

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE
Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working
Group
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

Based on the work conducted by the Alpine Convention's Ad-hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, the newly established Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group shall contribute to the prioritised Alpine Climate Board (ACB) implementation pathways on Spatial Planning

- (IP_SP1) Alpine wide concept „Spatial planning for climate protection“ as well as
- on Soil Protection (IP_S2): Defining Alpine wide guidelines for minimised land take and sealing) by taking part in the Matchmaking process and further activities for teaming up.

Furthermore, the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group shall work on an Assessment of the current state of cross-border cooperation and coordination of spatial development – particularly coordination of spatial planning and sustainable territorial development – in the Alpine Convention area (Art. 4 Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development) with a specific focus on the ACTS 2050.

In addition, the Spatial Planning Working Group contributes to the 9th Report on the State of the Alps (RSA 9) on Alpine towns regarding aspects of spatial planning and development, e.g. urban-rural linkages, civil participation in planning processes, climate adaption and resilience through spatial planning or settlement.

2. Meetings

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

Against the background of the Covid-19 situation, all working group meetings have taken place digitally so far.

9 March 2021, Videoconference

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductory round
2. Previous work: Ad-hoc WG Spatial Development (2015-2019)/Expert meeting 2020
3. Presentation and discussion of the Mandate:
 - a. Current state of cross-border cooperation and coordination of spatial development
 - b. Follow-up to ACTS 2050/CAP 2.0: Implementation pathway 1 Spatial Planning and pathway 2 Soil (in cooperation with AG Soil)
 - c. Contribution to the RSA 9 (Alpine towns)
4. Work structure and timeline
5. Possible fields of cooperation

5 July 2021, Videoconference

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Assessment study:
 - a. Status report of literature screening on Alpine-wide level
 - b. Data collection by WG members – presentation of templates (spreadsheet for literature screening, questionnaire for expert interviews)
 - c. First draft report
3. Contributions to the ACTS2050 /CAP 2.0
 - a. Survey of land-saving targets and challenges
 - b. Collection of good practices for growth and shrinking strategies
 - c. Definition of land use/soil sealing
 - d. Coaching of spatial planners
4. Contribution to the RSA Alpine towns
 - a. Type of contribution
 - b. Timeline
5. Cooperation
 - a. Working Groups (Soil Protection WG (proposal for joint meeting, joint workshop), WISO, Ad-hoc WG MAP/Thematic Working Bodies)
 - b. EUSALP, AlpPlan network, TA Pilot Action “Climate Action in Alpine Towns”
6. Communication
7. Relevant information by WG members (PSAC, Contracting Parties, Observers)

11 November 2021, Videoconference

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Assessment study:
 - a. Status report
 - b. Discussion of final product: format and content
3. Status reports on contributions to the ACTS 2050/CAP 2.0
 - a. Survey of land-saving targets and challenges
 - b. Collection of good practices for growth and shrinking strategies
 - c. Definition of land use/soil sealing
4. Joint Workshop Soil Protection WG /Spatial Planning WG on the use of soil function maps 2022
 - a. Status report on preparation
 - b. Discussion on content, format and target group
5. Contribution to the RSA Alpine towns
 - a. Status report on scientific analysis and scenarios (and further contributions by Spatial Planning WG) (Prof. Chilla/Mr. Pfister)
6. Reports by WG members
 - a. EUSALP Joint Declaration
 - b. Working Groups (Ad-hoc WG MAP, Transport WG)
 - c. AlpPlan network, Actarea workshop, CLISPALP workshop, EUSALP conference city-mountain cooperation
 - d. additional information by WG members (PSAC, Contracting Parties, Observers)
7. Outlook 2022
 - a. Proposal for a conference "20 years Spatial Planning Protocol: cross-border cooperation and future challenges" in 2022
8. Relevant information by WG members (PSAC, Contracting parties, Observers)

17 March 2022, Videoconference**Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. Cross-border cooperation in spatial planning and development:
 - a. Feedback and discussion on draft assessment study
 - b. Issues for potential pilot project
3. Contributions to the ACTS 2050/CAP 2.0
 - a. Survey of land-saving targets and challenges
 - b. Collection of good practices for growth and shrinking strategies

- c. Definition of land use/soil sealing
- 4. Joint Workshop Soil Protection WG /Spatial Planning WG
 - a. Expected results and potential next steps
- 5. RSA Alpine towns: Status report and follow-up
- 6. Wrap-up of mandate/outlook 2nd half of 2022/communication
- 7. Mandate proposal 2023/2024 / MAP 2023-2030
- 8. Reports by WG members
 - a. Working Groups (Ad-hoc WG MAP, Transport WG)
 - b. Exchange with EUSALP AG 6/Strategic Priority Policy Area
 - c. Additional information by WG members (PSAC, Contracting Parties, Observers)

Planned 22 September 2022, Videoconference

Planned agenda:

- 1. Welcome
- 2. mandate output (including feedback from national consultation) – communication and public relation, next steps:
 - a. Assessment study
 - b. ACTS deliverables (dossiers on shrinking/growth strategies, land saving targets, and land take data)
 - c. Joint Workshop Soil Functions
- 3. Outlook on upcoming mandate – tasks and responsibilities:
 - a. Activities on cross-border cooperation in spatial development
 - b. Follow-up ACTS 2050 implementation pathways
 - c. Alpine Spatial Planning Perspective
- 4. Planned event “20 years of the Spatial Planning Protocol”
- 5. Reports by WG members:
 - a. Working Groups (Ad-hoc WG MAP, Transport WG)
 - b. Exchange with EUSALP AG 6/Strategic Priority Policy Area
 - c. Additional information by WG members (PSAC, Contracting Parties, Observers)
- 6. Workshop “Towards a project on cross-border/transnational cooperation in spatial development”

3. Activities carried out

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

- Joint organisation with the Soil Protection Working Group of the workshop “Soil functions and spatial planning in the Alps” on 29/30 March 2022 in Munich/DE, including a broad outreach to relevant institutions
- Participation in the Thematic Working Bodies Workshop on 17 June 2021 and 25 January 2022
- Participation in and contribution to the Ad-hoc Working Group RSA on Alpine towns and its meetings (2 February 2021, 30 March 2021 (data workshop), 16 September 2021, 20 October 2021, 22 February 2022)
- Presentation on SPSD WG activities at the OpenSpaceAlps workshop in Munich/DE on 18 May 2021
- Exchange with the AlpPlan network at the OpenSpaceAlps conference on 20 October 2021 in Berchtesgaden/DE
- Participation in the Ad-hoc Working Group for the preparation of MAP 2023-2030
- Participation at the MAP Stakeholder Workshop in Munich/DE on 9 September 2021
- Contribution to the workshop of the Alpine Climate Board on the Implementation Pathways “Spatial Planning” on 10 August 2021
- Participation in the TA2030 Support Group to Climate Action in Alpine towns” on 21 January 2021
- Online and social media posts (Twitter, Facebook, AC website) on WG activities
- Articles on the workshop “Soil functions and spatial planning in the Alps” and on the Working Group for the CIPRA Austria magazine “Die Alpenkonvention”
- Participation in the EUSALP AG 8 online workshop “Integrating climate resilience in spatial planning” on 15 October 2021
- Data collection in Alpine countries, including expert interviews for the assessment study on cross-border cooperation in spatial planning
- Data collection in Alpine countries for the contributions to the ACTS2050/CAP 2.0 (survey on land saving targets, survey of good practices for growing / shrinking strategies)
- Workshop on thematic focus of a pilot project proposal on cross-border cooperation in spatial planning (foreseen on 22 September 2022)
- Article “Soil function in Spatial Planning” in the CIPRA Austria magazine “Die Alpenkonvention”
- Event “20 years of the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Protocol of the Alpine Convention” (foreseen in November as a side event at the EUSALP Annual Forum in Trento/IT)

4. Outputs and results

Description of the main outputs and results achieved

- Assessment study on cross-border cooperation in spatial planning (120 pages plus executive summary)
- Collection of good practices for growth and shrinking strategies (Contribution to IP_SP1_1b of the Climate Action Plan 2.0) (40 pages plus executive summary)
- Land saving targets in Alpine countries and regions (Contribution to IP_SP1_3 of the Climate Action Plan 2.0) (30 pages plus executive summary)
- Land take in the Alpine region: the data perspective (Contribution to IP_S2, Step 1 of the Climate Action Plan 2.0) (17 pages plus executive summary)
- Workshop documentation: Soil functions and spatial planning in the Alps, Munich/DE, 29-30 March 2022 (40 pages)
- Proposal for the new mandate 2023/2024
- Minutes of the WG meetings

5. Cooperation

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

- Constant exchanges with the RSA 9 WG in order to contribute to the RSA by the Spatial Planning Working Group.
- Cooperation with the different Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention, focussing on exchange with the Soil Protection WG, WISO and the Transport WG.
- Cooperation with the Alpine Climate Board (ACB): regular exchange with the ACB on the pathways towards the Alpine Climate Targets related to spatial planning – especially joining the process on teaming up.
- Cooperation with EUSALP activities in the field of spatial development, most notably in the Action Group 6 and in particular on the basis of the EUSALP declaration “Sustainable Land Use and Soil Protection” as well as the strategic priority policy area “Spatial Planning”.
- Establish cooperation between AC and the AlpPlan network of Alpine spatial planning experts.
- Cooperation with the Alpine Space Programme and other cross-border Interreg programme bodies to make use of relevant existing project results and expertise.

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.).

- Cross-border spatial development in the Alpine Convention area – Assessment study (report and executive summary)
- Collection of good practices for growth and shrinking strategies (Contribution to IP_SP1_1b of the Alpine Climate Target System) (report and executive summary)
- Land saving targets in Alpine countries and regions (Contribution to IP_SP1_3 of the Climate Action Plan 2.0) (report and executive summary)
- Land take in the Alpine region: the data perspective (Contribution to IP_S2, Step 1 of the Climate Action Plan 2.0) (report and executive summary)
- Workshop documentation: Soil functions and spatial planning in the Alps, Munich/DE, 29-30 March 2022
- Overview of statistical definitions of cities and towns according to the German continuous spatial observation of the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (WG input for the Ad-hoc WG RSA 9)