentivises sustainable mobility, reforestation practices, additional provision for environmental infractions, and climate data publishment.

The decree brings benefits to ecological connectivity as it funds and incentivizes urban and suburban reforestation practices. Additionally, provisions are made to address environmental infractions.

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2016 Latest revision: 2019
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2019/10/14/19G00125/sg	

National plan for climate change protection (Piano nazionale di adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici)

The National Plan for Climate Change Protection (Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica 2023) represents a guidance tool for the planning and implementation of the most effective adaptation actions for the Italian territory, in relation to the critical issues encountered, and for the integration of adaptation criteria into existing planning procedures and tools.

The plan encompasses over 300 measures that aim to contain the negative effects of global warming for Italy. In the subcategory “Ecosystem-services related solutions”, activities include increasing territorial connectivity (ibid:91).

However, the implementation of these proposed measures and their funding remain challenging and unresolved. In other words, a focus on funding and implementation is required to put the theoretical actions into practice.

In the process of implementation, ecological connectivity actions could be included as a possible leverage to implement some measures in a more considerate way (e.g. flooding risk reduction measures).

Type of document: Plan	In force since: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.mase.gov.it/notizie/clima-approvato-il-piano-nazionale-di-adattamento-ai-cambiamenti-climatici	

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National strategy for climate change protection (Strategia nazionale di adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici)

In 2015, a National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica 2015) was introduced, with the aim of summarizing the state of scientific knowledge on the country's impacts and vulnerabilities and presenting proposals for action. After an extended approval phase launched in 2017, on 21 December the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security, with Decree 434, approved the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change to take a further step forward.

Actions based on an ecosystem / "green" approach include ensuring the interconnectivity of the national and regional ecological network and a possible restructuring of national protected and refuge areas to adapt them to further movements/ascents of animal and plant species as a response to climate change (ibid:133).

Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2015
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
https://www.mase.gov.it/notizie/strategia-nazionale-di-adattamento-ai-cambiamenti-climatici-0	

4.4.1.3 Transport

National plan for transportation development (Piano nazionale dei trasporti)

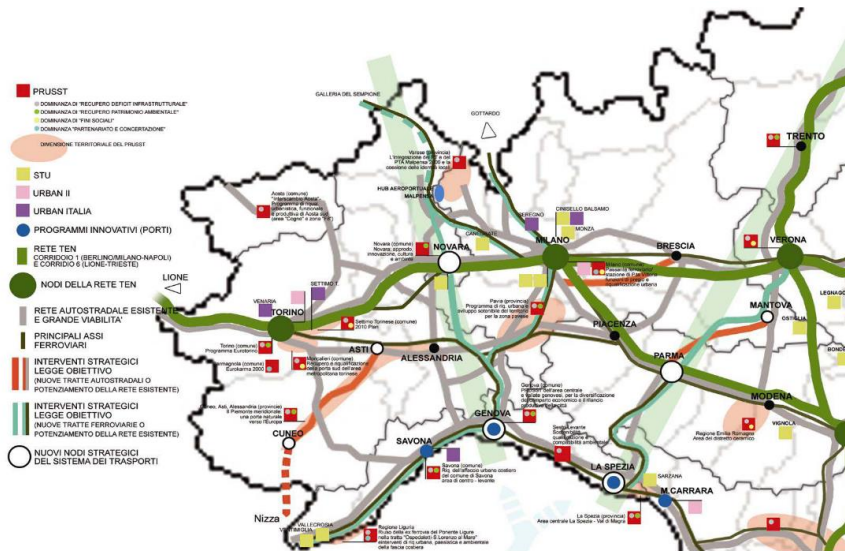
The Government has presented to Parliament the National Transport Plan for the period 2025-2036, outlining goals of the development of the national transport system and the efficiency of the network, in compliance with environmental and safety policies. The budget for the implementation of the Plan is close to 90 billion €, most of which is earmarked for road transport. In fact, the Plan gives priority to the maintenance and modernization of state roads, with an allocation that absorbs almost half of the entire budget, while 5.5 billion € will be allocated to the network of provincial roads.

The effects on ecological connectivity remain to be monitored, but transport infrastructure modernization and expansion are obviously having effects on ecological connectivity.

Type of document: Plan	Planned adoption: 2025
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link: https://www.mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/piano-generale-trasporti-e-logistica-avviati-dal-mims-i-lavori-per-la-sua 	

National transport development projects and recovery plan funding (Progetti nazionali e PNRR)

Within the S.I.S.Te.M.A - Integrated Development Multi-Azione Territorial Systems strategic infrastructure planning²⁰, the Ministry of Transport is developing several actions under the pilot projects "Complessità territoriali (territorial complexities)" and "Aree sottoutilizzate (under-used areas)" with the aim of strengthening connections between large infrastructure networks and city systems.



Source: MIT

Figure 3 Map of potential interventions in the S.I.S.Te.M.A - Integrated Development Multi-Azione Territorial Systems

Type of document: Recommendation	Planned adoption: not indicated
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.mit.gov.it/progetto/progetto-sistema-sviluppo-integrato-sistemi-territoriali-multi-azione	

4.4.2 Regional level

²⁰ https://www.mit.gov.it/nfsmitgov/files/media/progetti/2016-02/Progetto_SISTEMA_Sviluppo_Integrato.pdf

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The regional policy framework and current initiatives outlined below represents a non-comprehensive selection. The policy framework outlined for certain regions such as Veneto or Lombardy might equally be applicable to other Italian regions.

4.4.2.1 Energy

Regione Lombardia

Regional program on Energy, Environment and Climate 2030 (Programma Regionale Energia Ambiente Clima 2030 (PREAC))

The document aims to steer the Lombardy Region towards the goal of zero emissions by 2050, following four key guidelines concerning:

- the reduction of consumption by increasing efficiency in end-use sectors;
- the development of local renewable sources and the promotion of self-consumption;
- the growth of the production system, the development and financing of research and innovation at the service of decarbonisation and the green economy;
- and the adaptive and resilient response of the Lombardy system to climate change.

Specific measures and actions are defined in order to achieve the reduction targets for 2030. Some of the actions envisaged in the plan could lead to conflicts with the protection of connectivity and biodiversity, such as the installation of photovoltaic panels, the construction of plants for energy transition (powered by renewable sources) and the possible alteration of the water regime for hydroelectric derivations.

At the same time, these interventions are aimed at reducing climate-effective emissions and promoting sustainable development and will therefore also have positive effects on ecological and ecosystem components in the long term.

Type of document: Programme	In force since: 2020 Revised in: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/DettaglioRedazionale/istituzione/direzioni-generalidi/direzione-generale-ambiente-e-clima/preac-programma-regionale-energia-ambiente-e-clima/preac-programma-regionale-energia-ambiente-e-clima	

Regione Veneto

New Regional Energy Plan for Veneto (Piano energetico regionale NPER)

With Resolution no. 335 of 4 April 2024, the Veneto Regional Council adopted the New Regional Energy Plan (NPER). It represents the strategic planning document that defines the guidelines and coordination of programming for the promotion of renewable sources and

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energy saving in implementation of the provisions of European, national and regional sector legislation. On the basis of this document, regional energy policies will be adopted until 2030.

Envisaged actions affecting biodiversity include:

- Interventions to support the recovery of residue (wood biomass) for energy generation,
- Construction of structures and plants for the production of renewable energy from agro-forestry sources, renewables and wastewater from the company's activities;
- Transition 5.0 (Repower EU);
- Investments in networks and infrastructures - construction of networks electricity and gas;

In 2021, 44.73% of the national territory was classified as highly and very highly fragmented. The regions with the largest surface area with very high fragmentation are Veneto (40.44%), Lombardy (33.64%), Puglia (28.54%) and Campania (28.52%). This confirms the close correspondence between fragmentation and density of urbanization. The indicator used - "Fragmentation of the natural territory and agriculture" (ISPRA 2021) - measures the degree of fragmentation of the territory, mainly the result of the phenomena of urban sprawl and infrastructure network development, which are responsible for compromising the continuity of ecosystems, habitats, and landscape units.

Type of document: Plan	In force since: 2024
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/energia/piano-energetico-regionale	

4.4.2.2 Spatial Planning

Regione Lombardia

Lombardian Regional law on soil consumption reduction and for the degraded soil regeneration (Legge regionale 31/2014. “Disposizioni per la riduzione del consumo di suolo e per la riqualificazione del suolo degradato”)

This law recognises soil as a non-renewable resource, a common good of fundamental importance for environmental balance, health protection, agricultural production, the protection of natural ecosystems and defence against hydrogeological instability. It is committed to enforcing the criteria of sustainability and minimisation of soil consumption in land government tools, promoting and not compromising the environment, the landscape, as well as agricultural activity, directing interventions towards areas that are already urbanised, degraded or disused, underused to be redeveloped or regenerated.

Soil consumption reduction and rational use of natural resources help to avoid new barriers and threats to ecological connectivity.

D.1.3.1 Analysis of upcoming sectoral policy developments

Type of document: Law

In force since: 2014

Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity

- Link:
<https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/DettaglioRedazionale/servizi-e-informazioni/Enti-e-Operatori/territorio/governo-del-territorio/legge-regionale-riduzione-consumo-suolo/legge-regionale-riduzione-consumo-suolo>



Regione Veneto

Regional law revision (Revisione della legge regionale)

With Resolution no. 303 of 21 March 2023, the Regional Council instructed the Director of the Territorial Planning Directorate to put in place all the necessary acts to start the systematization and renewal of the complex set of regional provisions with direct or indirect implications on the planning of land use, aimed at preparing a proposal for a regulatory text updating the aforementioned legislation.

The working group has therefore carried out an intervention of systematization and renewal of the large set of regional provisions with direct or indirect implications on the regulation and planning of land use, implementing the proposal to update the aforementioned legislation. In the process, ecological connectivity could be incorporated as a value and goal for plans at different scales.

Type of document: Law	In force since: ongoing
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/vts	

Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development (Strategia Regionale per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile)

The Regional Strategy is part of the overall framework determined by the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and the activities for its definition have been co-financed by the Ministry of the Environment as part of a national project. Strategic lines on Renewable Energy sources and plants, sustainable transport development, urban settlements and green areas development could potentially impair connectivity, unless they are being framed in a biodiversity-friendly approach.

Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2020
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://venetosostenibile.regione.veneto.it/	



4.4.2.3 Transport

Veneto Regional transport plan and subsequent planning tools (Veneto Piano Trasporti Regionale (PRT) e piani conseguenti)

The vision for the Veneto transport system is to ensure sustainable mobility for people and things. A vision that translates into a Veneto that is more competitive and connected with the world but at the same time attentive to social equity, inclusiveness and accessibility of its territories.

Impacting actions on biodiversity include interventions to upgrade existing infrastructures or those that will be placed alongside, promotion of sea-road-rail co-modality and modal rebalancing of freight transport, developing infrastructures and services for integrated, intermodal, efficient regional public transport, completing and making the regional road network more efficient, improving the accessibility of tourist areas and promoting and supporting the development of new mobility technologies.

While the PRT is foreseeing steps to ensure environmental and landscape sustainability of its interventions (e.g. through applying Ecosystem Services for the evaluation of interventions and guidelines for environmental and landscape design), the foreseen expansion of transport infrastructure will potentially have negative effects on the region's ecological connectivity.

Type of document: Plan	In force since: 2020
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.prtveneto2030.it/il-nuovo-piano-2/	

4.4.2.4 Nature protection

Lombardian Regional Strategy for Biodiversity (Strategia regionale per la biodiversità)

Lombardy's Biodiversity Strategy responds to the objective of halting and reversing the progressive loss of biodiversity that is occurring globally and also in the regional territory. The document intends to promote the protection of biodiversity as a transversal theme of regional policies, programming, planning and design in the regional territory.

The main objectives of the strategy are the construction of a coherent and multifunctional network of protected areas on land and at sea and the restoration of terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Areas requiring connectivity are to be identified using priority criteria. The second point in particular provides for the maintenance and protection of ecosystems and biodiversity by strengthening the implementation and enforcement of environmental

legislation, promoting the circular economy, and improving knowledge, education and education by ensuring the participation of citizens.

Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2022
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.svilupposostenibile.regione.lombardia.it/it/strategia-regionale/biodiversita 	

Regional Plan of Regional Protected Areas. Rules for the establishment and management of reserves, parks and natural monuments as well as areas of special natural and environmental importance (Piano regionale delle aree regionali protette. Norme per l' istituzione e la gestione delle riserve, dei parchi e dei monumenti naturali nonché delle aree di particolare rilevanza naturale e ambientale)

The proposed law aims to reorganize the system of protected areas in Lombardy, currently consisting of 24 regional parks (13 of which are natural parks), 66 nature reserves, 33 natural monuments, 242 Natura 2000 sites, and 101 local parks of supra-municipal interest (PLIS), managed by a variety of entities, including municipalities, mountain communities, provinces, consortia, environmental associations, and private entities. Over time, the layering of protection regimes has created a highly fragmented management system, leading to overlaps, redundancies, and inefficiencies. The proposed law seeks to engage various managing entities in reorganizing the system to improve management and protection efficiency. It designates regional parks as the key entities for managing and protecting these areas. The main objectives are to create an integrated system of protected areas, strengthen the conservation and enhancement of natural and landscape heritage, promote sustainable development models, recognize the value of ecosystem services, and facilitate ecological connections between protected areas. This reorganization will be implemented through proposals by the parks, approved by the regional government, including the possibility of merging existing regional parks.

In light of the objectives outlined in the plan concerning the protection and management of valuable natural areas within the region, the plan represents a significant opportunity for biodiversity conservation and for enhancing and maintaining ecological connectivity.

Type of document: Plan	In force since: 1983
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://normelombardia.consiglio.regione.lombardia.it/normelombardia/Accessibile/main.aspx?view=showdoc&iddoc=lr001983113000086 	

D.1.3.1 Analysis of upcoming sectoral policy developments

4.5 Slovenia

4.5.1 National policy level

4.5.1.1 Spatial planning

Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia 2050 (Strategija prostorskega razvoja Slovenije 2050)

The Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia 2050 is the basic strategic spatial act of the Republic of Slovenia, which, on the basis of the Act on Spatial Planning and in connection with the Development Strategy of Slovenia 2030 and other national development acts and EU development objectives, defines the long-term strategic objectives of the country and the directions for the development of spatial activities. The Strategy contains a vision of the country's spatial development, long-term objectives and a spatial development concept with priorities and guidelines for achieving the objectives. The basic orientations are prepared for the long term period up to 2050, and an action plan will be prepared to implement the objectives of the Strategy in the medium term, identifying priorities and responsible authorities for specific areas and activities.

The Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia 2050 defines the Spatial Development Concept of Slovenia, focussing on:

- Development corridors and entry points into Slovenia;
- Polycentric urban system;
- Rural areas;
- Green infrastructure.

The concept envisages a strategic role for green infrastructure - as a planned system of functionally connected and diverse landscape areas, including the most important nature conservation areas, which will enable natural processes for a healthy, safe, attractive, climate resilient and multifunctional space in the long term. Green infrastructure provides - in addition to other functions - a primarily ecological function (in particular the preservation of the natural environment, ecological connectivity and the reduction of landscape fragmentation due to land-use interventions).

The strategic orientations in settlement management and development also include an orientation that identifies the need to create green belts between settlements to improve the visibility of settlements and landscapes and to ensure the ecological connectivity of green systems.

The importance of ecological connectivity is also highlighted in the management and development of rural settlements, villages and landscapes, in the sustainable use and protection of agricultural land, forests (provision of ecological corridors), and water.

Emphasis is placed on the identification of ecological corridors for model species to ensure the ecological connectivity of ecosystems, the conditions for their conservation, and the

D.1.3.1 Analysis of upcoming sectoral policy developments

guidelines for restoring missing connectivity. Thus, the strategy seems to take a functional instead of a structural approach to ecological connectivity.

Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link:	https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MNVP/Dokumenti/Prostorski-razvoj/SPRS/Strategija_prostorskega_razvoja_2050.pdf

4.5.1.2 Energy

Integrated national energy and climate plan of the Republic of Slovenia (Celoviti nacionalni energetska in podnebni načrt (NEPN)) -

The NEPN is an action-oriented strategy document that sets out objectives, policies and actions in the five dimensions of the Energy Union for the period up to 2030 (with a view to 2040):

- Decarbonisation (GHG emissions and RES),
- Energy efficiency,
- Energy security,
- Internal Market,
- and Research, innovation and competitiveness.

As a target value for 2030, the NEPN determines at least a 27-per cent share of renewable sources (RES) in gross final energy consumption and the following indicative sectoral objectives: a 43-per cent share in the electricity sector, a 41-per cent share in the sector of heating and cooling, and a 21-per cent share in transport (the share of biofuels is 11 per cent).

Slovenia will increase RES shares in final energy consumption in all sectors, i.e. transport, consumption of electricity, heating and cooling. The total share of RES will reach at least 60% by 2050. Indicative objectives in individual sectors comprise at least a 65%-share of RES in transport, at least a 50%- share of RES in heating and cooling and at least an 80%-share of RES in gross final electricity consumption.

The NEPN does not address the issue of ecological connectivity. This is not surprising given that ecological connectivity is not explicitly defined in the recently adopted Spatial Development Strategy 2050, which is the key strategic document guiding long-term spatial development in Slovenia. The NEPN is not directly relevant for the promotion of ecological connectivity. It formally states that when implementing NEPN measures, sectoral legislation for limiting emissions to air, water and soil, noise, electromagnetic radiation, light pollution, handling of waste, protection regimes and protected areas or legislation in the field of

D.1.3.1 Analysis of upcoming sectoral policy developments

environmental protection and the applicable national environmental protection programme (NEPO) need to be taken into account. The latter encompasses Natura 2000 sites, natural values, protected areas, ecologically important areas, agricultural land, water protection areas, floodplains, bathing areas, forest reserves and protective forests, cultural heritage, and exceptional landscapes and landscapes of national prominence (NEPN, 2020: 70). However, experience shows that it is often the aforementioned areas that are at risk when planning and building energy infrastructure.

Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2020
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://www.energetika-portal.si/dokumenti/strateski-razvojni-dokumenti/nacionalni-energetski-in-podnebni-nacrt-2020/	

4.5.1.3 Transport

Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030 (Strategija razvoja prometa v Republiki Sloveniji do leta 2030)

The purpose of the Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030 is to:

- present the starting points, needs and opportunities for the development of key areas of transport in the Republic of Slovenia;
- prepare a coordinated programme for the development of key areas of transport in the Republic of Slovenia;
- ensure the preliminary fulfilment of the conditions for the absorption of EU funds in the 2014-2020 financial period for the transport sector;
- provide the basis for the preparation of a resolution on the national programme for the construction of transport infrastructure or the corresponding operational programme.

The Strategy was also subject to a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment, which provided guidance and mitigation measures that were incorporated into the text of the Strategy. The guidelines and mitigation measures were prepared for the following areas:

- soils and minerals;
- air;
- climate change;
- water;
- nature;
- human health;
- population and material assets;
- cultural heritage;
- landscape.



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The nature guidelines and mitigation measures aim at the sustainable conservation of the natural environment and biodiversity, selecting options that do not encroach on the naturally preserved space and that have less impact on wildlife migration routes. Below some of the important points with significance for ecological connectivity are highlighted:

- reconstruction of existing links is preferred to new construction;
- building parallel links to existing roads, railways is preferred to locating in natural preservation areas;
- encroachment into protected areas (Natura 2000 sites and protected areas), ecologically important areas and areas of natural value should be avoided;
- preference should be given to options that have less impact on wildlife migration routes;
- transport infrastructure should not be located in coastal areas. Such interventions may cause significant impacts on the ecological status of watercourses, reduction of retention areas, as well as cumulative impacts on the biodiversity of the area and on the ecosystem.

Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2017
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.energetika-portal.si/dokumenti/strateski-razvojni-dokumenti/nacionalni-energetski-in-podnebni-nacrt-2020/	

Transport Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia for the period until 2030 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu razvoja prometa v Republiki Sloveniji za obdobje do leta 2030 (ReNPRP30))

The main purpose of the preparation of the National Programme is:

- to define, on the basis of the actions set out in the Strategy, more concrete actions for the comprehensive development of transport and transport infrastructure and their stakeholders;
- to define the timing of the implementation of the concrete actions in a transparent manner, depending on the provision of regular and steady funding.

The National Programme contains a number of different actions across the transport system, where the key objective is to achieve an efficient transport system that is also economically, publicly and environmentally sustainable.

The National Programme also fully follows the conclusions and recommendations of the Environmental Report for existing and new infrastructure, including the prevention of biodiversity loss and ecosystem services. The conclusions of the Environmental Report, which form an integral part of the Strategy, will also be taken into account in the preparation or implementation of more specific activities or projects to implement the actions set out in the Strategy.

D.1.3.1 Analysis of upcoming sectoral policy developments

Type of document: Programme	In force since: 2021
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MOPE/TRAJNOSTNA-MOBILNOST-STMPP/Resolucija-o-spremembah-in-dopolnitvah-Resolucije-o-nacionalnem-programu-razvoja-prometa-v-Republiki-Sloveniji-za-obdobje-do-leta-2030-ReNPRP30-A.pdf	

4.5.1.4 Nature protection

Nature conservation act (Zakon o ohranjanju narave (ZON) Ur.I.RS 69/04)

The Nature Conservation Act specifies measures for conserving biodiversity and a system for protecting natural values to contribute to nature conservation. It regulates the use of natural environments and ensures their sustainable management, including the protection of wild plant and animal species, their genetic material, habitats, and ecosystems, while maintaining natural balance. The law puts in force several EU directives on wildlife and habitats protection.

In Article 28, the law includes guidelines for human activities in nature, which should be conducted in a way that does not burden the habitats of plant and animal species populations to the point of endangering the species and disrupting natural processes. The act is a legal basis for operation of the Environmental Inspection Service, which should respond to any report regarding a violation of the provisions of the law.

Type of document: Programme	In force since: 2004 Revised in: 2023
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → opportunity	
Link: https://pisrs.si/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO1600	

4.5.1.5 Climate protection

Resolution on Slovenia's Long-Term Climate Strategy until 2050 (Resolucija o Dolgoročni podnebni strategiji Slovenije 2050 (ReDPS50))

The Resolution on Slovenia's Long-Term Climate Strategy Until 2050 (hereafter: Climate Strategy) sets out a vision and long-term goals for the period up to 2050 and provides guidance on how to achieve them. In the defined vision, Slovenia in 2050 will be a climate-neutral and resilient society based on sustainable development. It will efficiently manage energy and natural resources, and simultaneously maintain a high level of competition in a

D.1.3.1 Analysis of upcoming sectoral policy developments

low-carbon circular economy. The society will be based on well-preserved nature, the circular economy, renewable and low-carbon energy sources, sustainable mobility and healthy locally-produced food. It will be well-adjusted and resilient to the impact of climate change. Slovenia will be a society in which the quality and safety of life will be high, and the opportunity arising from the altered climate conditions will also be exploited. The transition to a climate neutral society will be inclusive and the principles of climate justice will also be observed. The costs and benefits of the transition will be distributed in a fair way and the most vulnerable groups of citizens will be enabled to similarly implement mitigation and adaptation measures.

Within the framework of achieving the GHG reduction goals and enhancement of removals by sinks, an important role is played by obtaining energy from renewable energy sources. These renewable non-fossil sources include, i.e. wind, solar (solar thermal and solar photovoltaic sources) and geothermal energy, ambient energy, tidal energy, wave energy and other ocean energy, water energy, energy from biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas and biogas. The Climate Strategy is mainly implemented through the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Slovenia (NEPN, see above).

The Climate Strategy includes the guidelines of the National Nature Protection Programme (hereinafter: NNPP), which is an integral part of the Resolution on the National Environmental Action Programme 2020–2030 (hereinafter: ReNPVO20-30). The guidelines are defined for biodiversity protection for mitigating and adapting to climate change. They are aimed at including the preservation of a favourable status of native wildlife species, preservation of a favourable status of the scope and quality of habitat types, especially those located in ecologically important areas or Natura2000 areas, prevention of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species or management of their introduction and spread, establishment and maintenance of key green infrastructure, establishment of new protected areas, primarily in the most sensitive areas regarding nature conservation, and the enhancement of knowledge about biodiversity and its significance at all levels of society. It also underlines the need for improving ecological connectivity of Natura2000 areas and protected areas.

Challenges remain in the form that the objectives for renewable energy expansion do not include, at a concrete level, definitions of goals and visions for 2030 and 2050 or references how to integrate aspects of nature protection, environmental protection or aspects of ecological connectivity.

Type of document: Strategy	In force since: 2021
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → ambivalent	
Link: https://unfccc.int/documents/302702	

4.6 Switzerland

4.6.1 National policy level

Solar Campaign / Solar Express – Solaroffensive / Solarexpress

In order to address imminent power shortages as a consequence of the Russian war on Ukraine, the Swiss Parliament in 2022 amended the Swiss Energy Law (EnG) Art. 71a with provisions to expand winter power generation from renewable energy sources. Against this background, the legal basis for the rapid realisation of ground-mounted photovoltaic systems has been created in the form of the Solaroffensive. This concerns plants with a high proportion of winter electricity production, which are particularly conceivable in alpine terrain. For such plants with an annual production of more than 10 GWh and a minimum energy production in the winter half-year of 500 kWh/kW, the law should stipulate that their need is proven, that they are site-specific, that they are not subject to planning and environmental impact assessment obligations and that the interest in their realisation takes precedence over other interests of national and cantonal importance. Additionally, there is no planning obligation, meaning that neither regional plans (Richtplan) nor zoning plans (Nutzungsplanung) need to be amended. The consent of the landowners and local communities is required. The federal government also subsidises these facilities with an investment contribution. The Article expires once the cumulative expected annual production of legally approved facilities exceeds 2 TWh.

Depending on their location and orientation, high-alpine photovoltaic systems can generate more electricity per installed kilowatt of power in the winter months than comparable systems on the Central Plateau. This is because the radiation conditions are better (thinner atmosphere, less fog) and because the sunlight is reflected in the snow (known as the albedo effect). Based on the measured values from test installations and yield simulations, it is assumed that the annual production is around 50% and the specific winter yield is 2 to 3 times higher than for installations in the lowlands.

To date, however, there is practically no experience with large PV systems in the high mountains. Increased snow and wind loads place special demands on anchoring and substructures, access for construction and grid connection can be a challenge and conflicts with nature and landscape conservation can arise. For these reasons, alpine PV systems are in many cases significantly more expensive than large systems in the lowlands.



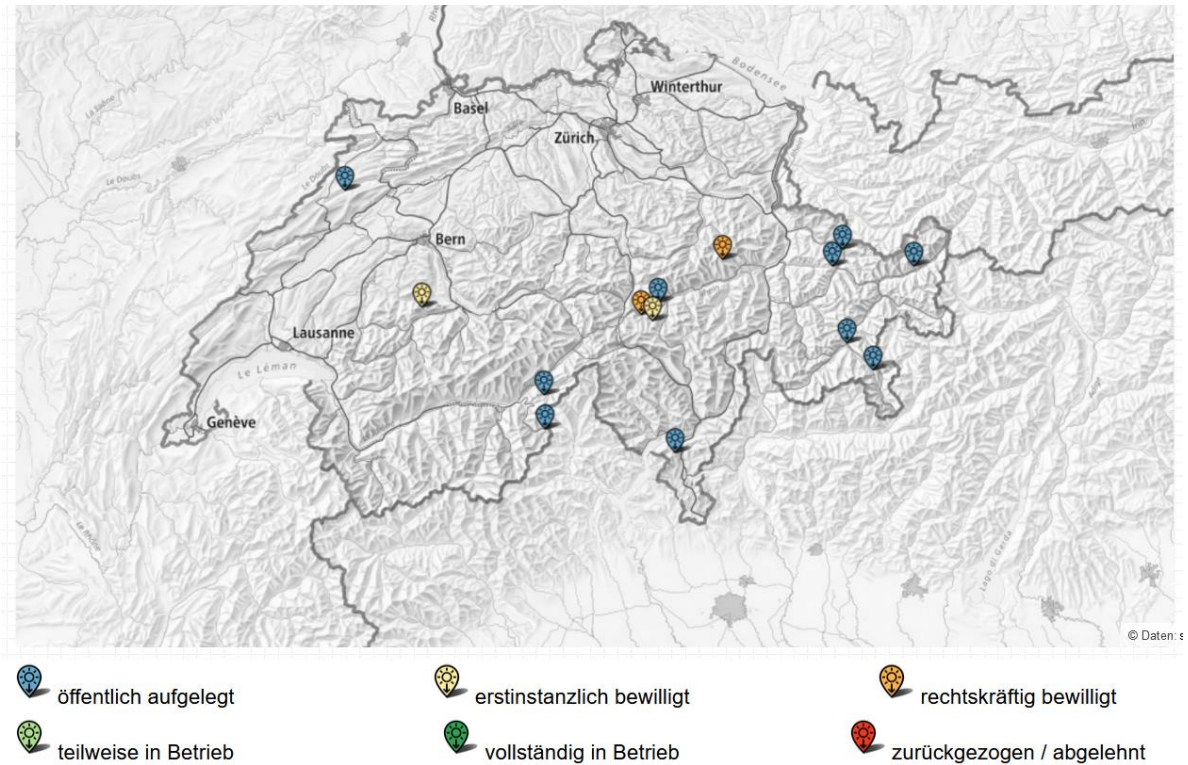


Figure 4 Ground-mounted photovoltaic installations based on Art. 71a of the Swiss EnG (August 2024)

Type of document: Law	In force since: 2022 (with expiration timeline)
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.parlament.ch/press-releases/Pages/mm-urek-s-2022-08-26.aspx , https://www.bfe.admin.ch/bfe/de/home/versorgung/erneuerbare-energien/solarenergie/photovoltaik-grossanlagen.html	

Ordinance Amendment for Wind express (Verordnungsänderung für Windexpress)

The new Article 71c of the Energy Act is intended to speed up the authorisation process for wind turbines of national interest that have a legally binding land use plan. The canton must issue the building permit for these installations, legal recourse against the building permit is restricted to one cantonal instance and appeals to the Federal Supreme Court are only permitted for legal issues of fundamental importance.

The amendment to the Energy Ordinance regulates cantonal jurisdiction on a subsidiary basis if cantonal law does not (yet) specify jurisdiction. In addition, cantons and operators are obliged to report the affected installations to the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE). The special provisions of Article 71c only apply until an additional capacity of 600 megawatts

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has been added. Thanks to the reporting obligation, the SFOE can check compliance with this threshold and will publish a publicly accessible and regularly updated list for this purpose.

The “wind express” initiative has led to accelerating planning processes that have already started, but has not resulted in the uptake and acceleration of new projects. It is too early to assess the effects on ecological connectivity, but the initiative could potentially compromise ecological standards in the course of fast-tracking permit-granting procedures.

Type of document: Law	In force since: February 1 2024 (with expiration timeline)
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/start/dokumentation/medienmitteilungen.msg-id-99410.html ; https://www.newsd.admin.ch/newsd/message/attachments/85311.pdf	

Acceleration Decree (Beschleunigungserlass)

In light of the challenges posed by the energy crisis and climate change, Switzerland intends to rapidly expand renewable energies. However, the current planning, authorisation and appeal procedures can delay projects considerably. It can take over 20 years between the start of project planning and realisation.

The Federal Council therefore wants to simplify and thus speed up these procedures for solar, wind and hydropower plants of national interest. At its meeting on 21 June 2023, it approved the dispatch and the draft decree on speeding up the process, essentially amending the Swiss Energy Act (EnG). According to the draft decree,

- cantons are to provide for a concentrated planning and permit-granting procedure for solar and wind energy plants of national interest. This means that the canton in which the plant is located should now issue all cantonal and previously municipal authorisations required for the construction, expansion or renovation of such plants in one go. This would prevent a project from being split into several stages and each individual decision from being appealed to the Federal Supreme Court. The centralised procedure should be completed within 180 days. The authorisation authority would be the cantonal government or a cantonal body designated by it. This procedure will not be used for hydropower plants, as the previous procedure has proved successful.
- cantons are to designate suitable areas for solar and wind energy plants in the structure plan. A project-related basis in the cantonal structure plan would no longer be necessary for such plants of national interest in a suitability area. When designating these areas, the cantons would have to take into account the protection of the landscape, biotopes, forests, cultivated land and crop rotation areas.
- the appeal process for the planning and construction of solar, wind and hydroelectric power plants is to be shortened. At cantonal level, only an appeal to the higher cantonal

court would be possible in future. It would decide within 180 days. In addition, local and cantonal organisations would no longer be able to appeal such projects. Local cantons and municipalities as well as organisations active throughout Switzerland, such as the WWF, Pro Natura or the Foundation for Landscape Conservation, would still be entitled to appeal.

- the planning process for the expansion of the electricity grid is also to be shortened. In its sectoral planning, the federal government would in future refrain from first defining a planning area for so-called extra-high-voltage lines. Instead, the planning corridor is to be defined directly. The specific line route would then be determined within this corridor. Extra-high-voltage lines are lines that transport electricity from power plants to regional and local distribution grids to the consumers.

With the proposed measures, the Swiss Federal Council intends to create the conditions for the rapid expansion of production facilities for renewable energies and transmission lines. Unlike the “wind express” initiative, the Acceleration Decree is expected to have a longer-term positive impact on approval duration, thus creating investment incentives for wind power projects. The potential threat for ecological connectivity lies mainly in forfeiting local and cantonal organisations’ rights to appeal.

Type of document: Law	In force since: Not yet passed
Preliminary assessment of its effect on ecological connectivity → threat	
Link: https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/start/dokumentation/medienmitteilungen.msg-id-99410.html ; https://www.news.admin.ch/newsd/message/attachments/85311.pdf	



5 Key findings

5.1 Energy

EU policies encompass a binding 2030 target for the share of renewables in the energy mix that has continuously been raised in the course of several revisions of the RED to currently 42.5%. Key measures are the overriding public interest assigned to renewable energy projects and the establishment of acceleration areas for renewables. Methodologically, (wildlife) sensitivity mapping and other tools and datasets to identify sensitive areas (exclusion sites) as well as areas where renewable energy plants would not have a significant impact will become more relevant.

As a consequence of the EU Emergency Regulation to accelerate renewable energy deployment, EU-countries such as Germany, but also non-EU-member Switzerland (Solar Campaign, Solar Express, Wind Express) have assigned a temporary overriding public interest to renewable energy facilities as well as the energy grid and storage assets. After the first timelines have expired, the respective provisions have been prolonged. Instead of a timeline, Switzerland has enacted the acceleration regulation until a minimum annual production from RE facilities will be reached. In the case of wind power in Switzerland, acceleration procedures related to the Wind Express regulation speeds up already-projected facilities and has not led to a surge of new projects.

Expansion objectives targeting the share of renewable energies as well as the extent of priority areas for wind and solar energy have been adopted e.g. through the EU Renewable Energy Directive or through various strategies and policies at national level (e.g. Austrian EAG, Italian PNIEC, Slovenian NEPN). At the same time, the EU RED initiative strengthens bioenergy sustainability criteria by extending their applicability to smaller installation and including provisions ensuring that forest biomass is not sourced from areas with particular importance for biodiversity or carbon stock.

Pursuing expansion and ecological connectivity objectives could potentially lead to spatial conflicts in areas suitable for serving both objectives (e.g. high-altitude exposed slopes or wind-prone areas).

The EU RED III framework requires member states to identify and delineate acceleration / “go-to” / concentration areas for renewable energy installations – a task that is currently in the focus of spatial planning authorities particularly at federal state and regional level across the EU (e.g. Legge 22 aprile 2021, n. 53; Decreto Legislativo 8 novembre 2021, n. 199). E.g., based on national law (WindBG), regional planning authorities across Germany lose their steering competence in regard to wind power projects unless they manage to legally designate a certain extent of wind energy priority areas by 2027 respectively 2032. Challenges for the consideration of ecological connectivity in the process of identifying acceleration areas include insufficient definitions of unsuitable areas (particularly connectivity-relevant areas outside of protected areas) and methodological heterogeneity at lower spatial levels.

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As a shift compared to conventional, previous approaches (e.g. 10-H-rule in Germany²¹, exclusion zones for renewable energy are to be limited to a necessary minimum. Spatial effects can also be expected from increasing requirements for compensating remaining GHG-emissions (e.g. BayKlimG).

Planning acceleration/fast-tracking efforts (e.g. German LNG-acceleration law, GBeschlG, Swiss EnG, UVPG-Novelle in Austria, Loi 2023-175 in France, Solar/Wind Express and Acceleration Decree in Switzerland) bear the risk of downscaling environmental concerns, but their actual effects remain to be assessed.

Nonetheless, on the basis of these policy shifts towards accelerating and expanding renewable energy projects, a continued and increasing demand for surface area for potentially conflicting purposes can be expected (renewable energies, transport infrastructure, food production, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and ecological connectivity).

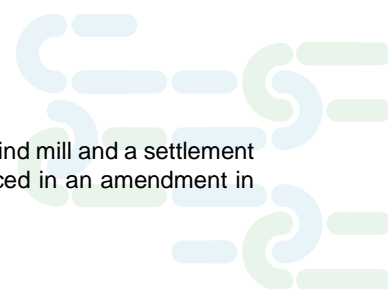
5.2 Nature protection

Ambitious environmental and nature protection targets imply significant steps i.a. in the field of habitat restoration and ecological connectivity.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 envisages the establishment of a coherent Trans-European Nature Network, with the commitment of legally protecting 30% of the EU land area and integrate ecological corridors by 2030 and strictly protect at least one third of the EU's protected areas. At least 10% of agricultural land should be brought under high-diversity landscape features with a specific consideration of ensuring connectivity among habitats through CAP instruments. Organic farming should be increased to cover 25% of the EU's agricultural land.

While reiterating these objectives, the EU Nature Restoration Law additionally foresees restoration processes on at least 20% of the EU's land and sea area as well as in regard to Annex I and II ecosystems that are currently in poor condition, aiming at 90% being restored by 2050. The EU Nature Restoration Law includes ecosystem specific obligations for agriculture (increase of ecological indicators), forests (increase in deadwood and forest bird index) and rivers (restoring free-flowing rivers and maintaining river connectivity) as well as finance instruments for restoration measures. Progress will be monitored through regular submission of National Restoration Plans.

²¹ The 10-H-rule adopted by the Bavarian state government means that the distance between a wind mill and a settlement must be at least ten times of the total height of the wind mill. The minimum distances were reduced in an amendment in 2022.



Measures related to the Water Framework Directive, but also to national legislation such as the Austrian Water Rights Act, target ecological connectivity rather as a by-product of river continuity, not as an objective in itself.

Besides these comprehensive nature protection impulses from the EU level, efforts at federal state level include e.g. the amendment of the Bavarian Nature Protection Law as a consequence of a successful referendum on species protection. An outcome of this bottom-up initiative was the incorporation and monitoring of a future state-wide network of spatially and functionally connected biotopes in the Bavarian Nature Protection Law.

A promising, so far only theoretical approach, is the adaption of legal requirements to designate sufficient areas for the generation of wind power to aspects of nature conservation and ecological connectivity in the form of the envisioned “Nature-Land-Law” in Germany. Such an approach would legally secure sufficient and interlinked areas for restoration and nature conservation.

Immediate implementation measures outlined in the Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2030+ include corridor enhancements through structural ecological improvements and the targeted direction of compensation measures to connect protected areas.

Ecological connectivity and biodiversity measures are also addressed by the French Law 2016-1087 establishing respective governance structures and actions, the Italian National Plan for Climate Change Protection as well as in sector strategies such as the Austrian Programme for Environmentally Sound Agriculture. The Lombardian Regional Strategy for Biodiversity involves criteria-based identification of areas that require connectivity as basis for the construction of a coherent and multifunctional network of protected areas and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems.

5.3 Transport

TEN-T policies at the EU level include prioritised and accelerated permit-granting procedures (including EIA) for projects that are part of the TEN-T core or comprehensive network. Acceleration procedures are consequently enacted at national level, e.g. in the form of the Planning Acceleration Law (Germany).

The TEN-T revision also sets timelines for network extension and upgrade measures including several corridors intersecting the Alps, which will potentially also negatively affect ecological connectivity (which is not part of the general priorities) in the course of the extension, modernisation and acceleration of the European transport network.

National strategies regarding transport development such as the Transport Development Strategy 2030 do take into consideration measures to avoid, mitigate and compensate project-related effects on ecological connectivity.



5.4 Climate Protection

Apart from the expansion of renewable energy related to policy initiatives at the European level, the Fit for 55-package under the European Green Deal foresees a land-based net carbon removal target of 310 Mio tonnes of CO₂-equivalent by 2030. The most recent monitoring report (European Commission 2023) concludes that the EU is not on track to meet its 2030 net removal target. Hence, Member States are expected to ramp up their efforts for land-based net carbon removal in the course of the coming years.

Besides ensuring the interconnectivity of the ecological network, measures within the scope of the Italian National Strategy for Adaption to Climate Change include a possible restructuring of protected and refuge areas to facilitate ascents of animal and plant species as a response to climate change.

5.5 Spatial planning

National spatial planning frameworks are being amended to allow for accelerated planning and permit-granting procedures particularly for wind power installations (e.g. ROGÄndG in Germany). Steps to facilitate renewable energies also include criteria catalogues for zoning of ground-mounted solar panels and wind power facilities (e.g. Salzburg Regional Development Programme).

The recently adopted Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia 2050 assigns a strategic role for green infrastructure as a planned system of functionally connected and diverse landscapes and includes the identification of ecological corridors for model species.



6 Literature

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Annex

Annex 1 Identified policies

64 of these 112 policies have been outlined in the report in more detail.

Level	Policy Field	Original name (in respective language)	English translation of name (if applicable)	Link	Type of document
EU	Energy	EU Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (RED III)		https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202302413	Directive
EU	Energy	Provisional agreement to reinforce the EU Renewable Energy Directive		https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/03/30/council-and-parliament-reach-provisional-deal-on-renewable-energy-directive/	Agreement
EU	Energy	EU Solar Energy Strategy COM(2022) 221 final		https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0221	Strategy
EU	Energy	REPowerEU Plan COM(2022) 230 final		https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0230#footnote16	Plan
EU	Nature Protection	EU Nature Restoration Law		https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0304	Law
EU	Climate Protection	Fit for 55 Package		https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/green-deal/fit-for-55-the-eu-plan-for-a-green-transition/	Regulation
EU	Water	European Water Framework Directive		https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:5c835afb-2ec6-4577-bdf8-756d3d694eeb.0004.02/DOC_1&format=PDF	Directive
EU	Nature Protection	Protocol on the implementation of the Alpine Convention of 1991 in the field of energy		https://www.alpconv.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Convention/EN/Protocol_Energy_EN.pdf	Other
EU	Energy	Commission recommendation on speeding up permit-granting procedures for		https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=PI_COM:C(2022)3219	Recommendation

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Level	Policy Field	Original name (in respective language)	English translation of name (if applicable)	Link	Type of document
		renewable energy projects and facilitating Power Purchase Agreements (C/2022/3219)			
EU	Transport	Smart TEN-T Directive (EU) 2021/1187		https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021L1187	Directive
EU	Transport	Proposal for a Regulation on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network TEN-T Revision (COM(2021) 812 final)		https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM%3A2021%3A812%3AFIN	Regulation
EU	Energy	Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy		https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022R2577	Regulation
EU	Nature Protection	EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 COM(2020) 380 final		https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0380	Strategy
AT	Energy	UVP-G-Novelle 2023	Amendment of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act of 2023	https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/Gesetzliche-Neuerungen/archiv-bgbl-2023/Umweltvertraeglichkeitspruefungsgesetz.html	Law
AT	Climate Protection	Klima- und Energiestrategie SALZBURG 2050	Climate and energy strategy SALZBURG 2050	https://www.salzburg.gv.at/themen/umwelt/salzburg2050/klima_energie	Strategy
AT	Spatial Planning	Salzburger Landesentwicklungsprogramm	Salzburg regional development programme	230118V2-Landesentwicklungsprogramm_2022_O_.pdf (salzburg.gv.at)	Recommendation
AT	Nature Protection	Salzburger Naturschutzgesetz	Nature Conservation Law of Salzburg	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrSbg&Gesetzesnummer=20000003	Law
AT	Nature Protection	Pflanzen- und Tierartenschutzverordnung	Plant and animal species protection ordinance	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrSbg&Gesetzesnummer=20001116	Regulation
AT	Nature Protection	Kärntner Naturschutzgesetz	Carinthian nature conservation act	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrK&Gesetzesnummer=20000118	Law

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Level	Policy Field	Original name (in respective language)	English translation of name (if applicable)	Link	Type of document
AT	Spatial Planning	Kärntner Raumordnungsgesetz	Carinthian spatial planning act	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrK&Gesetzesnummer=20000386	Law
AT	Other	Kärntner Jagdgesetz	Carinthian hunting act	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrK&Gesetzesnummer=20000013	Law
AT	Energy	Erneuerbaren-Ausbau-Gesetz	Renewable Energies Expansion Act	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20011619	Law
AT	Energy	Elektrizitätswirtschafts- und -organisationsgesetz	Electricity Industry and Organisation Act	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20007045	Law
AT	Other	Forstgesetz	Forest Act	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010371	Law
AT	Nature Protection	Biodiversitätsstrategie 2030+	Biodiversity Strategy 2030+	https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima_umwelt/naturschutz/biol_vielfalt/biodiversitaetsstrategie/biodiversitaetsstrategie_2030.html	Strategy
AT	Water	Wasserrechtsgesetz	Water Rights Act	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010290	Law
AT	Agriculture	Österreichisches Programm für umweltgerechte Landwirtschaft 2023	Austrian Programme for Environmentally Agriculture 2023	https://info.bml.gv.at/themen/landwirtschaft/gemeinsame-agrarpolitik-foerderungen/nationaler-strategieplan/oe-pul-ab-2023/oe-pul-2023.html	Finance instrument
AT	Transport	Bundesstraßengesetz	Federal Roads Act	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10011428	Law
AT	Transport	Kärtner Straßengesetz	Carinthian Road Act	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrK&Gesetzesnummer=20000303	Law

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Level	Policy Field	Original name (in respective language)	English translation of name (if applicable)	Link	Type of document
AT	Spatial Planning	Örtliches Entwicklungskonzept	local development concept		Strategy
AT	Nature Protection	https://lebensraumvernetzung.at/	habitat networking	https://lebensraumvernetzung.at/	Other
DE	Energy	Bayerische Windenergieoffensive AUFWIND	Bavarian Wind Energy Offensive AUFWIND	https://www.stmwi.bayern.de/energie/energiewende/aufwind/	Strategy
DE	Energy	Gesetz zur Erhöhung und Beschleunigung des Ausbaus von Windenergieanlagen an Land	Onshore Wind Law / Wind Energy Land Requirements Act	https://www.bmwsb.bund.de/SharedDocs/gesetzgebungsverfahren/Webs/BMWSB/DE/ExterneLinks/wind-an-land-gesetz.html	Law
DE	Spatial Planning	Bayerisches Landesplanungsgesetz (BayLplG)	Bavarian spatial planning law	https://www.gesetze-bayern.de/Content/Document/BayLplG	Law
DE	Agriculture	Bayerisches Agrarwirtschaftsgesetz (BayAgrarWiG)	Bavarian agriculture law	https://www.gesetze-bayern.de/Content/Document/BayAgrarWiG	Law
DE	Nature Protection	Bayerisches Naturschutzgesetz (BayNatSchG)	Bavarian Nature Protection Law	https://www.gesetze-bayern.de/Content/Document/BayNatSchG , for status reports see https://www.naturvielfalt.bayern.de/arten_und_lebensraeume/biotopverbund/	Law
DE	Nature Protection	Bayernweites Konzept zur Ausweitung des Biotopverbundes	Bavarian-wide Concept for Expanding the Biotope Network		Plan
DE	Spatial Planning	Landesentwicklungsprogramm Bayern (LEP)	Bavarian State Development Programme	https://www.stmwi.bayern.de/fileadmin/user_upload/stmwi/Landesentwicklung/Dokumente/Instrumente/Landesentwicklungsprogramm/LEP_2023/230601_LEP_Lesefassung.pdf	Plan
DE	Nature Protection	Natur-Flächen-Gesetz (NFG)	Nature-Land-Law	https://blogs.nabu.de/naturschaetze-retten/nfg/ , https://www.nul-online.de/magazin/archiv/aenderungen-im-naturschutzrecht-nach-dem-koalitionsausschuss,QUIEPTc1MzM3OTEeTUIEPTgyMDMw.html	Law

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Level	Policy Field	Original name (in respective language)	English translation of name (if applicable)	Link	Type of document
DE	Nature Protection	Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest	Agreement	https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/emerald-network	Agreement
DE	Agriculture	Bayerisches Vertragsnaturschutzprogramm	Bavarian nature protection agreement	https://www.stmuv.bayern.de/themen/naturschutz/naturschutzfoerderung/vertragsnaturschutzprogramm/index.htm	Directive
DE	Nature Protection	Bayerische Waldfunktionsplanung	Bavarian forest development plan	https://www.stmelf.bayern.de/wald/wald_mensch/waldfunktionsplanung-in-bayern/index.html	Plan
DE	Transport	Planungsbeschleunigungsgesetz (GBeschlG)	Planning Acceleration Law	https://bmdv.bund.de/DE/Themen/Mobilitaet/Infrastrukturplanung-Investitionen/Planungsbeschleunigung/planungsbeschleunigung.html	Law
DE	Spatial Planning	Gesetz zur Änderung des Raumordnungsgesetzes und anderer Vorschriften (ROGÄndG)	Act amending the Spatial Planning Act and other regulations	https://dip.bundestag.de/voorgang/gesetz-zur-%C3%A4nderung-des-raumordnungsgesetzes-und-anderer-vorschriften-rog%C3%A4ndg/292384	Law
DE	Energy	Regionalplanerische Ausweisung von Windenergieflächen	Designation of wind power priority areas in regional plans	https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Downloads/E/EEG-Kooperationsausschuss/2023/laenderbericht-bayern-2023.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4	Law
DE	Energy	Bayerisches Klimaschutzgesetz	Bavarian Climate Protection Law	https://www.stmuv.bayern.de/themen/klimaschutz/klimaschutzgesetz/ and https://www.gesetze-bayern.de/Content/Document/BayKlimaG	Law
FR	Energy	Décret n° 2024-318 du 8 avril 2024 relatif au développement de l'agrivoltaïsme et aux conditions d'implantation des installations photovoltaïques sur des terrains agricoles, naturels ou forestiers	Decree for the development of agrivoltaics and the conditions for the installation of photovoltaic installations on agricultural, natural or forest land	https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT00049386027	Law

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Level	Policy Field	Original name (in respective language)	English translation of name (if applicable)	Link	Type of document
FR	Nature Protection	Loi montagne - LOI n° 2016-1888 du 28 décembre 2016 de modernisation, de développement et de protection des territoires de montagne	Law on the modernisation, development and protection of mountain territories	https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000033717812	Law
FR	Nature Protection	Loi n° 2016-1087 du 8 août 2016 pour la reconquête de la biodiversité, de la nature et des paysages	National Biodiversity Strategy 2030	https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000033016237	Law
FR	Climate Protection	Loi n° 2021-1104 du 22 août 2021 portant lutte contre le dérèglement climatique et renforcement de la résilience face à ses effets	Climate and resilience law	https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043956924	Law
FR	Spatial Planning	Loi n° 2023-630 du 20 juillet 2023 visant à faciliter la mise en œuvre des objectifs de lutte contre l'artificialisation des sols et à renforcer l'accompagnement des élus locaux	Law designed to facilitate the implementation of objectives to reduce the artificialisation and to strengthen support for local elected representatives	https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000047866733	Law
FR	Energy	Loi n° 2023-175 du 10 mars 2023 relative à l'accélération de la production d'énergies renouvelables	Law for the acceleration of the production of renewable energies	https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/dossierlegislatif/JORFDOLE000046329719/	Law
IT	Energy	Piano Nazionale Integrato per l'Energia e il Clima (PNIEC)	National integrated energy and climate plan (PNIEC).	https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/pniec_finale_17012020.pdf	Strategy
IT	Energy	LEGGE 22 aprile 2021, n. 53, Delega al Governo per il recepimento delle direttive europee e l'attuazione di altri atti dell'Unione europea - Legge di delegazione europea 2019-2020. Art.5: Principi e criteri direttivi per l'attuazione della direttiva (UE) 2018/2001, sulla promozione dell'uso	LAW No. 53 of 22 April 2021, Delegation to the Government for the transposition of European directives and the implementation of other acts of the European Union - European Delegation Law 2019-2020. Art.5: Principles and guiding criteria for the implementation of Directive (EU) 2018/2001,	https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2021-04-22;53~art5-com1-letb	Law

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Level	Policy Field	Original name (in respective language)	English translation of name (if applicable)	Link	Type of document
		dell'energia da fonti rinnovabili	on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources		
IT	Energy	DECRETO LEGISLATIVO 8 novembre 2021 , n. 199, Attuazione della direttiva (UE) 2018/2001 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, dell'11 dicembre 2018, sulla promozione dell'uso dell'energia da fonti rinnovabili. (ART. 20 - Disciplina per l'individuazione di superfici e aree idonee per l'installazione di impianti a fonti rinnovabili)	Legislative decree 8 november 2021, no°199 , Implementation of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. (ART. 20 - Regulations for the identification of surfaces and areas suitable for the installation of renewable energy plants)	https://www.gse.it/normativa_site/GSE%20Documenti%20normativa/ITALIA_DLGS_n199__08_11_2021.pdf	Directive
IT	Energy	artt. 20 e seguenti del D.lgs. 199/2021 come smi, art. 12 D.L. 01/03/2022, n. 17, art. 7-sexies D.L. 21/03/2022, n. 21 e dell'art. 6 del D.L. 17/05/2022, n. 50	artt. 20 and following of D.lgs. 199/2021 like, art. 12 D.L. 01/03/2022, n. 17, art. 7- sexies D.L. 21/03/2022, n. 21 e dell'art. 6 del D.L. 17/05/2022, n. 50	https://www.studiolegales antiapichi.it/le-cd-aree-idonee-agli-impianti-fer-passaggio-alla-direttiva-red-iii-legislazione-italiana-a-confronto-con-la-disciplina-ue/	Regulation
IT	Energy	Regional regulations		https://www.studiolegales antiapichi.it/le-cd-aree-idonee-agli-impianti-fer-passaggio-alla-direttiva-red-iii-legislazione-italiana-a-confronto-con-la-disciplina-ue/	
IT	Energy	Piattaforma digitale per le Aree idonee (PAI)	Digital Platform for Suitable Areas (for renewable energy installations)	https://www.gse.it/media_site/media-gallery_site/Documents/Piattaforma%20Aree%20idonee_PAI_release%201_20230125_AGRILLO.pdf	Other
IT	Climate Protection	Decreto Clima	Climate resilience transition	https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2019/10/14/19G00125/sg	Law
IT	Transport	Mobility management e Linee guida per la predisposizione dei Piani degli Spostamenti Casa-Lavoro (PSCL)	Mobility management and Guidelines for the development of Home-Work Commute Plans	https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2021/05/26/21A03111/sg	Law

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IT	Agriculture	Disposizioni per la tutela e la valorizzazione della biodiversità di interesse agricolo e alimentare.	Provisions for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity of agricultural and food interest.	https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2015-12-01;194!vig=	Law
IT	Nature Protection	Legge regionale 31/2014. "Disposizioni per la riduzione del consumo di suolo e per la riqualificazione del suolo degradato"	Regional law on soil consumption reduction and for the degraded soil regeneration	https://normelombardia.consiglio.regione.lombardia.it/normelombardia/accessibile/main.aspx?iddoc=lr002014112800031&view=showdoc	Law
IT	Nature Protection	Strategia regionale per la biodiversità	Regional strategy for biodiversity	https://naturachevale.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Strategia-Regionale-Biodiversita_2022.pdf	Strategy
IT	Agriculture	Banca della Terra	Earth's Bank	https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/wcm/connect/b0055758-6862-4bb8-b8b8-df12e15b55b2/Banca+della+Terra+LR30+2014.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE-b0055758-6862-4bb8-b8b8-df12e15b55b2-oXNfE.h	Other
IT	Energy	Programma Regionale Energia Ambiente Clima 2030 (PREAC)	Regional program on Energy, Environment and Climate 2030	https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/DettaglioRedazionale/istituzione/direzioni-generali/direzione-generale-ambiente-e-clima/preac-programma-regionale-energia-ambiente-e-clima/preac-programma-regionale-energia-ambiente-e-clima	Programme
IT	Climate Protection	Piano Regionale degli Interventi per la qualità dell'Aria (PRIA)	Regional Plan of Air Quality Interventions	https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/DettaglioRedazionale/istituzione/direzioni-generali/direzione-generale-ambiente-e-clima/piano-regionale-interventi-qualita-aria-pria	Plan
IT	Energy	Linee guida per l'integrazione del	Guidelines for the integration of	https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale	Guidelines

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Level	Policy Field	Original name (in respective language)	English translation of name (if applicable)	Link	Type of document
		fotovoltaico in contesti di pregio storico e paesaggistico	photovoltaics in contexts of historical and landscape value	nale/HP/DettaglioServizio/servizi-e-informazioni/Enti-e-Operatori/Territorio/Paesaggio/linee-guida-integrazione-fotovoltaico-contesti-pregio-storico-paesaggistico/linee-guida-integrazione-fotovoltaico-contesti-pregio-storico-paesaggistico	
IT	Nature Protection	Riorganizzazione del sistema lombardo di gestione e tutela delle aree regionali protette e delle altre forme di tutela presenti sul territorio	Reorganisation of the Lombardy system for the management and protection of regional protected areas and other forms of protection in the territory	https://normelombardia.consiglio.regione.lombardia.it/normelombardia/Accessibile/main.aspx?view=showpart&idparte=lr002016111700028ar0002a	Law
IT	Nature Protection	Piano regionale delle aree regionali protette. Norme per l' istituzione e la gestione delle riserve, dei parchi e dei monumenti naturali nonché delle aree di particolare rilevanza naturale e ambientale	Regional Plan of Regional Protected Areas. Rules for the establishment and management of reserves, parks and natural monuments as well as areas of special natural and environmental importance	https://normelombardia.consiglio.regione.lombardia.it/normelombardia/Accessibile/main.aspx?view=showdoc&iddoc=lr001983113000086	Plan
IT	Energy	Strategia energetica nazionale	National integrated strategy for Energy	https://leg16.camera.it/522?tema=151&Strategia+energetica+nazionale	Strategy
IT	Settlement	Criteri ambientali minimi	National environmental criteria for green business procurement in Public administrations	https://gpp.mite.gov.it/Cosa-sono-i-CAM	Recommendation
IT	Climate Protection	Piano nazionale di adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici	National plan for climate change protection	https://www.mase.gov.it/notizie/clima-approvato-il-piano-nazionale-di-adattamento-ai-cambiamenti-climatici	Plan
IT	Climate Protection	Strategia nazionale di adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici	National strategy for climate change protection	https://www.mase.gov.it/pagina/strategia-nazionale-di-adattamento-ai-cambiamenti-climatici	Strategy
IT	Transport	Piano nazionale dei trasporti	National plan for transportation development	in definition for the period 2025-2036	Plan

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IT	Transport	Progetti nazionali e PNRR	National transport development projects and recovery plan funding	https://www.mit.gov.it/temi/infrastrutture/infrastrutture-strategiche/progetti	Recommendation
IT	Agriculture	Piano Strategico Nazionale PAC 2023-2027	Strategic national plan CAP 2023-2027	https://www.reterurale.it/flax/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/24037	Plan
IT	Energy	Piano energetico regionale	Energy plan from RV	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/energia/piano-energetico-regionale https://bur.regione.veneto.it/BurvServices/pubblica/SommarioSingoloBur.aspx?num=20&date=21/02/2017	Plan
IT	Transport	Piano Trasporti Regionale e piani conseguenti	Regional transport plan and subsequent planning tools	https://www.prtveneto2030.it/il-nuovo-piano-2/	Plan
IT	Nature Protection	Legge per la riorganizzazione delle aree protette	Law for the redefinition of protected areas	https://www.consiglioveneto.it/web/crv/dettaglio-legge?catStruttura=LR&anno=2018&numero=23&tab=vigente	Law
IT	Climate Protection	Strategie di mitigazione e adattamento al cambiamento climatico	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/clima-e-adattamento-ai-cambiamenti-climatici	Strategy
IT	Agriculture	Complemento regionale per lo Sviluppo Rurale (CSR) del Veneto	Regional implementation of rural development	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/agricoltura-e-foreste/sviluppo-rurale-veneto-23-27	Strategy
IT	Spatial Planning	Revisione della legge regionale	Regional law revision	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/vts	Law
IT	Spatial Planning	PTRC	Territorial Regional Plan	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ptrc/ptrc	Plan
IT	Water	PGRA + PAI	Flooding prevention regional plans	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/pianificazione-generale	Plan
IT	Spatial Planning	PTPR	Landscaple plan	https://veneto.cultura.gov.it/attivita%3A0/tutela-beni-paesaggistici/piano-paesaggistico/piano-paesaggistico	Plan
IT	Water	PGBT	Redemption plans	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/pianificazione-generale	Plan

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				territorio/pianificazione-generale	
IT	Water	PTA	Water preservation plan	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/tutela-risorsa-idrica	Plan
IT	Settlement	Piano Regionale di Gestione dei Rifiuti Urbani e Speciali	Regional Urban and Special Waste Management Plan	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/piano-di-gestione-rifiuti-e-aggiornamento	Plan
IT	Settlement	PRAC - Piano Regionale Attività di Cava	PRAC - Regional Plan for Quarry Activities	https://bur.regione.veneto.it/BurvServices/pubblica/DettaglioDcr.aspx?id=366539	Plan
IT	Water	PURT - Piano di Utilizzazione della Risorsa Termale	PURT - Plan for the Use of Thermal Resources	https://bur.regione.veneto.it/BurvServices/pubblica/DettaglioDgr.aspx?id=221416	Plan
IT	Transport	PRMC - Piano Regionale della Mobilità Ciclistica	PRMC - Regional Cycling Mobility Plan	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/mobilita-e-trasporti/piano-regionale-della-mobilita-ciclistica	Plan
IT	Agriculture	PSR - Programma di Sviluppo Rurale	RDP - Rural Development Programme	https://venetorurale.it/sviluppo-rurale-veneto-2023-2027/	Strategy
IT	Water	Piano Regionale Neve	Regional Snow Plan	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/mobilita-e-trasporti/piano-regionale-neve3	Plan
IT	Spatial Planning	PRS - Programma Regionale di Sviluppo	PRS - Regional Development Programme	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/programmazione/prs	Strategy
IT	Settlement	Piano regionale di sviluppo del turismo equestre	Regional plan for the development of equestrian tourism	https://bur.regione.veneto.it/BurvServices/pubblica/DettaglioDgr.aspx?id=331586	Plan
IT	Spatial Planning	Strategia Regionale per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile	Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development	https://venetosostenibile.regione.veneto.it/	Strategy
IT	Climate Protection	PROTOCOLLO DI INTESA PER LO SVILUPPO SOSTENIBILE DEL VENETO	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF VENETO	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NB_l6sfwlsGpLBQH_U3QMQsPNiTb_DtXX/view	Agreement
IT	Energy	Strategia di Specializzazione Intelligente (S3)	Smart Specialization Strategy (S3)	https://www.innoveneto.org/strategia-s3-veneto/	Strategy

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IT	Settlement	Strategia Nazionale Aree Interne	National Strategy for Inland Areas	https://www.agenziacoesei.one.gov.it/strategia-nazionale-aree-interne/regione-veneto/	Strategy
SI	Climate Protection	Resolucija o Dolgoročni podnebni strategiji Slovenije 2050 (ReDPS50)	Resolution on Slovenia's Long-Term Climate Strategy until 2050 (ReDPS50)	https://unfccc.int/documents/302702	Strategy
SI	Energy	Celoviti nacionalni energetska in podnebni načrt (NEPN)	Integrated national energy and climate plan of the Republic of Slovenia (NEPN)	https://www.energetika-portal.si/dokumenti/strateski-razvojni-dokumenti/nacionalni-energetski-in-podnebnina-crt-2020/	Strategy
SI	Energy	Nacionalna strategija za izstop iz premoga in prestrukturiranje premogovnih regij v skladu z načeli pravičnega prehoda	National strategy for the exit from coal and the restructuring of coal regions in line with the principles of a just transition	https://www.energetika-portal.si/dokumenti/strateski-razvojni-dokumenti/nacionalna-strategija-za-izstop-iz-premoga-in-prestrukturiranje-premogovnih-regij/	Strategy
SI	Transport	Strategija razvoja prometa v Republiki Sloveniji do leta 2030	Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia Until 2030	https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MzI/Dokument/Strategija-razvoja-prometa-v-Republiki-Sloveniji-do-leta-2030.pdf	Strategy
SI	Transport	Resolucija o nacionalnem programu razvoja prometa v Republiki Sloveniji za obdobje do leta 2030 (ReNPRP30)	Transport Development Programme in the Republic of Slovenia for the period until 2030	https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MOPE/TRAJNOSTNA-MOBILNOST-STMP/Resolucija-o-spremembah-in-dopolnitvah-Resolucije-o-nacionalnem-programu-razvoja-prometa-v-Republiki-Sloveniji-za-obdobje-do-leta-2030-ReNPRP30-A.pdf	Other
SI	Spatial Planning	Strategija prostorskega razvoja Slovenije 2050	The Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia 2050	https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MNV/Dokumenti/Prostorski-razvoj/SPRS/Strategija_prostorskega_razvoja_2050.pdf	Strategy
SI	Nature Protection	Zakon o ohranjanju narave (ZON) Ur.l.RS 69/04 /	Nature conservation act	https://pisrs.si/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO1600	Law

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CH	Energy	Solarexpress	Solar express	https://www.uvek.admin.ch/uvek/de/home/energie/stromversorgungssicherheit.html	Law
CH	Energy	Solaroffensive	Solar campaign	https://www.parlament.ch/press-releases/Pages/mm-urek-s-2022-08-26.aspx	Law
CH	Energy	Verordnungsänderung für Windexpress	Ordinance amendment for Wind express	https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/start/dokumentation/medienmitteilungen.msg-id-99410.html	Law
CH	Energy	Wasserkraftreserve		https://www.uvek.admin.ch/uvek/de/home/energie/stromversorgungssicherheit.html	Law
CH	Energy	Beschleunigungserlass	Acceleration decree	https://www.parlament.ch/de/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaefte?AffairId=20230051	Law



PlanToConnect

Mainstreaming ecological connectivity in spatial planning systems of the Alpine Space

Project partners:

Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (SI)
Veneto Region (IT)
ALPARC – the Network of Alpine Protected Areas (FR)
Asters, organisation for the conservation of natural areas in Upper Savoy (FR)
Eurac Research (IT)
ifuplan - Institute for Environmental Planning and Spatial Development GmbH & Co.KG (DE)
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Salzburg Institute for Regional Planning and Housing (AT)
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