

**REPORT OF THE  
Platform Ecological Network of the Alpine Convention  
on the 2016-2019 mandate**

1. Overview of 2016-2019 mandate or relevant decision of the Alpine Conference

Brief summary of the main activities according to the 2016-2019 mandate or relevant decision of the Alpine Conference

The activities foreseen for the WISO Platform in its 2016-2019 mandate can be summarised as follows:

- Support of the Pilot Regions for Ecological Connectivity of the Alpine Convention: presenting examples of Pilot Region activities to Platform members and support their actions by valorising them during the Platform meetings; offering opportunities for engagement in the frame of alpine project partnerships, including financial opportunities through INTERREG Alpine space Programme.
- Elaboration of a report on how ecological connectivity is considered in spatial planning: Analysis of the situation on different levels in the alpine countries and illustration of good practice cases.
- Contribution of exchange, development and Dissemination of knowledge and Know-How about ecological connectivity: continue promoting dialogue among Contracting
  - Parties through the sharing of information, experiences and best practice for
  - Connectivity implementation; and to foster dialogue with and among relevant stakeholders.
- Highlighting the link between Ecological Connectivity and Green Economy.

The Platform Ecological Network was chaired by France (Thierry BOISSEAU until September 2017 followed by Pierre COMMENVILLE), function of Co-chair was assured by Germany (Bettina HEDDEN-DUNKHORST).

## 2. Meetings

### Summary of the meetings

The Platform Ecological network met three times during its 2016-2019 mandate:

1. Grenoble (France), 21-22 June 2017. Topics: update and information exchange among Contracting Parties and Observers; Workshop on Platform report about ecological connectivity and spatial planning.
2. Valdieri (Italy), 15-16 November 2017. Topics: update and information exchange about ongoing alpine projects; Workshop on Platform report about ecological connectivity and spatial planning.
3. München (Germany), 6-7 December 2018. Topics: Finalisation of report about ecological connectivity and spatial planning; Discussion of future consideration of the topic ecological connectivity in the Alpine Convention/contribution to upcoming Biodiversity Board.

## 3. Activities carried out

### Report on activities carried out (including meetings, conferences)

The Platform carried out the following activities in fulfilment of the mandate:

- Support of the Pilot Regions for Ecological Connectivity: 2 of the Platform meetings took place in Pilot Regions and were the opportunity to valorise their actions. 5 Pilot Regions are project partners of the Alpine Space Programme supported ALPBIONET2030 project and actively work on connectivity improvement in their region.
- Elaboration of a report on how ecological connectivity is considered in spatial planning (PLACE): the elaboration of this report is carried out and supervised by the French research institution IRSTEA and financed by France. Platform members have contributed to the elaboration of the report. Three Workshops were carried out to support the elaboration of the report. The report will be made available at the date of the forthcoming Alpine Conference.
- Sharing and Exchange of Knowledge: a regular agenda item was set at every Platform meeting in order to allow for a regular exchange among Contracting Parties and Observers on the implementation of ecological connectivity. The Platform, how through its chairs is observer to the ALPBIONET2030 project, has be informed about project advancement and invited to important meetings.

- Ecological Connectivity and Green Economy: the results of the GreenConnect project have been highlighted in the frame of the elaboration of the Green Economy Action Programme and related background publications.

#### 4. Results and outputs

##### Description of main results and outputs achieved

1. Up-to-date information about the situation of Ecological Connectivity in the different alpine Countries provided during Platform meetings.
2. PLACE report giving an overview about how ecological connectivity is considered in spatial planning in the alpine countries and an analysis of several good practice examples.
3. Close exchange with EUSALP AG 7, information and data exchange, coordination of activities, contribution to AG 7 project development, including thanks to the involvement of ALPARC, acting as the executive secretary of the Platform, in both processes.

#### 5. Cooperation

##### Description of cooperation initiatives and activities with other Alpine Convention Thematic Working Bodies and other relevant bodies and processes (e.g. EUSALP)

The Platform cooperated with the following groups and processes:

- EUSALP, in particular EUSALP AG 7 by attending the AG meetings and participating actively in the activities of the group, especially on the identification of lighthouse project on green infrastructure in the alpine and EUSALP area.
- Network of Alpine, Carpathians and Danube Parks by supporting the development and launch of the ConnectGreen project of the Danube Transnational Programme (<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/connectgreen>).
- Contribution to the work of the Green Economy Advisory Board and participation to the Workshop for the drafting of the Green Economy Action Programme.

## 6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to the report

- Minutes of Platform Meetings.
- Place study “Spatial planning & ecological connectivity in the alpine context”  
OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS