

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE  
AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE  
9<sup>TH</sup> REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE ALPS  
FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2022  
(BETWEEN THE XVI AND XVII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE  
CONFERENCE)**

## 1. Overview of the mandate given by the XVI Alpine Conference

Summary of the objectives according to the 2021-2022 mandate or work programme

- The ad hoc Working Group has been established by the Alpine Conference with the task of drafting the ninth Report on the State of the Alps on the topic of Alpine towns, under Swiss leadership.
- The report shall provide insights in relation to the goals and principles of the Spatial Planning Protocol, taking into account the Murnau Declaration, the Innsbruck Declaration on climate resilient Alps 2050, as well as other relevant protocols.
- The contents of the report shall include a transnational and local perspective in two parts. A definition of the Alpine Settlement System shall be considered.
- The report shall address experts (data, transnational trends) and, with an application-oriented part, practitioners. Common challenges are to be identified on specific topics (e.g. demography, climate change, economy, tourism, open spaces, urbanity, transport).
- The Report on the State of the Alps will be presented in printed form at the XVII Alpine Conference. An online version will also be created, where further content and examples around the topic of Alpine towns will be available.

## 2. Meetings

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

- 10 & 11.02.2021 (online) "Kick-Off": Day 1: Introduction round. Clarification of the expectations of the Working Group and discussion of the structure and process proposals by the WG lead. Day 2: Scoping of possible topics in a moderated brainstorming session. Result: Decisions on general structure, workflow, topics.

- 30.03.2021 (online) "Data": Proposal & discussion of the research programme: "Definition" of the settlement system and approach to the data analysis. Selection of suitable indicators (data) for maps and topics (debates). Result: Decision on an approach to the definition, selection of indicators for further exploration.
- 22.06.2021 (online) "Key Factors": Brainstorming workshop on key topics for the scenario process. Result: Selection of 21 key factors (topics) that influence future development paths of Alpine towns in a major way.
- 16 & 17.09.2021 (Innsbruck & online) "Future Projections": Main workshop for the scenario development. Additional participants in the form of town or regional representatives, partners of the TA2030 process and students of the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. Result: Sets of possible development paths and major uncertainties for all selected key factors.
- 20.10.2021 (online) "Midterm Meeting": Validation of future projections and discussion of raw scenarios. Update on the research process: maps and debates. Result: Discussion and guidance for the draft development.
- 6 & 7.12.2021 (Bern & online): Presentation of the drafts for the introduction, the analytical part and the scenarios. In depth discussion of all chapters for revision. Result: Final directions on the content for main revision.
- 22.01.2022 (online): Discussion of the "four postulates" – a proposal for a summary and recommendations out of both parts. Result: Approval of the style and guidance for finalisation.
- 17 & 18.02.2022 (online): Discussion of all draft documents before handout to the national delegations. Result: Last changes and preliminary approval.
- 7.4.2022 (Innsbruck): Atelier on future project ideas, strategies and stakeholder outreach. Final approval by the WG.

### 3. Activities carried out

Synthetic description of further activities carried out (including outreach and communication activities)

The state and progress of the report was presented in various contexts in EU policy processes (Territorial Agenda 2030, Urban Agenda of the EU, ESPON Policy Labs). Regular exchanges have also been had with the WG SPSD and local stakeholders. Three international exchanges were held with other mountain regions (Carpathians, Andes and Himalaya) for further contextualisation on the topic of "mountain" settlement systems. Further outreach activities and communication will be made after finalisation & publishing of the report.

#### 4. Outputs and results

Description of the main outputs and results achieved

Main outputs: Report in print version and online as well as side products like follow-up ideas, international perspective of the report and prototype for a local scenario process. Dissemination will be done over various channels, including organised workshops.

Results of the Innsbruck Atelier for further exploration of the topic in the AC.

Results of the International Exchange (confidential).

#### 5. Cooperation

Description of cooperation developed with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and of the resulting benefits

See point 3: Connections have been made with WG SPSD. Due to different timing and resource constraints, collaboration was only partially made. However, the WG SPSD will make use of the results in further research for an Alpine spatial planning perspective in the next mandate. Contact was also made to the ACB (where we hope to deepen the climate aspect through the scenarios in projects). Regular connection with the European Spatial Planning Community through the TA2030 pilot. Collaboration planned with Norway. EUSALP & Interreg connections are yet to be explored.

#### 6. Attachments

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

- *Nineth Report on the State of the Alps "Alpine Towns"*: Introduction, Part 1: Maps, Facts and Debates, Part 2: Five Pictures, Four Postulates, Annex Documents (submitted under ACXVII/B1)