

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE  
Working Group Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development  
FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2024  
(BETWEEN THE XVII AND XVIII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)**

**1. Overview of the mandate given by the XVII Alpine Conference**

Summary of the objectives according to the 2023-2024 mandate

- Improvement of cross-border cooperation in spatial development in the AC: Based on the results of the assessment study on cross-border cooperation conducted in the previous mandate, ways to optimize cross-border cooperation in spatial planning and development will be further explored and concretised. The focus will be on needs for and obstacles impeding necessary cross-border cooperation. This may include the preparation of a project proposal for transnational or bi-national funding programmes (e.g. Interreg).
- Follow up to the ACTS 2050 and the implementation pathways Contributing to the Alpine Climate Board (ACB) implementation pathways on Spatial Planning (IP\_SP1: Alpine wide concept “Spatial planning for climate protection” as well as IP\_SP2: “Spatial planning measures for reducing the need of individual car traffic”) and further activities for teaming up as started on soil protection.
- Alpine Spatial Planning Perspective: The insights of processes such as the Alpine Convention, the Alpine Space Programme, EUSALP, RSA 9, ESPON Alps2050 and EUSALP Joint Paper on Spatial Planning processes shall be brought together, and work towards an alignment of objectives shall be started. This will happen through the combination and alignment of spatial development proposals in a cartographic and topic-oriented manner, including participatory steps from the involved domestic and Alpine institutions, to come, in the end, to a consolidated version on the transnational level. Additionally, following up on recommendations of the Alpine Convention’s report on Economical Use of Soil and the respective report of the Compliance Committee, a practice-oriented implementation guideline for the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Protocol shall be elaborated. This guideline will address the target group of regional and municipal planning authorities and decision makers. Existing implementation guidelines will be taken into account and updated.

**2. Meetings**

Summary of the meetings held (date, place, main topics and milestones)

- 16 March 2023 (online): Working Group Meeting: Mandate tasks, Slovenian Presidency, Exchange with other WGs
- 22 September 2023 (Paris): Working Group Meeting: Status of mandate tasks, exchange with WG Transport
- 23 September 2023 (Paris): Joint meeting with Transport WG: Common issues and workshop on Alpine Spatial Development Perspective

- 16 October 2023 (online): Preparatory workshop for joint national workshops Soil Protection / Spatial Planning
- 23 February 2024 (online): Working Group Meeting: Status of mandate tasks / joint national workshops Soil Protection / Spatial Planning / Exchange with other WGs / Outlook on next mandate
- 22 May 2024 (online): Joint meeting RSA 10 WG / Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development WG: Discussion of the RSA 10 draft on “Quality of Life” and its spatial implications
- 16-17 July 2024 (Innsbruck): Working Group Meeting: Finalisation of mandate tasks / Workshop on Alpine Spatial Development Perspective / Cooperation with EUSALP / Exchange with other WGs / Outlook on next mandate and beyond
- 16 September 2024 (online): Working Group Meeting: Last revision and finalisation of all mandate outputs and future mandate proposal

### 3. Activities carried out

Activities carried out with their outputs and results, highlighting their contributions to the relevant priorities of the [Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030](#)

- Preparation of a project proposal: Coordination and elaboration of an application for the [ESPON Targeted Analysis InTerAlp](#) (Interface Territories across the Alpine region). The proposal was accepted by ESPON and the InTerAlp project started with a kick-off on 11 January 2024. InTerAlp contributes to all MAP 2023-2030 Priority Areas, but most specifically to Priority Area 3 “Enabling a good quality of life for the people in the Alps” by addressing governance issues for interface territories situated between the mountain areas and neighbouring lowland regions. In addition to regular reporting of the project consortium about the progress, the WG members were invited to participate in an online workshop (30 September 2024) and a follow-up survey to help refine the recommendations of the policy brief (project output).
- Contributions to the Alpine Climate Target System 2050 (Climate Action Plan 2.0), contributing to the MAP 2023-2030 Priority Area 2 “Taking ambitious climate action”
  - For IP\_SP1\_Step 1a, a screening of national climate scenarios and their implications for spatial planning and development, as well as a scoping review on the interlinkage between spatial planning and climate change in the Alps were carried out.
  - For IP\_SP1\_3, in the previous mandate literature on challenges for land-saving targets was researched and screened for all Alpine countries. In a second step during this mandate, 13 experts were identified and interviewed in the form of guided interviews on their perception of challenges, achievements and next steps in regard to land-saving targets.
  - For IP\_SP1\_4, a total of 74 guidelines and documents were researched, analysed and their key contents were summarised in the form of individual factsheets.
- Steps were taken toward an Alpine Spatial Development Perspective by addressing different thematic issues with academic input and participatory elements:
  - Linking spatial development and transport
  - Linking spatial development and green infrastructure
  - Linking economic and spatial development

- National joint workshops between Soil Protection and Spatial Planning stakeholders, coordinated by national representatives from the Soil Protection WG and the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development WG:
  - Slovenian workshop held on 17 January 2024 (50 participants)
  - Austrian online-workshop held on 18 April 2024 (65 participants)
  - French workshop held on 23 May 2024 (20 participants)
  - German workshop held on 1-2 July 2024 (25 participants)

The national workshops and the initiative as a whole contribute to MAP Priority Area 1 “Conserving and valuing biodiversity and ecosystems”. The cross-sectoral contacts established through the joint workshops are in line with the MAP 2023-2030’s cross-sectoral approach.

#### 4. Cooperation

Cooperation developed with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and resulting benefits

- 16 October 2023: Joint workshop with Soil Protection WG preparing the national joint workshops Soil Protection / Spatial Planning
- 23 September 2023 (Paris): Joint meeting with Transport WG
- 4 December 2023 (Rome/online): Joint Thematic Workshop with Alpine Biodiversity Board and Soil Protection WG on “Biodiversity and Land-Use Planning”
- 14 May 2024 (Maribor) Workshop of the Thematic Working Body Chairs: Participation of Dr. Josiane Meier
- 26 June 2024: Online exchange between WG chair (incl. consultants) and Michael Roth on interfaces between the Alpine Spatial Development Perspective and EUSALP in the light of the upcoming Austrian and Liechtenstein EUSALP Presidency 2025
- 2023/2024: Contributions to the RSA 10 drafting process in the form of written comments and participation in RSA 10 WG meetings, including a joint meeting of both WGs

#### 5. Communication

Communication measures and outreach activities carried out, specifying their respective target groups

- 9 March 2023: Participation in the BBSR Online-Workshop “Implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2030”, presenting the Pilot Action Sonthofen (related to the RSA 9 process in the context of the previous mandate)
- 2023: Article “Soil Protection and Spatial Planning” in: Die Alpenkonvention No. 104, 03/23 (Authors: Dr. Daniel Meltzian, Christian Steiner, Florian Lintzmeyer)
- 2024: Article “Visionen zwischenstaatlicher Zusammenarbeit” in: Raumentwicklung – ARL-Journal für Wissenschaft und Praxis“. 01/2024. (Author: Dr. Daniel Meltzian)

## 6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to this report, such as papers proposed for approval by the XVIII Alpine Conference (thematic reports, guidelines, statements etc.) and supporting documents (workshop proceedings, survey reports, communication materials etc.).

- Alpine Climate Target System 2050 and Climate Action Plan 2.0:
  - Climate Scenarios in Alpine Countries and Indications for Spatial Planning. Contribution to IP\_SP1\_Step 1a of the Climate Action Plan 2.0
  - Climate Scenarios: Linking Climate Change and Spatial Planning. Contribution to IP\_SP1\_Step 1a of the Climate Action Plan 2.0
  - Land saving targets in Alpine countries: Status quo and challenges. Contribution to IP\_SP1\_3 of the Climate Action Plan 2.0
  - Guidelines for municipalities for assessing and activating innerurban development potentials. Contribution to IP\_SP1\_Step 4 of the Climate Action Plan 2.0
- Alpine Spatial Development Perspective: Synthesis Report
- Promoting soil protection through spatial planning in the Alpine states – National Workshops. Joint report of the Working Groups Soil Protection and Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development of the Alpine Convention