

REPORT OF THE Ad hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development on the 2016-2019 mandate

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

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

- To co-operate between spatial planning authorities in order to facilitate the implementation of the Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development
- To implement the ministerial declaration on spatial planning in the Alps co-operation signed in 2016 after the High-Level Meeting on Spatial Planning
- To define joint challenges and topics for spatial planning co-operation
- To follow and steer the work done in the framework of the ESPON Targeted Analysis “Alps2050 – Common Spatial Perspectives for the Alpine Area. Towards a Common Vision”

The Ad hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development was chaired by Germany.

2. Meetings

Summary of the meetings

- 6 meetings in Berlin, Munich and Vienna from autumn 2016 to December 2018:
 - Berlin 30 November 2016
 - Berlin 11 May 2016
 - Berlin 21 November 2017, in combination with kick-off meeting for the ESPON Targeted Analysis “Alps2050”
 - Munich 22-23 Mai 2018, in combination with Alps2050 steering committee & stakeholder workshop
 - Vienna 16 October 2018, in combination with Alps2050 steering committee
 - Vienna 6 December 2018, in combination with Alps2050 steering committee

3. Activities carried out

Report on activities carried out (including meetings, conferences)

- Developing and drafting an application to the European Spatial Planning Observatory Network (ESPON) with a view to commissioning a study on spatial features, challenges and potentials of the Alps.
- Submission of the application.
- After the successful application: steering of the research project “Alps 2050” financed by ESPON and carried out by a consortium led by University Erlangen-Nürnberg.
- Organisation of a workshop in Munich in May 2018 during which spatial development scenarios were discussed with stakeholders and spatial planning practitioners.
- Wrap-up of the research project and first conclusions for future work.

4. Results and outputs

Description of main results and outputs achieved

- In the research project different scenarios for the future spatial development of the Alps were developed. These scenarios focus on settlement patterns, transport, public services, governance and environment. The scenarios are largely food for thought, to enable policy makers and administrations to develop paths of actions to achieve desired results in terms of a sustainable development of the Alps until 2050, making use of potentials while fully preserving the best possible environmental status. It is of paramount importance to look at the Alps as one common spatial system, which can only be developed jointly according to a common set of principles agreed to by all Alpine states. This needs cross-border co-operation and exchange between spatial and sectoral planners. A new governance approach will have to be developed accordingly.
- The ad hoc Expert Group presented first proposals to the Permanent Committee for the development of such a governance approach.

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 research projects and its results were widely discussed with the observers to the Alpine Convention, with spatial planners and representatives of other sectors. There were also exchanges with the action groups of EUSALP. Discussions were also held with representatives of the Alpine Space Programme. The Alps 2050 project was presented at a joint meeting of AC, EUSALP and the Alpine Space Programme convened by the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The expert group also held a workshop on the project results at the EUSALP Annual Forum in Innsbruck in November 2018.

6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to the report

1. ESPON: Alps2050 - Common spatial perspectives for the Alpine area. Towards a common vision: Final Report.
2. ESPON: The Alps 2050 Atlas: Alps2050 - Common spatial perspectives for the Alpine area. Towards a common vision.
3. ESPON: Alps2050 - Common spatial perspectives for the Alpine area. Towards a common vision: Scientific Annex.
4. ESPON: Alps2050 - Common spatial perspectives for the Alpine area. Towards a common vision: Executive Summary "Territorial Analyses".
5. ESPON: Alps2050 - Common spatial perspectives for the Alpine area. Towards a common vision: Executive Summary "Vision Alps 2050".