

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

### **GI-pACT for Associations, NGOs, small enterprises**

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

#### **AWARE THAT**

the **FRACTAL - Fostering green Infrastructures in the Alps** project (co-funded by the EU through the Interreg Alpine Space programme) *promotes the improvement of connectivity of green spaces in small urban and peri-urban areas;*

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

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

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

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

#### **GIVEN THAT**

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

#### **AWARE THAT**

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

#### **WHEREAS:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Activity 1.1	Commit to involving schools of all levels active in their area in small-scale projects for the creation of organically managed gardens and gardens with high biodiversity, sowing and/or planting native species and ancient varieties.
Activity 1.2	Commit themselves, as far as possible, to participating in awareness-raising and training organised by bodies and associations dedicated to the environment and nature, in the geographical area of reference and to promote their dissemination.
Activity 1.3	Commit to promoting synergies between nascent projects (through mechanisms of sharing, activation and promotion) or continue the actions of projects already underway, which aim to disseminate and increase connectivity between ecosystems and agro-ecosystems.
Activity 1.4	Commit to leaving at least one area unmowed, e.g.: - areas around trees - field edge areas - areas bordering inter-farm roads - canals/lakes
Activity 1.5	Commit to reduced and/or delayed mowing for an area of lawn/grassland
Activity 1.6	Undertake to promote the identification, within the valley's municipal territories, of areas where they can experiment actions such as “depaving” and creating small green areas that favor the drainage of rainwater.
Activity 1.7	Undertaking to promote the identification of green areas where it is possible to reduced or no mowing of wild grasses (this excludes areas where mowing is necessary to avoid the spread of invasive alien species).
Activity 1.8	Commitment to make their experience available in relation to the project FRACTAL with other farmers/breeders/others to spread the good practices of this initiative and try to foster their involvement.
Activity 1.9	Undertake to collaborate with expert territorial bodies in the creation of specific contents to spread awareness of the role of green infrastructures green infrastructures and how it is possible to increase their network also at local level.
Activity 1.10	Commit to collaborate with expert territorial bodies in the conception and design of awareness-raising moments for the population, with particular attention to citizens and especially to schools and to young people.

Signatures

Date